

RENEWABLE ENERGY VOCABULARY

Energy

The capacity to do work or the ability of something (motion, heat, light, or sound) to do work. It is transferred from one form to another, but it is never created or destroyed.

Primary Energy Source

Direct energy sources such as coal, oil, natural gas, and hydro power.

Non-renewable Energy

Resources that are finite, such as fossil fuels.

Renewable Energy

Resources that are "infinite" or replenish themselves naturally.

Types of Renewable Energy

Hydropower

Energy from flowing water.

Geothermal Energy

Energy from heat within the earth.

Solar Energy

Energy from sunlight, captured by solar panels and converted into electricity.

Wind Energy

Energy from wind, captured by turbines that convert kinetic energy into electricity.

Hydrothermal Energy

Energy from hot water or steam, used to generate electricity.

Energy Efficiency

The amount of energy that is not wasted.

Energy Conservation

Actions to reduce energy use, such as turning off lights and unplugging devices.

Secondary Energy Source

Energy that is produced from primary energy sources.

"Saving" energy

To use less energy, such as turning off lights or unplugging devices.

"Wasting" energy

To use more energy than necessary.

Carbon Footprint

The amount of CO2 emissions produced by an individual, organization, or product.