

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 and that are depleted rapidly.

Renewable Energy

Resources that are "infinite" or rapidly renewed (e.g., wind, solar, hydro).

Types of Renewable Energy

Hydropower

Generated from the flow of moving water.

Geothermal Energy

Generated from Earth's natural heat.

Biofuel Energy

Generated from biomass that is processed and converted and converted also including by solar power.

Wind Energy

Generated from the kinetic energy of air. The kinetic energy is converted into electricity that powers the wind farm.

Hydrothermal Energy

The most common type of geothermal energy. It consists of steam-driven hot water wells that power turbines which convert the energy into electricity.

Energy Efficiency

The amount of energy that is used to do a certain amount of work.

Energy Conservation

Actions taken to use less energy. It involves using energy resources more efficiently.

Secondary Energy Source

Electricity, heat, or other energy that is produced using primary energy sources.

"Saving" energy

To not use energy unnecessarily; thinking of your light as a way of saving energy.

"Wasting" energy

To use energy unnecessarily.

Carbon Footprint

The amount of CO₂ (greenhouse gas) that is produced directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, or product.