

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

Generated from the flow of moving water.

Geothermal Energy

Generated from Earth's natural heat.

Solar Energy

Generated from the sun that is captured and converted and stored via technology by solar panels.

Wind Energy

Generated from the kinetic energy of air. The kinetic energy is converted into electricity by wind turbines.

Hydrothermal Energy

The most common type of geothermal energy. Involves circulation of steam which is used to generate electricity.

Energy Efficiency

The amount of energy that is not wasted or lost.

Energy Conservation

Actions taken to use energy more efficiently, reduce energy consumption, and promote energy efficiency.

Secondary Energy Source

Electricity, natural gas, and other energy carriers that are produced from primary energy sources.

"Saving" energy

To use less energy (e.g., turning off lights) or using energy more efficiently.

"Wasting" energy

To use more energy than necessary.

Carbon Footprint

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