

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 movement 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-rich hot water which powers turbines which convert the energy into electricity.

Energy Efficiency

The amount of energy that is not wasted or lost.

Energy Conservation

Actions taken to use less energy, such as turning off lights, using energy-efficient appliances.

Secondary Energy Source

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

"Saving" energy

To use less energy (e.g., turning off lights, using energy-efficient appliances).

"Wasting" energy

To use more energy than necessary.

Carbon Footprint

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