

Non-renewable and renewable energy

Fossil Fuels

Most of the energy we use everyday comes from fossil fuels, like gas, coal and oil. These have been formed over millions of years from dead plants and animals. They are mined from deep below land and sea. It's expensive and difficult to find, drill and then clean them ready to use.

We get the energy from them by burning them, but this can often give off harmful gases into the air. If oil is spilled into oceans or on land it can be dangerous to wildlife.

These fuels are called '**non-renewable**' – that means they can't be renewed - when they are used up, or run out, that's it!



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Non-renewable and renewable energy cont'd

Renewable energy

We are trying to get our energy from other things that are around us and '**renewable**' – that means won't run out or be used up.

These are natural things like the sun, water and wind.

The sun's heat energy or solar power can heat water up, or collect the sunlight in solar cells. We use solar cells to power lots of things from calculators to satellites!

The wind's movement energy can be caught by giant windmills, or turbines. This is then turned into electrical energy.

Water is another movement energy. Waves, tides and the power of flowing water can be caught and turned into electricity too.

Energy is important! Why don't you find out about other renewable energy sources?

