Energy Resources and Consumption

AP Environmental Science · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
nonrenewable resource /ˌnɒnrɪˈnjuːəbl rɪˈzɔːs/	Coal is a **nonrenewable resource**.
renewable resource /rɪˈnjuːəbl rɪˈzɔːs/	Wood is a **renewable resource** if we plant new trees.
fossil fuels /ˈfɒsl ˈfjuːəlz/	Coal and oil are **fossil fuels**.
peat /piːt/	**Peat** is partly rotted plant material.
cogeneration /ˌkəʊdʒənəˈreɪʃn/	**Cogeneration** uses waste heat from a power station to warm buildings.
methane /ˈmiːθeɪn/	Cows give off **methane**.
lignite /ˈlɪgnaɪt/	**Lignite** is soft brown coal.
bituminous /baɪˈtjuːmɪnəs/	**Bituminous** coal is harder than lignite.
anthracite /ˈænθrəsaɪt/	**Anthracite** is the hardest coal and burns cleanly.
hydraulic fracturing /haɪˈdrɔːlɪk ˈfræktʃərɪŋ/	**Hydraulic fracturing** pumps water into rock to free natural gas.
volatile organic compounds /ˈvɒlətaɪl ɔːˈgænɪk ˈkɒmpaʊndz/	Paints give off **volatile organic compounds**.
tar sands /tɑː sændz/	**Tar sands** contain thick, heavy oil.
bitumen /ˈbɪtʃuːmən/	**Bitumen** is used to make roads.

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nuclear power /ˈnjuːklɪə ˈpaʊə/	**Nuclear power** produces no carbon dioxide while running.
fission /ˈfɪʃn/	In **fission**, a large nucleus splits in two.
waste /weɪst/	Nuclear **waste** stays dangerous for thousands of years.
biomass /ˌbaɪəʊˈmæs/	Wood is a type of **biomass**.
ethanol /ˈeθənɒl/	Shake the food with **ethanol** to test for fat.
energy return on energy investment (EROEI) /ˈenədʒi rɪˈtɜːn ɒn ˈenədʒi ɪnˈvestmənt/	A high **energy return on energy investment (EROEI)** means a fuel is worth getting.
solar /ˈsəʊlə/	A **solar** panel converts sunlight into electricity.
photovoltaic /ˌfəʊtəʊvəʊlˈteɪɪk/	**Photovoltaic** cells turn sunlight into electricity.
hydroelectric /ˌhaɪdrəʊɪˈlektrɪk/	A **hydroelectric** station uses flowing water to drive turbines.
reservoir /ˈrezəvwɑː/	The dam holds water in a **reservoir**.
geothermal /ˌdʒiːəʊˈθɜːml/	**Geothermal** energy uses heat from inside the Earth.
steam /stiːm/	Burning coal turns water into **steam**, which spins a turbine.
hydrogen fuel cell /ˈhaɪdrədʒn ˈfjuːəl sel/	A **hydrogen fuel cell** makes electricity and water.
wind /wɪnd/	A **wind** turbine uses moving air to generate electricity.

Word	Example
energy conservation /ˈenədʒi ˌkɒnsəˈveɪʃn/	Turning off lights is **energy conservation**.
power station /ˈpaʊə ˈsteɪʃn/	The **power station** burns coal to make electricity.
nuclear power station /ˈnjuːklɪə ˈpaʊə ˈsteɪʃn/	A **nuclear power station** uses fission to boil water.
dam /dæm/	The **dam** blocks the river to make electricity.
wind turbines /wɪnd ˈtɜːbaɪnz/	**Wind turbines** turn wind into electricity.

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