

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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HOW MANY FOSSIL FUELS ARE MENTIONED BELOW?

FOSSIL FUELS

As the most easily-reached sources of coal, gas, and oil are being used up, miners and drill rigs must go to remote mountains, deep oceans, and icebound seas in search of more. At today's rate of use, known coal reserves may run out within 120 years, while oil and gas reserves will last less than 80 years.

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WATER

As Earth's population rises, humans need more clean water for drinking, cooking, and washing. We also use water for growing crops and raising farm animals. Water has to be cleaned and purified before we can use it, which requires energy and resources.

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What do we use water for?

TIMBER

About half of all forests are grown and harvested in a sustainable way for paper, timber, and fuel. But more than half of Earth's tropical rainforests have been cut down in the past 100 years, for rare timber and farmland. Almost none of these tropical forests have been replanted.



What do we use trees for?



FARMLAND

Farmers need fertile soil to grow crops and raise animals. Pollution or over-farming (growing too much of the same crop in the same place) can damage the soil, making fertile land a resource that needs to be protected.

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WHAT DO THE FARMERS NEED SOIL FOR?

ENERGY

Humans around the world need energy to power cities, vehicles, homes, and factories. Energy is another kind of resource. Today, most of it comes from burning fossil fuels, but in the future we will need to find cheaper, less polluting energy sources.



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