

How Electricity is made.

The importance of electricity.



Oh no! There **is** no **electricity**! I **was** just about to **finish** my **game**. I **have to restart** it now. Uh! It **seems** like there **is** some **problem** in the **electricity** supplies. Don't **worry**! It'll **be back** in a **moment**. Wow! It's **back**. We **can't do** anything without **electricity** these **days**. Yeah, but do you **know** where your **electricity comes** from? I **think** it **comes** from that **switch**! Right? You are very right!

How does a generator work? How does it produce electricity? Electromagnetic induction.



Electricity comes to this **TV** from this **switch** (interruptor). But what about the **source** of all the **electricity** that **comes** to everyone's **home**. Let me **ask** my **friends**: Do you **know** where **electricity comes** from? Do you **want to know** about the **sources** of it and how it **is produced**? Ok, ok. **Take** a look here. What **is** this?

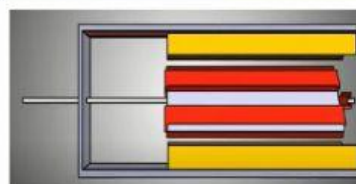
This is a **coil of wire** and **magnet mounted** on a **shaft** (eje). What it **is used** for? It **is used** to produce **electricity**. But how?

If we **spin** a **magnet** around with-in (dentro de) a **coil of wire** **electricity is produced** in the **wire**. Oh, it is so simple! All we **need to have** is a **coil of wire** and a **magnet to make** **electricity**. And just **spin** the **magnet** with-in the **coil**. This process **is known as** **electromagnetic induction**.

Can I **spin** this **magnet**? Oh yes! But let me first **attach** (unir) a small **electric bulb** with the **wires**. Now you **can spin** the **magnet** with the help of the **handle** (mango). Wow, the **bulb is** on! So **guys** now you **know** the basics of **producing electricity**! Now something to **remember**! The **machine having** a **magnet** and **coil of wire**, in this way, **is known as** **generator**. So we **need** a **generator** like this to **produce** **electricity**? Yes, in most of the cases a **generator is required**.

Wow! Now I **can produce** **electricity** for my entire **home** with this **generator**. But see, this is too small! This **can light up** (iluminar) only a **small bulb**. You **need** a **big generator** for **getting** more **electricity**. Let me **show** you!

'Big' generators. Let's change the scale! Giant generators



Oh, It does not **look** like the earlier **generator**!

Let's **peep** inside! (Miremos dentro)

Oh yes, it also **has** a **big magnet** **linked** with a **shaft** and **wires** all around it.

Remember, every **generator has** this kind of arrangement (montaje) inside it. Hmmm, if I **spin** this **generator shaft** I can **light up** my entire **home**!

Hmmm, now **try to move** it. Ah! Ah! I can't **spin** it. It **is** very **heavy to move**. Now **have** a look at these **giant generators**!

Oh, wow! That's so huge. Yeah, these **big generators are used to produce electricity** for a whole city. But how do they **spin** the **magnet** inside these **big generators**? I **can't** even **move** the **smaller** one! To **move** the **magnet** inside the **big generator** a **big fan is attached** to this **shaft**. A **big fan**? Yeah, look here.

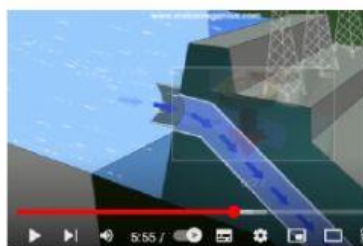


These big fans **are called turbines**.
Turbines? Yeah, turbines.



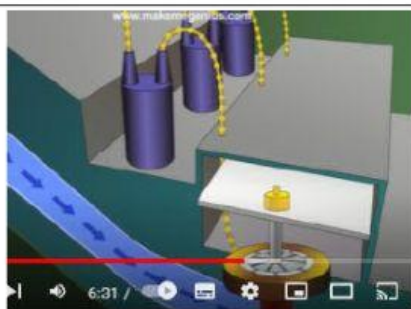
Friends! Hope you **remember generator**, the **machine to make electricity**! Now **remember turbine** that **is** the second most important tool A turbine **helps** the generator to **work** so that it **can produce electricity**. But how **does** this **fan**, I mean **turbine**, help in **turning** the generator? **Look** here!

Conventional Power Plants: Hydroelectric Power Plants.



In some cases, lot of **water is dropped** on this. The **water makes it turn**. When the **turbine moves**, **shaft of the generator also moves**. Wow! So **water helps in running** the generator! You **got** it right! The **electricity is generated** with the help of the **water**. This kind of **electricity is known as hydroelectricity**. The word **hydro means** related to **water**. But to **turn a big generator**, we **may need** a lot of **water**. Where all this **water will come** from? For that, we **need** to go to a **dam**. **Dam?** What **is a dam**? Let's **go and see**!

Wow! There **is** a lot of **water** here! **Seems** like **water is being stopped** here! Yes, it is a kind of a **barrier to stop river water**. Lot of **water is collected** here. But why? Well **Jimmy**, this stored **water is used** for water supplies or for **generating electricity**. Oh! That **is** why **there are** a lot of **turbines and generators** nearby! This **is called hydro-electric plant**. **Water** from higher level **flows** into a **pipe that carries** it down to a **turbine**. As **water moves** down, it **gains** a lot of **pressure**. This flowing **water drives** the **turbine that is connected** to the generator.



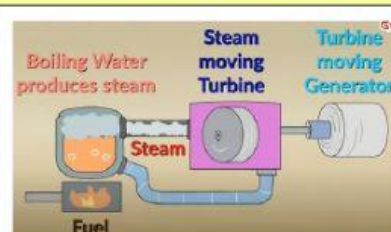
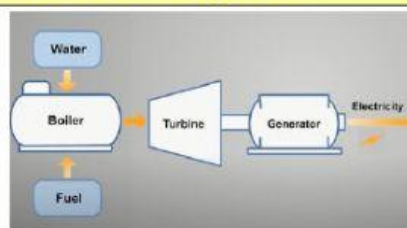
And inside the **generator**, **there is** a large **electromagnet** in the **coil of copper wire**. When this **magnet rotates** inside the **coil of wire** **electricity is produced**.

Then it **is sent** to our **homes** through **transmission lines**.

Wow! It is so **clear** to me.

Water from the **dam moves** the **turbine**, **turbine drives** the **generator**. And **generator produces** the **electricity**. Guys, **have** a closer look. This **is** how **water helps** in producing electricity.

Conventional Power Plants: Thermal plants and Uranium plants.



Umh! The visit to the **damn was** interesting but **tell me: Is there** any other way to **turn** the turbine? Yeah! **There are** many ways. In many cases it **is moved** by steam. Steam? But how **can steam move** anything? Look at this! Can you **spin** it? It **is** very simple! I have to **blow** some air into it. Pffffff! See, it **is spinning**. It **is** the same with turbine. We **need** some air or gas to **blow** it. But you **said steam**. Yeah! Steam **is** a gaseous form of water. Oh yeah! Steam **is** a gas. It is just like...air hmmm Let me **try** to **make** this turbine **spin**.

Oh! It **did** not even move an **inch**. It is very heavy, We **need** a lot of **pressure**. We **need** lot of **air** to move it. But from where will we **get** that much of air?

In most of the **electricity** generating plants water **is put** in **big** tanks. Then it **is boiled** to **produce** steam and the turbine **is moved** with the **pressure** of the steam like my pinwheel (molinillo). Yep! Now let's **see** how the whole system **works**.

Water **is heated** until it **produces** steam and the steam **moves** the turbine that **spins** shaft **connected** to a magnet inside the coil of wire but **can** you **name** the fuel **used** for **heating** the water to **produce** steam?

We **can use** electricity to **heat** water like we **use** it for a 'guiso' at home. You **are** right but **using** electricity to **produce** electricity **can be** very costly. Think of!.

We **can use** coal. Yeah! We **can use** coal. We **can** also **use** natural gases, biomass or uranium, etc... **Are** those fossil fuels?

So we **can use** coal and natural gas as fuel to **heat** the water to **produce** steam to **turn** the turbine. And as we **use** the heat to **produce** electricity this **is also called** thermal energy. And this **is done** in thermal plans. Correct! but the plants where we **use** uranium as fuel to **produce** electricity **are known** as nuclear power plants.

Non conventional Power Plants: Wind mill and Photovoltaic cells or panels.



I **am** worried! Why? Well If **burning** all fossil fuels will **get over**. Then there would **be** no electricity in this world. Even **scientics** **are worried**. They **are finding** new ways to **generate** electricity. Like? Some of the **electricity is being produced** with the help of wind and even sun. Wow! That **is** great. Can you **tell** me more about this? This **is called** a wind mill. The blades (aspas) of windmill **act** as a turbine. The blades **move** due to the wind. Oh! So we don't **need** fuel! We will **generate** the electricity.

Now **tell** me about the ways to **get** electricity from the Sun. Yeah! There it is.

See, sunlight **falls** on special panels called photovoltaic cells. These cells **produce** electricity. Wow! We **can get** electricity for infinite period from them and Sun as they will always **be** there.

So guys. Some homework for you ... It is ery easy... Watch few videos on dams and electromagnetic induction. Also **click** on this link to **play** the **quiz** on makemegenius.com.