

Science Notes

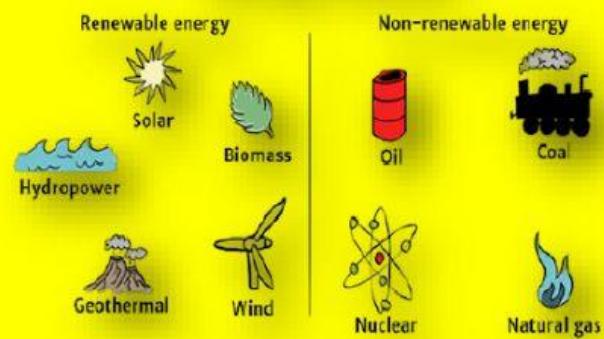
TOPIC: AIR POLLUTION

Natural resources are materials found in the environment that are useful to humans. Natural resources can be grouped as renewable or nonrenewable.

Renewable resources can be replaced or used over and over. **Soil, air, water, and trees** are renewable resources.

A **nonrenewable resource** is a resource that cannot be replaced easily or reused. **Fossil fuels**, such as **oil, coal and natural gas** are examples of nonrenewable resources.

Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy Sources



When natural resources such as, air, soil and water become polluted, they are unsafe for use. **Pollution occurs when harmful substances contaminate the air, land or water.** The harmful substances are **pollutants**. Air can be polluted in several ways.

- the pumping of exhaust fumes from motor vehicles
- smoke stacks of factories and ships
- smoke from cigarettes are common causes of air pollution.

When these **pollutants** mix with water vapour in the air, they produce **acid rain**. **Acid rain can contain a combination of gases and solid particles that produce smog.**

LAND POLLUTION

Air can also be polluted by the addition of **chlorofluorocarbon (C.F.C.'s)**. These are gases used in:

*refrigerators

*air conditioners

* fire extinguishers



They float to the top of the atmosphere and breakdown the **ozone layer**. This allows **harmful radiation** from space to enter the atmosphere. The radiation causes **humans to develop cancer**.

Another harmful effect of air pollution is the: "**greenhouse effect**". This is the trapping of heat in the atmosphere. The land is also being polluted. **Garbage from homes and businesses and chemical wastes from industry and farming** are being dumped into and on the land. Land pollution can be reduced in a number of ways including the use of specially designed landfills and leak proof cans.

WATER POLLUTION

Most of the water on earth is **salt water**. Both salt water and fresh water are being **polluted** by a variety of sources including:

Pollution promotes *breeding of vectors* and also provides *vectors with homes*. Some items that pollute the resources are **biodegradable**, but others are **non biodegradable**.

Conservation is the wise use of natural resources. Resources can be conserved by:

- reducing (use only what is needed)
- reusing (use things again)
- recycling wherever possible

