

# What is renewable energy?

## READING COMPREHENSION & ACTIVITY WORKSHEET

Renewable energies are obtained through natural sources that nature itself will replace, like wind, water and sunshine. Renewable energy produce low amounts of pollution and are friendly with the environment. So where can you get this type of energy, free and forever? Just look up above you when you're outside on a sunny day... Yes, the sun gives our planet far more energy than people make from fossil fuels, such as oil and coal. The Sun's heat drives the mightiest engine of all: the Earth's climate. It makes you hot when it shines but it also makes winds, waves and rain. And people can use all these things to make electricity or heat energy for homes. And most important, unlike fossil fuels, this sort of energy doesn't damage the Earth and will last forever!

### The Sun Power:

It can make electricity by using things called photovoltaic cells (often just called PV) which fit on the roofs or walls of your houses or apartment blocks. Some special cars can run on PV electricity and there's even a race across Australia in which the cars run only on solar power.

Sun power can also heat water in solar panels (like radiators but instead of giving out heat, they grab it from the Sun). This is then stored in a big tank so you can have hot showers and so on. Solar collectors can pick up the Sun's heat even on cloudy days.

### The Wind Power:

It can drive a turbine with a propeller (like some airplanes have) and make electricity. Wind power is getting really important in some countries. Wave power can also drive generators but this is still a very new idea. Just a few experimental machines are in use today.

### The Geothermal Power:

This type of energy is tapped from inside the Earth. It's the only renewable energy source which has nothing to do with the Sun. Deep down, it's very hot. Sometimes these hot rocks break through the surface to form volcanoes. By drilling holes down into areas where hot rocks are close to the surface, people can generate electricity and heat buildings.

*Text adapted from: [https://www.alliantenergykids.com/Renewable Energy/Renewable Energy Home](https://www.alliantenergykids.com/Renewable%20Energy/Renewable%20Energy%20Home)*

1. Look at the pictures of energy sources below. Then, put the sources in the correct category.

WIND

COAL

NUCLEAR

SOLAR



RENEWABLE ENERGY

NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY

**2. Skimming. Read the text and find the following concepts.**

- 2 examples of non-renewable energy.
- 2 names for renewable energy.
- 2 sources of renewable energy.
- 2 ways to use the solar power.

**3. Read the text again and match the following definitions.**

source

coal

pollution

power

- a. A mineral that is made of carbon and used as a fuel.
- b. Mechanical or electrical energy as distinguished from manual labor.
- c. Any thing or place from which something comes or is obtained.
- d. The introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment.

**4. Discuss the questions.**

- a. Do you think it's possible we can use solely renewable energy someday?
- b. What do you think about the use of electric buses in public transport?
- c. What sources of renewable energy did you know before reading this text?