

## Learning about Renewable Energy **Answers**

### What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is energy from sources that are never depleted. Examples of non-renewable energy sources include fossil fuels: petroleum, gas and coal.

### List five different types of renewable energy:

1. solar energy (from the sun)
2. hydropower (from water)
3. wind power (from wind)
4. geothermal (heat from under the ground)
5. biofuels (from burning materials such as wood, plant oils, dung, dried corn husks, etc.)



### How does choosing to use renewable energy help the Earth?

Renewable energy helps the Earth's natural environment by producing fewer emissions than non-renewable energy, which is less polluting and may help slow global warming.

### How does the use of renewable energy help people's health?

Renewable energy helps people's health by producing fewer harmful emissions that can lead to damaging human health effects (coughing, difficulty breathing, respiratory infections, lung cancer, etc).

### List two solid fuels and two non-solid fuels.

#### Explain one way in which these fuel types are different.

**Solid:** coal; cornhusks; straw; wood. **Non-solid:** gas; electricity; propane; natural gas; gas from biodigester; electricity from solar power, hydropower, geothermal, or wind. Solid fuels, depending on the way in which you burn them, generally produce more emissions than non-solid fuels, and when burned inside homes, are typically worse for people's health than non-solid fuels.

#### Explain how the use of solid fuels can be harmful to people's health.

Solid fuels often produce harmful chemicals and particulate matter when you burn them. Particulate matter can enter deep into people's lungs and cause lots of different health problems, including respiratory infections and even lung cancer. Scientists and engineers are still studying all the health effects of particulate matter, but we know it is not good! Burning solid fuels can produce outdoor air pollution and indoor air pollution.

### Vocabulary Words to Know

renewable	water	geothermal	emissions
non-renewable	solar	pollution	global warming
wind	biomass	energy	climate change