



Renewable source of energy is answer

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Renewable energy is cheaper. Renewable energy actually is the cheapest power ...

Renewable energy comes from sources that are replenished naturally, such as the sun and wind. Traditional energy sources, like coal and oil, are finite and when burned, release carbon in the form of carbon dioxide and methane – two greenhouse gases that significantly contribute to the acceleration of global climate change. Renewable energy, on the other hand, either does not emit carbon or is carbon neutral, meaning it absorbs as much carbon as it emits.

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Tapping into sources of renewable energy is a relatively new development in the history of human energy production. Early human ancestors used wood to generate heat energy, then switched to coal, a fuel with higher energy density, as summarized in the textbook "The Cambridge World History" (Cambridge University Press, 2015). Petroleum oil now fuels the majority of the world's transportation industry, including cars, airplanes, boats and trains, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Coal, oil and natural gas are called "fossil fuels" because the products are formed over the course of millennia as heat and pressure transformed the fossilized remains of dead plants and animals trapped underground, according to the Geological Survey Ireland.

Burning fossil fuels, such as in power plants or cars, releases the carbon that had been trapped underground into the atmosphere. Humanity's dependence on fossil fuels is a leading cause of climate change because of the large amounts of carbon that fossil fuels dump into the atmosphere as they burn.

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Not only are fossil fuels accelerating global climate change, but the supply is limited, so they're not a sustainable source of energy. Industries, countries and individuals around the world are now turning to renewable energy sources, which either do not produce carbon to generate energy or are carbon neutral, to minimize humanity's contribution to climate change and help make sure our planet has energy for the future.

Solar energy involves converting the sun's radiation into trapped heat, then using that heat to create or sustain a chemical reaction, or generate electricity, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica. This can be achieved with photovoltaic solar panels or by concentrating solar-thermal power, which enables solar-generated heat to be stored until energy is needed.

Although solar energy is free, it's not always available – the sun doesn't shine at night, which often



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coincides with peak energy demand, according to the University of Calgary. For this reason, the fate of renewable energies such as solar and wind relies on the development of efficient battery storage.

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There are also environmental concerns about solar energy because some of the chemicals used to manufacture solar panels are toxic to the environment, according to the EIA. The agency's website states that "some solar thermal systems use potentially hazardous fluids to transfer heat. Leaks of these materials could be harmful to the environment."

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