



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary of frequently used terms has been created as an accompaniment to the recent webinar – Renewable Energy

1. Renewable energy – energy which comes from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat, which are renewable (naturally replenished).
2. Alternative Energy – An umbrella term that refers to any source of usable energy intended to replace fuel sources without the undesired consequences of the replaced fuels.
3. Renewable energy sources – natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat, which are renewable (naturally replenished).
4. Non-renewable energy – A natural resource derived from a non-renewable energy source that, once depleted, cannot be produced, grown or generated for future use, such as fossil fuels. Also considered non-renewable are resources that are consumed much faster than nature can create them.
5. Fossil fuels – Non-renewable energy such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas, nuclear power like uranium and certain aquifers.
6. Solar energy – Solar energy is the energy derived from the sun through the form of solar radiation. The energy contained in sunlight is far greater than that generated by burning coal, oil and gas or by nuclear power. Solar energy systems, which use sunlight to generate electricity, are non-polluting, occupy little land space and consume minimal amounts of water in operation.
7. Wind power – Wind power is energy derived from the wind. The greatest advantage of wind energy is the fact that it has zero carbon emissions. The energy source is free, limitless, and cannot be subject to trade embargoes. Wind turbines are very reliable, needing minimal maintenance and repair.
8. Hybrid vehicle – The vehicle that uses two or more distinct power sources to move the vehicle. The term most commonly refers to hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), which combine an internal combustion engine and one or more electric motors.

9. Biomass – A renewable energy source, it is biological material from living, or recently living organisms. It can be used directly, or converted into other energy products such as biofuel.
10. Geothermal energy – Thermal energy generated and stored in the earth that determines the temperature of matter.
11. Hydro power – Power that is derived from the force or energy of falling water. Also known as hydraulic power, hydrokinetic power or water power.