

Appliance: A piece of equipment, commonly powered by electricity, used to perform a particular energy driven function. Examples of common appliances are refrigerators, dishwashers, toasters, radios, televisions, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, microwave ovens.

Battery: An energy storage device made up of one or more electrolyte cells.

Biofuels: Fuels made from biomass (plant or animal).

Biomass: Any organic (plant or animal) material which is available on a renewable basis, including agricultural crops (corn) and agricultural wastes, wood and wood wastes, animal wastes (manure), landfill wastes and aquatic plants.

Conservation: The act of protecting nature – water, plants and wildlife. The act of conservation around the home, like saving electricity and using less water, protects natural resources for future generations.

Energy conservation: Reducing energy consumption through using less of an energy service. An example is powering off a computer when not in use as a form of energy conservation.

Energy: The ability to do work or the ability to move an object. Energy is any source of usable power.

Efficient energy use: Refers to using less energy for a constant service. Driving the same distance with a higher mileage vehicle is an example of energy efficiency.

Fossil fuels: Fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) that result from the compression of ancient plant and animal life formed over millions of years.

Fuel: Any material that can be burned to make energy.

Geothermal energy: Thermal energy generated and stored in the Earth. It comes in either *vapor-dominated* or *liquid-dominated* forms.

Global energy consumption: Refers to the total energy used by all people and industries around the world.

Incineration: A waste treatment process that involves the burning of organic substances contained in waste materials.

Light energy: Radiant electromagnetic energy that an observer can see.

Non-renewable Energy sources: These natural resources often exist in a fixed amount, and are consumed much faster than nature can recreate them. Fossil fuels, such as coal, petroleum and natural gas are examples of non-renewable energy sources.

Renewable Energy sources: Naturally occurring, supposedly limitless sources of energy that cannot be depleted. Examples include the sun, wind, water, biomass, geothermal.

Solar cell: An electric cell which changes radiant energy from the sun into electrical energy by the photovoltaic process.

Solar energy: The radiant energy of the sun, which can be converted into other forms of energy, such as heat, light or electricity.

Thermostat: A device that adjusts the amount of heating and cooling produced and or distributed by automatically responding to the temperature in the environment.

Transformer: A device which converts the generators low-voltage electricity to higher voltage levels for transmission to a factory or a city.

Watt (W): The watt is a derived unit of power in the International System of units (SI), named after the Scottish engineer James Watt. Its unit symbol is W. The unit measures the rate of energy consumption per hour. For example a 60 Watt light bulb uses 60 watts of energy in one hour.

Wind energy: A renewable source of energy used to turn turbines to generate electricity.