

What Is Energy?

Level H/I



by **Kathy Staugler**

Illustrated by Amanda Noss



http://farm7.static.flickr.com/6022/5920417073_f5495fb527_b.jpg

If a friend asks you to go to the mall, you may jump up, get your coat and run to the car. You have a lot of energy for this activity. If your mother tells you to clean your room, you may look tired and tell your mother, “I don’t have any energy to clean my room.”



http://freethumbs.dreamstime.com/306/big/free_3062136.jpg

What is energy? **Energy** is the power to do something. Sometimes we think we have more energy to do things we want to do. If your mother said, “You can go to the mall if you clean your room,” would you have more energy?



http://s0.geograph.org.uk/geophotos/01/19/29/1192925_e9fce045.jpg



<http://images.cdn.fotopedia.com/flickr-1061718736-hd.jpg>

Where do you get your energy? All the energy on the Earth comes from the Sun. Heat and light from the Sun give us energy. Heat and light from the Sun help plants grow. Plants give us food for energy. But that is not the only way we get energy.

Light is energy. Sunshine gives heat and light to the Earth. If the Earth did not have sunlight, we could not live on the Earth. Light helps us to see. We have other kinds of light that come from energy. Light from a lamp comes from electrical energy when it is plugged in. Light from a flashlight comes from energy from the battery in the flashlight.



Sound is energy. Sound is moving energy that vibrates to make sound waves. Sound is energy that you can hear. Musical instruments have moving parts that make sounds. People have vocal cords in their neck that vibrate to make speech sounds. Electrical energy gives us CD players, MP3 players and TV so we can hear those sounds in different ways.



Heat is energy. The Sun warms the Earth. Geothermal energy is heat that comes from the Earth. Geothermal energy comes from the center or core of the Earth. We also have heat in our



http://www.digtheheat.com/images/cross_section.png



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:NesjavellirPowerPlant_edit2.jpg

homes. We have a furnace in our home that uses electricity or fuel to make heat. This fuel may come from oil, coal or natural gas.



The energy from oil, coal and natural gas comes from fossil fuels. **Fossil fuels** come from deep under the ground. Fossil fuels are formed deep in the Earth from remains of plants and animals that lived long ago. Miners dig for coal. Teams drill for oil. These fuels are made into energy for us to use.



http://farm1.static.flickr.com/219/460375914_110a64953a_z.jpg?zz=1

Cars use gasoline energy. This is called chemical energy. Gasoline is also used for lawn mowers, motorboats and airplanes. The Earth is running out of fossil fuels. Scientists are looking for other ways to get energy.



http://s0.geograph.org.uk/photos/6021602193_4a674f8f.jpg



http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2007/2394376192_fb7d54bd07.jpg

Today we see many new ways to get energy. Solar power comes from solar panels that capture heat from the Sun. A wind turbine captures energy from the wind to make electricity. Moving water also makes energy that can be made into electricity.



Energy is an important part of our life.
Energy is everywhere. Use your energy to
work for you.

To learn more about energy, go to:

<http://www.eia.gov/KIDS/energy.cfm?page=1>

yes



What Is Energy?

no



<p>move</p>	<p>energy</p>	<p>Earth</p>	<p>Sun</p>	<p>heat</p>	<p>light</p>	<p>plants</p>
<p>hear</p>	<p>food</p>	<p>sunlight</p>	<p>lamp</p>	<p>electricity</p>	<p>flashlight</p>	<p>battery</p>
<p>speak</p>	<p>sound</p>	<p>instruments</p>	<p>vocal cords</p>	<p>geothermal</p>	<p>center</p>	<p>home</p>
<p>make</p>	<p>furnace</p>	<p>car</p>	<p>gasoline</p>	<p>lawn mower</p>	<p>boat</p>	<p>airplane</p>
<p>use</p>	<p>oil</p>	<p>coal</p>	<p>natural gas</p>	<p>fossil fuels</p>	<p>solar power</p>	<p>wind turbine</p>

Glossary



energy - the power to do something



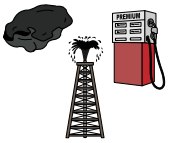
light - the type of energy that helps us see



sound - the type of energy that we can hear



heat - the type of energy that keeps us warm



fossil fuels - the remains of plants and animals that lived long ago; provide energy in oil, coal and natural gas