Natural Resources and Alternative Energy
Natural resources are things people use that come from the environment.
Natural Resources can be classified in different categories.

- Natural Resources
- Renewable
- Nonrenewable
- Alternative Energy
Renewable Resources

They can be replaced in a short period of time.

Examples:
- plants
- water
- animals
- air
Nonrenewable Resources

Examples: coal, oil, natural gas, minerals

They take millions of years to form and can be used up.
Nonrenewable Resources

Fossil Fuels: Natural Gas, Oil, and Coal

Fossil fuels are materials burned for energy. They are nonrenewable.
Nonrenewable Resources

Coal began as plants in swamps very long ago.
Nonrenewable Resources

After the plants died, thousands of years of pressure of sediments pressing down and heat changed them into coal.
Nonrenewable Resources

Coal is mined from under the Earth’s surface, then burned to produce energy.
Alternative Energy

Examples: sun, wind, geothermal, biofuels

These resources are always available.
Wind Turbines on a Wind Farm
Wind turbines spin → mechanical energy produced → converted into electrical energy.
Solar Panels
sunlight hits the solar panel

solar energy is converted to electrical energy
Hydroelectric Energy
Created at a Dam
Hydroelectric

falling water turns a turbine, creating mechanical energy

a hydroelectric generator converts the energy into electrical energy
hot steam comes from deep beneath Earth's surface

the steam spins turbines, generating electricity
Plants are grown for biofuels.
energy from the sun is stored in plants

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the energy is converted into a solid, liquid, or gas that can provide energy