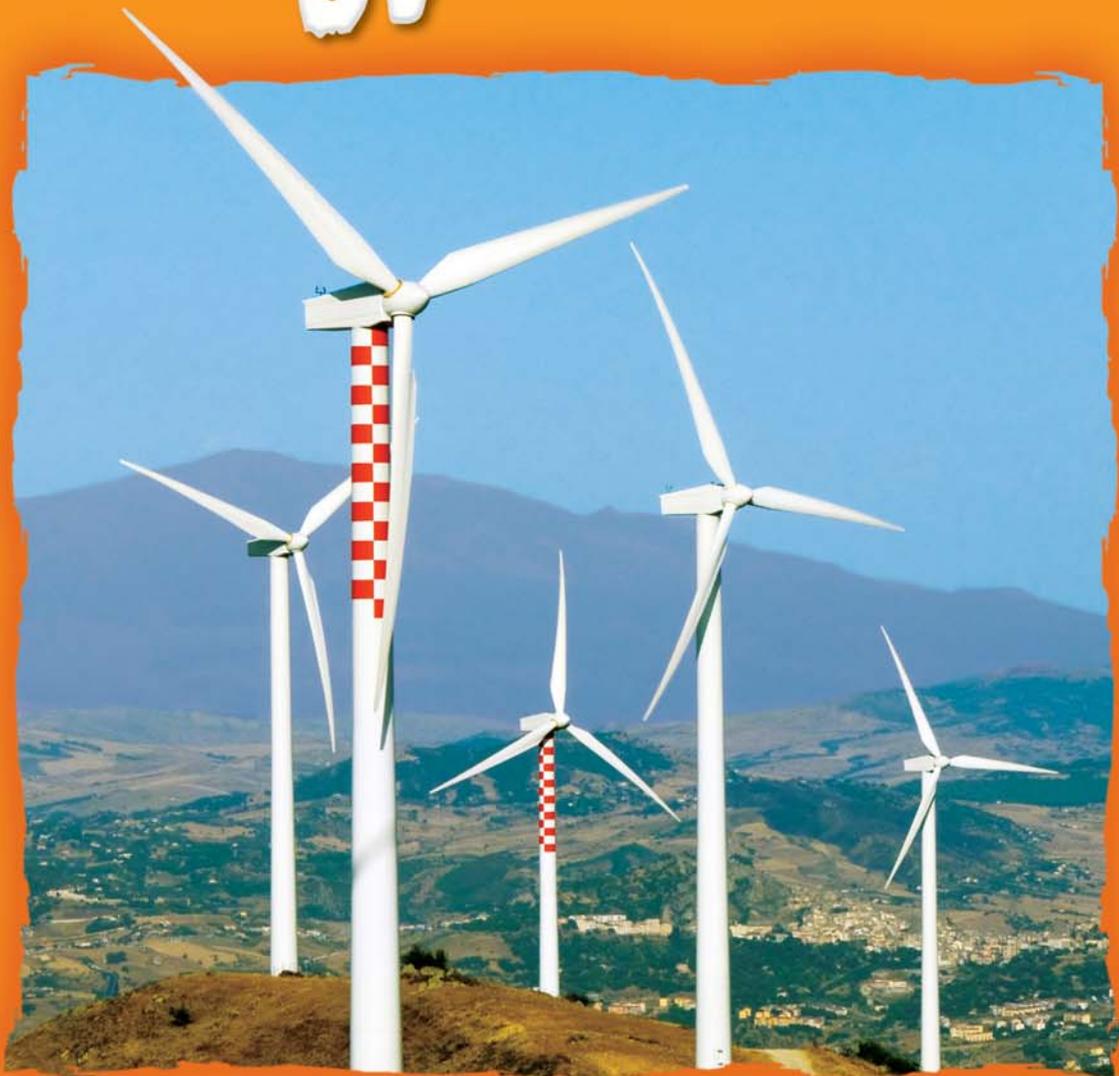


EARTH IN DANGER

Energy for the Future



by Helen Orme

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Energy for the Future



by Helen Orme

Consultant: Terry Jennings, Ph.D.
Educational Consultant

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The Energy Problem

People can't live without **energy**. They need it as a source of power to heat and light homes and businesses. They also need it to power many things they use each day, such as computers, cars, and TVs.

People require a lot of energy to survive. Unfortunately, there is a limited supply of many **fuels** such as oil. Also, the huge amount of fuel that people use creates **pollution**, which is harmful to the **environment**. Scientists are working to find new energy sources that will not run out and will be safer for the planet.

An oil rig





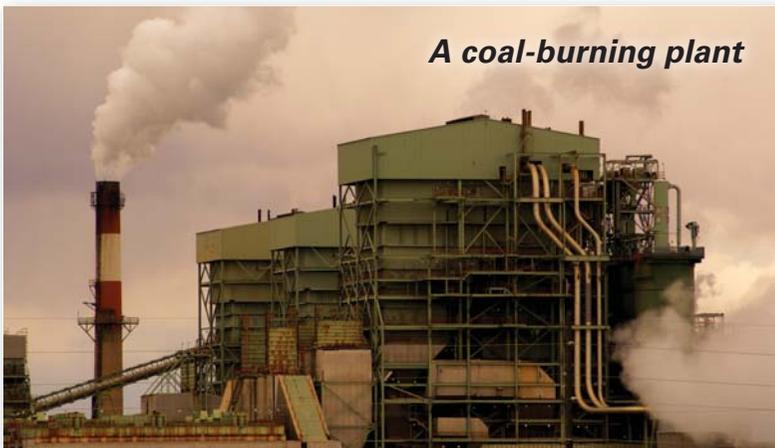
Most of the energy used in homes is for lighting and for running appliances, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and air conditioners.



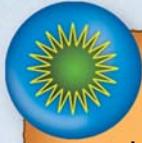
Nonrenewable Energy Sources

There are different types of energy sources. Some will last forever and others will, in time, run out. The energy sources that people use most—oil, gas, and coal—will eventually be completely used up. That’s why they’re called nonrenewable.

Not only will these energy sources not last forever, they’re also bad for the environment. Oil, gas, and coal are **fossil fuels**. When they’re burned, they give off **greenhouse gases**, such as carbon dioxide, that pollute the environment. Too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may cause Earth to warm up. If the planet warms up too much, many plants and animals that are used to living in cooler climates may not survive.



A coal-burning plant



Global warming is an increase in the average temperature of the air and water on Earth. Some scientists believe that if the **climate** changes too quickly, plants, animals, and people won't be able to adapt.



As temperatures rise at the North Pole, there is less and less ice for polar bears to hunt on.

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Read More

Challoner, Jack. *Energy.* New York: DK Children (2000).

Peterson, Christine. *Alternate Energy.* Danbury, CT: Children's Press (2004).

Saunders, Nigel. *Nuclear Energy (Energy for the Future and Global Warming).* Pleasantville, NY: Gareth Stevens Publishing (2007).

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Energy for the Future

People can't live without energy. They use it every day to power cars and computers, run machines, and heat and cool buildings. Unfortunately, the huge amounts of fossil fuels being used for energy are also polluting the environment. With the world's population growing quickly, supplies of these fuels will eventually run out. What can be done to conserve energy? Are there other energy sources people can use that won't pollute Earth? Look inside to find the answers and learn how everyone can help protect the planet.

Climate Change

Energy for the Future

Garbage and Recycling

Habitat Destruction

Living Green

Pollution

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