

Renewable and Non-renewable Resources

A resource is anything that humans can use to help them make something or do something.

For example, anything we use to build houses or electronics is a resource. Similarly, what we use to generate electricity is also a resource.

There are **human resources** - what people can offer (skills, knowledge); and **natural resources** - anything that we can make use of that comes from the environment (water, oil, trees).

What is a renewable resource?

A renewable resource is a something that can be used almost forever because it can be replaced quickly and easily via natural processes.

Examples are: oxygen, fresh water, solar energy, timber, and biomass. Renewable resources may include goods or commodities such as wood, paper and leather, because their sources are renewable.

What is a non-renewable resource?

Resources that are mined from the ground are non-renewable. These materials are ancient and it takes millions of years for them to be created. Many of these materials are fossil fuels, called so because they are as old as fossils.

Coal, petroleum, gold, silver, copper and plastics all come from fossil fuels and are not renewable. There will come a time when all the fossil fuels in the world will get used up. Then we won't have them anymore to rely on.

Another problem with fossil fuels is the pollution and global warming gases they produce when used and processed. It also takes vast amount of money and resources to remove them from the ground and open-cut mining can cause large amount of damage to the natural environment.

What's the solution?

Humans have been working on ways to make biodegradable plastic, biodiesel and other fuels from renewable resources such as corn, sugar cane, soybeans and canola.

Also, it is important to recycle non-renewable resources so that they be reused over and over again. Aluminium, for example is used to make tin-foil and food and drink cans. This is a non-renewable resource that can be easily recycled. After all, when you think about it, throwing something away that can never be replaced is such a waste!

Source: https://kids.kiddle.co/Renewable_resource

