

Renewable Energy

What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is the term used to describe energy sources that occur naturally and continuously in the environment, such as energy from wind, waves, or biomass. This means that these sources are essentially inexhaustible.

What kinds of sources are classed as renewable?

Renewable energy comes from sources such as biomass, coalmine methane, geothermal, hydropower, landfill gas, solar, wave and tidal power as well as wind power.

What are the advantages of renewable energy?

Unlike fossil fuels, which are the main contributor to emissions of greenhouse gases, renewable energy is much cleaner, contributing to low or even zero levels of greenhouse gases. They cause fewer emissions in terms of chemical, radioactive and thermal pollution.

How much renewable energy is generated in the UK

5.9% of the UK's energy was generated from renewable sources in 2008/09. The UK target is to increase this to 10.4% by 2010 and an aspirational figure of 20% by 2020. The British Government is strongly committed to achieving this target, both through their own directives and their commitment to the Kyoto Protocol.

Is 'green' energy always renewable?

"Renewable" and "green" energy means that the electricity supplied is actually generated from Renewable Energy Sources. The words "clean" or "environmental" cannot guarantee this, as although the energy is generated from a source other than fossil fuels, it may not be renewable.

For further information on renewable energy, visit:

DECC: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/renewable.aspx

Ofgem: <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk>

CarbonTrust: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk>