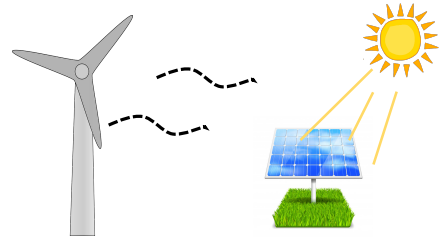


# RENEWABLE VS. NONRENEWABLE RESOURCES

Natural resources are things, materials and substances found in the natural environment. They exist “naturally” in the world and are not the result of human manipulation or creation. There are two types of natural resources: renewable resources and nonrenewable resources.

Renewable resources can regenerate. There is an “infinite” amount of these resources. Water, sunlight, plants, animals and wind are examples of renewable resources.



Nonrenewable resources cannot be regenerated by natural processes. There is a finite amount of nonrenewable resources, so once used up, they are forever gone. Coal, oil and natural gas, minerals and metals are examples of nonrenewable energy resources

Renewable resources can become nonrenewable resources if they are used faster than they can be replenished. If the resource no longer exists, there is nothing to regenerate or be replenished. For example, if we cut down trees faster than we grow them, trees can become a nonrenewable resource because there are no trees to regenerate.

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## Questions

1. What are natural resources?
2. What is the difference between a renewable and nonrenewable resource?
3. What are examples of renewable resources?
4. How can a renewable resource become a nonrenewable resource?
5. Do you think any renewable resource we use today is in danger of becoming a nonrenewable resource? Justify your answer.