



Fact Sheet RESOURCES

Earths Resources

The Earth's resources, or natural resources, are something that is found in nature and can be used by people.

Sustainability refers to using resources in such a way that they will continue to be available in the future. The survival of humans depends on the natural environment and the sustainable use of natural resources.

What are earths resources, and how do we use and care for them?

Earth's natural resources include light, air, water, plants, animals, soil, stone, minerals and fossil fuels. People need some natural resources to stay alive. They use others to make their lives better.

Renewable resources include sunlight, water and air and they cannot be used up however pollution and misuse can make them harder to access and use.

Plants and animals are also renewable resources. Normally living things replace themselves through reproduction. But such human activities as hunting, logging, building, and polluting can cause whole groups of living things to disappear forever.

Non-renewable resources are non-living things such as stone, soil, minerals and gases can take thousands or millions of years to form. They are considered non-renewable because people use them faster than they can form.

Fossil fuels are a non-renewable resource and are formed from the buried remains of ancient plants and animals over millions of years. Petroleum, coal, and natural gas are fossil fuels.

Conservation is the protection of things found in nature. It requires the sensible use of all Earth's natural resources: water, soil, minerals, wildlife, and forests. People who care about conservation try to preserve natural resources so they will still be around in the future. They also try to keep the environment clean and healthy.

How Are Natural Resources Used?

Renewable resources are used by people to grow food, access water for drinking and hygiene and provide shelter as well as generate energy and heat. Clothing, medicines and fuels can also be created from renewable resources.

Non-renewable resources including minerals

