Nonrenewable Resources Encyclopedia Article

Nonrenewable Resources

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Nonrenewable Resources

Any naturally occurring, finite resources that diminish with use, such as oil and **coal**. In terms of the human timescale, a nonrenewable resource cannot be renewed once it has been consumed. Most nonrenewable resources can only be renewed over geologic time, if at all. All the **fossil fuels** and mineral resources fall into this category. Renewable resources occur naturally and cannot be used up, such as **solar energy** or **wave power**. As resource depletion has become more common, the process of **recycling** has somewhat reduced reliance on virgin nonrenewable resources.