

Clue cards for PROPANE

Environment Clue:

I am a very clean burning nonrenewable energy source. In fact, I am often used in indoor settings.

I am so much cleaner to burn than gasoline that the Clean Air Act has approved me as an alternative transportation fuel. However, since I am a fossil fuel, I do emit carbon dioxide when burned.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that has the lowest flammability range of any fossil fuel.

Availability Clue:

I am a nonrenewable energy source that can be extracted from natural gas or petroleum. I am available wherever those two fossil fuels are found.

Although I am a cleaner and safer fuel to burn than gasoline, I am not as widely available. Also, there are not as many vehicles that have engines that can burn me.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source whose use as a vehicle fuel requires costly adjustments to a conventional car engine.

Economics Clue:

In order for drivers to use me as an alternative fuel, their vehicles must be converted to a special type of engine. This can be a costly adjustment.

Also, filling stations that provide me as a fuel are not as widespread and convenient as gas stations.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that has been approved as an alternative transportation fuel by the Clean Air Act.

Safety Clue:

I am the nonrenewable energy source that has the lowest flammability range of any fossil fuel. One safety advantage of my low flammability range is that compared with gasoline, chances of a vehicle fire in a crash are much lower.

In addition, my storage tanks are 20 times as puncture-resistant as a typical gasoline tank.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that can be extracted from natural gas or petroleum.

Clue cards for COAL

Environment Clue:

I am a nonrenewable energy source whose biggest environmental challenge is removing the sulfur that is chemically bound to me.

If this sulfur is not removed, I will pollute the air when I am burned and can cause acid rain.

I also release carbon dioxide (CO₂) when I am burned, contributing to the greenhouse effect.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that is the United States' most plentiful fossil fuel.

Availability Clue:

I am the nonrenewable energy source that is the United States' most plentiful fossil fuel. The United States is the world leader in known reserves of me.

Experts estimate there is enough of me left to last almost 270 years at current rates of use.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that generates more than half the electricity used in the United States.

Economics Clue:

I am the nonrenewable energy source that generates more than half the electricity used in the United States.

Two reasons why I am so popular are that I am relatively inexpensive and I am very abundant.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source whose safety record has evolved and improved over time.

Safety Clue:

I am a nonrenewable energy source whose safety record has evolved and improved over time. When I was first collected, many workers were injured or killed. In response, the U.S. government passed the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act in 1977.

Since 1970, work-related injuries and fatalities have declined 42% and 85%, respectively.* Advances in my industry are an example of how to use natural resources wisely and safely.

*U.S. Dept. of Labor, Mine Safety & Health Admin., 2000.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source whose biggest environmental challenge is removing the sulfur that is chemically bound to it.

Clue cards for URANIUM-235

Environment Clue:

I am a nonrenewable source of energy whose power plants burn no fossil fuels and therefore release no carbon dioxide.

One of my advantages is my ability to generate amounts of electricity comparable to coal or natural gas power plants without the same environmental impacts.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source whose greatest safety risk is the accidental release of high-level radiation.

Availability Clue:

I am the nonrenewable energy source that could last more than 500 years at current rates of use.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source whose greatest costs in generating electricity come from building the power plant and following strict safety regulations.

Economics Clue:

I am the nonrenewable source of energy whose greatest costs in generating electricity come from building the power plant and following strict safety regulations.

If only the operating costs are considered, I can produce electricity at about 2 cents / kilowatt-hour (kWh), compared with coal plants at 4 cents/kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Search:

Find the nonrenewable source of energy whose power plants burn no fossil fuels and therefore release no carbon dioxide.

Safety Clue:

I am the nonrenewable energy source whose greatest safety risk is the accidental release of high-level radiation.

Power plants that use me to generate electricity have greatly improved their safety features since they were first built.

There is also much debate about the safety of transporting and storing my waste products.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that could last more than 500 years at current rates of use.

Clue cards for NATURAL GAS

Environment Clue:

I am a nonrenewable energy source that is the cleanest burning fossil fuel. I am most often used by industry for manufacturing or for home heating.

When I am burned to generate electricity, I do emit carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. However, compared to coal and petroleum, I release much less sulfur, carbon, and ash.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source whose power plants generate electricity for about the same cost as coal, but are more efficient.

Availability Clue:

I am the nonrenewable energy source that the United States currently has enough of to last another 30-50 years.

Although I am mostly found underground as a fossil fuel, I can also be collected in coal mines and from landfill gases. When collected from a landfill, I am considered a renewable source since decaying organic matter produces me.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that smells like rotten eggs.

Economics Clue:

I am the nonrenewable energy source whose power plants generate electricity for about the same cost as coal, 4 cents per kilowatt-hour.

However, my power plants convert my energy into electricity about 20% more efficiently than coal power plants. This means more of my energy is turned into electricity and less is lost as heat.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that has a 30-50 year supply in the United States.

Safety Clue:

When found in nature, I am a colorless and odorless fossil fuel. For safety, companies add mercaptan (a chemical) to me that makes me smell like rotten eggs.

I travel across the country through more than a million miles of underground pipeline. If you smell me leaking inside or outside, I can be dangerous. Tell an adult, leave the house, and have someone call the gas company immediately.

Search:

Find the nonrenewable energy source that is known as the cleanest burning fossil fuel.

Clue cards for HYDROPOWER

Environment Clue:

I am a renewable energy source whose power plants can cause environmental damage even though I burn no fuel to generate electricity.

Damming rivers to use my energy may disrupt wildlife or flood nearby areas. On the other hand, since I burn no fuel, I do not contribute to air pollution.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source that is currently the cheapest way to generate electricity.

Availability Clue:

I am a renewable energy source that can be used to generate electricity near a waterfall or river.

Depending on the amount of rainfall each year, I can provide 5-10% of the United States' electricity. In Washington and Oregon, I supply as much as 85% of the electricity used each year.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose power plants worldwide have had the highest number of deaths per amount of electricity generated since 1977.

Economics Clue:

I am a renewable energy source that can be used to generate electricity for as little as 1 cent / kWh. Compared to 4 cents/kWh for coal and 2 cents/kWh for uranium, I am the cheapest electricity source.

However, costs for using me to generate electricity may rise due to the environmental impacts of my power plants.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source that can be used to generate electricity near a waterfall or river.

Safety Clue:

I am the renewable energy source whose power plants worldwide have had the highest number of deaths per amount of electricity generated since 1977.*

In the United States, the government has a special office devoted to ensuring the safety of power plants that I power.

**Source: Contemporary Media Reports, Paul Scherrer Inst, 1998 report: Severe Accidents in the Energy Sector.*

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose power plants can damage the environment even though no fuel is burned to generate electricity.

Clue cards for BIOMASS

Environment Clue:

I am a renewable energy source that helps keep carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere balanced by absorbing CO₂ when I grow.

I contain very little sulfur and nitrogen. So, if you burn me to create heat or electricity, I won't produce acid rain.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source that used to provide 90% of the United States' energy until the mid-1800's and now provides less than 3% of the energy we use.

Availability Clue:

I am a renewable energy source that is no longer used as much in the United States as I was before 1850.

I am still widely available and many developing countries depend on me. However, in America I have mostly been replaced by the use of coal, natural gas, and petroleum.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source that could be the answer to an inexpensive, renewable energy supply.

Economics Clue:

I am the renewable energy source that could be the answer to an inexpensive, renewable domestic energy supply.

My future uses may include using ethanol for fuel. Ethanol can be produced by America's farmers who grow energy crops such as corn and special fast-growing trees and grasses.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source that is produced when organic waste decays.

Safety Clue:

I am a renewable energy source produced when organic waste decays. I am called methane and I'm also the main ingredient in the non-renewable fossil fuel, natural gas.

If not collected, I can cause accidental fires or explosions. However, if I am collected and purified, I can safely be used to produce electricity, heating, or light.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source that helps keep carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels balanced in the earth's atmosphere.

Clue cards for SOLAR

Environment Clue:

I am a renewable energy source that can be used to create electricity without producing any air or water pollution. I have few or no negative impacts on the land when used to generate heat, light, or electricity.

However, some of the technology used to harness my energy consumes silicon and produces waste products.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source that is free and available everywhere.

Availability Clue:

I am the renewable energy source that is free and available everywhere. However, I am not available at all times.

The technology used to transform my energy into electricity can easily be set up at remote locations.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose cost per kilowatt-hour to produce electricity is currently 3 to 4 times as expensive as from conventional sources such as coal or natural gas.

Economics Clue:

I am the renewable energy source whose cost per kilowatt-hour to produce electricity is currently 3 to 4 times as expensive as from conventional sources such as coal or natural gas.

In addition, current technology can only convert less than 15% of me to electricity, compared with a fossil fuel power plant that converts 30-40% of its fuel's energy into electricity.

Search:

Find a renewable energy source whose main safety concerns focus on the durability and strength of the equipment used to generate electricity from it.

Safety Clue:

I am a renewable energy source. Most of my safety concerns focus on the durability and strength of the equipment used to generate electricity from me.

Because I do not need to be moved by pipelines, in trains, on trucks, boats, or planes, many of the hazards associated with transporting fuels do not apply to me.

Search:

Find a renewable energy source that has few or no negative impacts on the land when used to create light, heat, and electricity.

Clue cards for GEOTHERMAL

Environment Clue:

I am a renewable energy source whose power plants do not burn fossil fuels. My power plants release no carbon dioxide (CO₂) and less than 5% of the sulfur released by coal or natural gas power plants.

Power plants that I fuel have been built in deserts, on mountains, and in farmland.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose power plants are located directly above the fuel source.

Availability Clue:

There is no shortage of me in the earth, but not all sources of me are easy to reach or economical to use.

I am most abundant in regions along major tectonic plate boundaries where earthquakes and volcanoes are common. You can find me in the area known as the Ring of Fire.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose average cost per kilowatt-hour of electricity is higher than gas or coal.

Economics Clue:

I am the renewable energy source whose average cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) ranges from 4.5 to 7 cents.

In comparison, new coal and natural gas power plants can generate electricity at cost of around 4 cents/kWh.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose power plants do not burn fossil fuels so they release no carbon dioxide and less than 5% of the sulfur released by coal or natural gas power plants.

Safety Clue:

I am a renewable source of energy whose power plants are located directly above the fuel source.

Because my fuel does not need to travel far distances to the power plant, I don't have to worry about transportation hazards such as oil spills, gas leaks, or pipeline damage.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source that is found near earthquakes and volcanoes. It is plentiful but not always easy to reach or economical to use.

Clue cards for WIND

Environment Clue:

At some of the first power plants that used me to generate electricity, birds were killed by flying into my machinery. Now, many companies seeking to use me design power plants that try to avoid hurting birds.

Because nothing is burned when I generate electricity, I do not release carbon dioxide. I create very clean electricity.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose cost dropped from 30 cent/kWh in 1975 to less than 4 cents/kWh in 2000.

Availability Clue:

I am a renewable energy source whose power plants are best built on top of smooth, rounded hills, open plains or shorelines, and mountain gaps.

I am the fastest growing energy technology in the world. However, I currently supply about 0.1% of the United States' electricity each year. Experts expect the production of electricity from me will triple in the next few years.

Search:

Find a renewable energy source that needs no transportation of fuel to and from its power plants.

Economics Clue:

I am the renewable energy source whose power plants can produce electricity for less than 4 cents/kWh. When technologies to harness my power were first created in 1975, I produced electricity at a cost of 30 cents/kWh.

I'm a great example of how technology can both improve and become less costly with research and development over time.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose power plants are best built on smooth, rounded hills, open plains or shorelines, and mountain gaps.

Safety Clue:

I am a renewable energy source that needs no transportation of fuel to and from its power plants.

Because I do not need to be moved by pipelines, in trains, on trucks, boats, or planes, many of the hazards associated with transporting fuels do not apply to me.

Most of my safety concerns focus on the durability and strength of the equipment used to generate electricity from me.

Search:

Find the renewable energy source whose power plants may negatively affect bird populations.