For More Information

General Contacts

Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (CREST)
1200 18th Street NW, #900
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 530-2202
Web: http://www.crest.org

CREST's Web site has information on documents, databases, discussion groups, and organizations in the sustainable energy field.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse (EREC)
PO Box 3048
Merrifield, VA 22116
Tel: (800) DOE-EREC (363-3732)
Fax: (703) 893-0400
E-Mail: doe.erec@nciinc.com

This free service has information on renewable energy and saving energy. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network (EREN)
Web: http://www.eren.doe.gov

The on-line version of EREC. An excellent resource, with links to hundreds of related sites.

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
Subcommittee on Renewable Energy
PO Box 684
Washington, DC 20044
Tel: (202) 898-2200
Web: http://www.erols.com/naruc

Biomass

National BioEnergy Industries Association
122 C Street NW, Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20001-2109
Tel: (202) 383-2540
Web: http://solstice.crest.org/renewables/nbia

Publishes the quarterly magazine, *Biologue*, which includes information about regional biomass energy programs.

Wind

American Wind Energy Association
122 C Street NW, Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20002-2109
Tel: (202) 383-2500
Web: http://www.igc.apc.org/awea

AWEA can provide information on the use of wind energy for utility applications across the country.

Solar (Photovoltaics and Solar Thermal Electric)

Solar Energy Industries Association
122 C Street NW, Fourth floor
Washington, DC 20002
Tel: (202) 383-2600
Web: http://solstice.crest.org/renewables/seia

Geothermal

Geothermal Resources Council
2001 Second Street, Suite 5
PO Box 1350
Davis, CA 95617-1350
Tel: 916/758-2360
Web: http://www.geothermal.org

Text in italics refers to other glossary entries.

Biomass — All of the Earth's plant and animal matter. In the renewable energy industry, biomass usually refers to the wood, wood-processing residues, agricultural residues, and *energy crops* that are used to create electricity, generate heat, or produce liquid transportation fuels.

Energy crops — Crops grown specifically for their fuel value, including food crops such as corn and sugarcane, and nonfood crops such as willow trees and switchgrass.

Fossil fuels — Energy sources formed by the decay of plants, dinosaurs, and other animals over millions of years; coal, oil, and natural gas are fossil fuels. These energy reserves form so slowly in comparison to our rate of energy use that they are regarded as a finite resource.

Geothermal energy — Heat energy stored in the Earth's crust, which can be harnessed to produce electricity or to heat water and living spaces.

Gigawatt (GW) — 1,000,000,000 watts (see *Watt*)

Hydropower — The energy of flowing water, which can be harnessed to make electricity or to do mechanical work.

Kilowatt (kW) — 1000 watts (see *Watt*)

Kilowatt-hour (kWh) — A unit of electrical energy, equal to 1000 watts of power delivered for a period of one hour (see *Watt*)

Megawatt (MW) — 1,000,000 watts (see *Watt*)

Multiplier effect — Additional jobs and income created in the economy as a result of an initial expenditure. See page 2 for a detailed explanation.

Municipal solid waste — Trash or garbage; it can be used to produce heat or electricity by burning it or by capturing the gases it gives off and using them as fuel.

Nonrenewable fuels — Fuels that are not naturally replaced as we use them. This includes *fossil fuels*, nuclear fuels, and *municipal solid waste*.

Photovoltaics — A technology for using semiconductors to directly convert light into electricity.

Renewable energy — Sources of energy that are either continuously resupplied by the sun or tap inexhaustible resources, such as wind, solar, *biomass*, *hydropower*, and *geothermal energy*.

Solar heating — Various technologies for using the sun's energy to heat water and living spaces.

Solar thermal electric — A technology for generating electricity from the sun's heat.

Watt — Watts are used to measure the total quantity of electricity. One watt is the power developed by an electric current of 1 ampere across a potential of 1 volt.

1 kilowatt (kW) = 1000 watts

1 megawatt (MW) = 1000 kilowatts = 1 million watts

1 gigawatt (GW) = 1000 megawatts = 1 billion watts

Both kW and MW are used to describe the maximum output of an electric generator at a particular moment. Power plant capacities are usually quoted as "rated capacity," measured in kW or MW, which is the greatest amount of power that the plant can deliver at a given instant. The amount of electricity generated or used during a period of time is typically expressed in *kilowatt-hours* (kWh).

Wind farm — Another name for a *wind power plant*, so-called because the turbines are usually spread out over a relatively large area of land.

Wind power plant — A group of wind turbines connected to a common electricity grid.

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Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI)
P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37831
(615) 576-8401

Available to the public from:
National Technical Information Service (NTIS)
U.S. Department of Commerce
5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161
(703) 487-4650

Information pertaining to the pricing codes can be found in the current issue of the following publications which are generally available in most libraries: *Government Reports Announcements and Index (GRA and I)*; *Scientific and Technical Abstract Reports (STAR)*; and publication NTIS-PR-360 available from NTIS at the above address.

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