



Renewable and Non-Renewable Fuels



Hi, my name is Margo Mayweather and I work for Enviroearth.com – the number one environment based website in the world today. I am going to be interviewing Pete Swamp from the Non-renewable Fuels Association (NRFA) and Theresa Green from Only Renewable Fuels (ORF). Why don't you two introduce yourselves?



I'm Pete from NRFA and we represent the oil, coal, natural gas and nuclear energy industries. These groups all provide energy sources that aren't replenished quickly and will run out.



I'm Theresa and I'm the branch speaker for ORF. We are all about using renewable fuel sources like wind, hydro, solar, geothermal, biogas and biomass. We love Mother Earth.



Thanks for that. My first question is for Pete: Can you tell me why non-renewable fuels are so good?



Of course I can, there are plenty of reasons:

- They are quite easy to extract and transport all over the globe.
- They produce good amounts of energy for things like electricity production.
- They provide money and jobs to many nations around the world.
- Factories and transport are already set up to use these types of sources.



That's all very 'positive' Pete but what about the fact that they are running out rapidly, take millions of years to regenerate, cause massive amounts of pollution, increase the CO₂ emissions, contribute to global warming AND when they are extracted our beautiful Earth is damaged!



Ok, well I see there are two sides to every source. Theresa what actually are renewable fuels?



They are the only way to save Mother Earth!



That's all very well, but you haven't answered my question. Can you define what they are in one sentence?



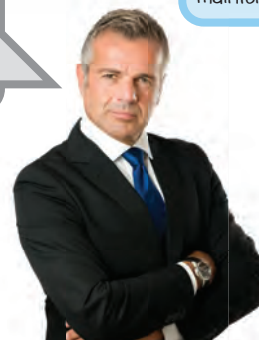
Sure...they are energy sources that can be used over and over again and aren't depleted when used



Excellent, thank you. Any other reasons why they are so good?



Excuse me but they are very expensive and people only care about money these days!



That's so not true Pete! While they cost money to set up, in the long term they are cheaper because the plants that use them require less maintenance.



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What about when it's cloudy or the wind isn't blowing, people want reliability not some pish-posh greenie hoopla!



Pete, while it's true, that's not a major issue because there are some awesome batteries out there that store the energy when the winds are up or the Sun is shining.

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This is all very interesting. Any other positives, or negatives for that matter, about your fuel types?



I would have to say that renewable sources don't make as much energy as non-renewable sources BUT the technology is improving and like with anything new it takes time to develop a perfect efficient system. Bearing in mind that humans have been using fossil fuels like coal for hundreds of years.



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See, even she admits that non-renewable sources are better. They're more reliable, efficient and cheaper. Clearly they are far superior to your fluffy little windmills or shiny solar panels.



Just remember Pete, your sources are running out. Even though you disagree with ORF and its ideals you have to admit that we need alternatives to coal, oil and uranium. If we all used a little less energy then the renewable sources would easily provide enough for us all.

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You may be right, but if we used less energy then the non-renewable sources would last longer anyway and we wouldn't need to waste money finding or developing new sources!



Well I think a major advantage of renewable sources is the way they treat Mother Earth! They don't pollute her, they don't have to be mined from the ground, forests don't have to be removed, they don't produce massive amounts of CO₂ and they also provide money to local economies. Not only that, individual people can have renewable sources at their house; it's a bit hard to have a coal mine in your back yard!

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That's all we have time for today, thank you both very much, you've given us plenty to think about. This is Margo Mayweather for Enviroearth.com signing out.

