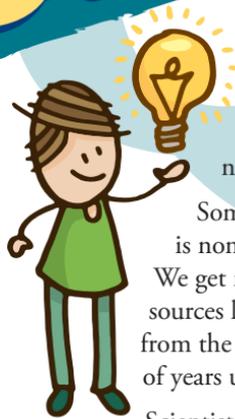


MSU Science Zone

What is Energy?



Energy is the ability to do work. Almost everything around us needs energy in order to do things. You need energy to read, play, or just to be alive. Plants need energy to grow. Cars, computers, and televisions need energy to run.

Some energy is renewable and you can get more of it fairly easily. Some energy is nonrenewable, which means that once it is used up, you can't make any more. We get most of the energy we need to run machines from nonrenewable energy sources like gas, oil, and coal. They are called fossil fuels because they were made from the remains of dead plants being heated up and put under pressure for millions of years underground.

Scientists are working on ways to make renewable energy that are cheap and efficient. Energy from wind, the sun, and moving water are a few examples of renewable energy. Scientists at Montana State University are working on making energy from tiny creatures called microbes that live in the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park.

Learn about opportunities to participate in upcoming science activities and events at MSU by visiting Montana.edu/outreach

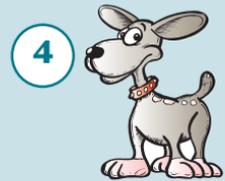


Energy Challenge!

Try counting up the following. You'll be surprised how many things in your house need energy.

- How many light bulbs are in your house? ____
- How many TVs are in your house? ____
- How many things are there in your room that need energy? ____

Match the following things with what they use for energy.



- a) the Sun
- b) batteries
- c) gas
- d) electricity
- e) food

Learn more about how MSU scientists are working with microbes in Yellowstone to create energy at hydrogen.montana.edu

Answers: 1) b 2) a 3) c 4) e 5) d