#### Non-renewable: [Nonrenewable energy sources](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/renewable-and-nonrenewable-resources.php) are destined to deplete in the near future. Fossil fuels do not qualify as renewable energy resources because their supply is limited. In fact, they are projected to run out in the next 50 years. Also, formation of fossil fuels takes years, which means when they deplete, we may have to wait for another 60 years or so for new ones to form.

#### 2) Environmental Hazards: [Environmental pollution](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-and-effects-of-environmental-pollution.php) is one of the major disadvantage of fossil fuels. It is a known fact that carbon dioxide, gas released when fossil fuels are burnt, is one of the primary gas responsible for [global warming](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/30-global-warming-myths-facts.php). Rise in temperature of earth has resulted in melting of polar ice caps, flooding of low lying areas and rise in sea levels. If such conditions continue, our planet Earth might face some serious consequences in near future.

#### 3) Accidents can be disastrous: Unlike renewable energy resources like solar and wind, accidents involving fossil fuels are highly dangerous and can cause massive damage. [Oil spills](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/effects-of-oil-spills.php) have occurred in the past, especially in the United States. Oil spills lead to pollution of water bodies and death of aquatic animals including those living offshore. Also, the environment around the shore is severely devastated.

#### 4) Effect on Human Health: Emissions of [greenhouse gasses](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/greenhouse-gases.php) and other toxic elements as a result of fossil fuel combustion can cause serious health complications such as chronic asthma, low lung functioning, chronic bronchitis and cardiovascular diseases.

#### 5) Price fluctuations: Fossil fuels are highly susceptible to price fluctuations and market manipulation. This aspect is greatly felt by developing countries that heavily rely on importation of fossil fuels. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, massive price fluctuations and price manipulations by oil producing countries in the middle east cost the economy about 1.9 trillion between 2004 and 2008 alone. Advances in renewable energy technologies have minimized these price fluctuations and manipulations to a greater degree.

#### 6) Over dependence: According to the U.S. Department of Energy, more than half of the oil consumed in the United States is imported. This overdependence on foreign oil is a security threat to the United States. Nations can use this over reliance as a political leverage, putting the country’s interests in grave danger.

#### 7) Need Huge Amount of Reserves: The coal power plants requires huge and regular supply of coal to produce large amount of energy on a constant basis. This means that these plants need train-loads of fuel near power stations to carry out the process of generating power. This is needed as many countries are still dependent on coal as a major source for producing power.

#### 8) Impact on Aquatic Life by Oil Spill: Fossil fuels are needed in huge reserves wherever their plants are set up. This requires them to be transported to the desired location via truck, train, ship or airplane. Often we hear of some leaks in oil tankers or ship getting drowned deep under the sea that were carrying crude oil to get refined. The impact of this is that crude oil contains some toxic substances which when mixed up with water poses [serious impact on aquatic life](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-for-habitat-loss-and-destruction.php). Transportation of crude oil via sea can cause [oil spill](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/effects-of-oil-spills.php) which can pose hazard to the aquatic life by lessening the oxygen content of water.

Technologies to get more out of the earth are progressing, but they don’t seem to be doing it as quickly as our demand is growing. In addition, while coal is much more abundant than oil, extraction of coal can be very unsafe, and is [damaging to the environment](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-and-effects-of-environmental-degradation.php) on a large scale, causing erosion, [acidification of the environment](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-of-ocean-acidification.php), and destruction of wild lands. Though the fossil fuels meet our energy and fuel needs, still it’s a high time to look forward for the [alternative renewable sources of energy](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/AlternativeEnergySources.php) such as wind turbines, [solar panels](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/surprising-signs-solar-panels-are-right-for-you.php), tidal generators and compost. As said by a great man, there is enough for everyone’s need but not enough for everyone’s greed.