

PROS AND CONS OF FOSSIL FUELS

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Fossil fuels include a number of organic substances that were formed from organisms and plants long ago. The formation of a particular type of fossil fuels depends on different factors, such as the combination of organic materials involved in the process, climate, pressure, temperature, and, of course, time. There are three main types of fossil fuels: coal, crude oil and natural gas. The basis of coal is plants and trees which hardened under pressure and heat. Moreover, coal also has by far the largest reserves of all non-renewable energy resources. Oil is a natural, thick, flammable liquid of dark color with a specific smell that was formed from small organisms like zoo plankton and algae. Natural gas is colorless and odorless. It was formed by the same process as oil, only it was exposed to more heat and pressure forcing it to transform later and turn into a gaseous form.

The advantages of fossil fuels: a) they have high energy potential; b) their transportation is not difficult; c) power plants, fueled by natural gas, have a relatively high efficiency; d) the location of power plants that use fossil fuels as the main combustible does not depend on the area of the fossil fuel deposits.

The disadvantages of fossil fuels: a) the burning of fuel produces so-called greenhouse gases, so it is harmful to the planet's ecology and it is still a main contributor to global warming and thus climate change; b) open-pit coal mining is a dangerous and difficult business that destroys large areas of the natural landscape; c) due to the high fuel consumption of power plants, it is necessary to ensure the uninterrupted flow of the required amount of fuel. For this reason, a large area near such facilities is occupied by fuel depots, since the costs of the power plant's starting and stopping are big.

As a result, these concerns have triggered society to look at alternative sources of energy that are more environmentally-friendly, sustainable and renewable.