

Renewable and Non-renewable Resources

Chapter 11: Nature's Treasures · Topic 2

Key Concept

Because non-renewable fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, natural gas) are limited and also cause pollution when burned, there is a growing global shift towards renewable energy sources like solar panels and wind turbines, which produce far less pollution and will not run out. However, even renewable resources need careful management — for example, overfishing can deplete fish populations faster than they can naturally reproduce, showing that 'renewable' does not always mean 'unlimited' if used carelessly.

Quick Revision Notes

- Renewable resources: sunlight, wind, water — replenished naturally at a usable rate.
- Non-renewable resources: coal, petroleum, natural gas — take millions of years to form.
- Fossil fuels are limited and cause pollution, prompting a shift to renewable energy.
- Even renewable resources can be depleted if overused, like overfishing.

Practice Questions

- 1 Name two renewable and two non-renewable resources.
- 2 Explain why fossil fuels are considered non-renewable.
- 3 Give an example of how even a renewable resource can be overused.