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What is the source of energy that causes the wind to blow

Reading Time: 3 minutesInstalling a renewable energy system on your property is one of the best ways to save money on your electricity bills while reducing your impact on the environment. Often, your decision will be between solar energy and wind energy. If you're a homeowner weighing your renewable energy options, you already know that thorough research is the best way to find the right system for your home. Here's everything you need to know about the benefits of residential wind vs. solar so that you can make your decision with confidence. In general, solar makes much more sense for residential electricity customers looking to save moneyWind power is an effective tool for utilities looking to source more energy from reliable renewablesProperty owners can compare solar quotes on the EnergySage Marketplace to see how much you can saveThe big takeaway: solar makes more sense for residential propertiesIf you're interested in installing a renewable energy system on your property, solar is usually the best option. All things considered, solar isn't as popular as wind at the utility scale, but is generally a more practical renewable option for residential energy production. An experiment by Inland Power & Light, a utility in the Pacific Northwest, underscores the comparative benefits of residential solar. After fielding many inquiries about the benefits of solar vs. wind energy for homes, the utility actually installed both technologies at their corporate headquarters in Spokane, Washington to provide a definitive answer to their customers. Their result: Over the course of 14 months, the solar panels produced about five times as much electricity as the wind turbine.Wind vs. solar: comparing the top renewablesIn the United States, wind power is significantly more popular than solar. Out of all the renewable energy produced in the U.S. in 2019, 24% came from wind, while 9% came from solar power. Utilities and large scale operations heavily utilize wind energy while homeowners prefer solar energy.The primary benefit of wind over solar power for your home is that wind turbines aren't dependent on sunlight. This means that they have the ability to generate power 24 hours a day, whereas solar panels only generate power during sunlight hours. Wind comes with a significant caveat, however: in order to be effective, wind turbines need to be situated high above any obstacles that would block the wind.A typical wind turbine for residential use is about 80 feet tall, and it needs to be in the path of some serious wind to produce power efficiently. Most installers recommend sites with average wind speeds of at least 12 miles per hour. If you live in a rural, windy area with lots of open space and few obstructions blocking the wind's path, then installing wind turbines at your property can be a great option for renewable energy production. If you're looking for a supplementary power source, rather than a primary one, you can also find smaller wind turbines at a relatively low cost that will provide an extra 'boost' of electricity.In contrast, solar panels can be installed on almost any roof, as well as on the ground, and still produce enough power to meet the majority of your electricity needs. In the EnergySage Solar Marketplace, the average solar shopper meets over 95 percent of their annual electricity needs with solar in 2021.Wind turbines also have moving parts, which can result in more wear-and-tear and higher maintenance requirements. Unless you choose ground-mounted solar panels with a tracking system (a technology generally reserved for utility solar installations), your solar PV system will be stationary and require limited maintenance.What about renewable options other than solar and wind?There's no reason that a solar panel system has to be the renewable energy that you use in your home. Solar thermal technology, which can provide both heat and hot water for your home, is often installed alongside solar PV. If you're looking for a renewable heating and cooling system to pair with your solar panels, you can also install a geothermal heat pump to use the naturally existing heat underground to regulate the temperature of your home.Compare all of your options before making a decisionWhatever renewable energy option you're considering, it's always a good idea to before making a final decision. Solar can save you thousands on your electricity bills. Want to see for yourself? Check out EnergySage's Solar Calculator to get an instant estimate of how much solar could save you. Once ready, compare quotes from solar installers on the EnergySage Solar Marketplace to find the best deal. Solar shoppers in the Marketplace generally save up to 25 percent off the costs of installing a solar panel system simply by shopping around first. There's no better way to go solar.This post originally appeared on Mother Earth News. Image: refer to hsw Feel that wind? Fwooooshhh!!! Fwwwooooshhh!!! Quick, somebody put up a wind turbine. Test your knowledge with this quiz. PERSONALITY What's Your Soul's Energy Vibe? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min TRIVIA How Well Do You Remember "Gone With the Wind"? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA Can You Identify These Convertibles? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA Pedal to the Metal: Cars and Energy Quiz 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min PERSONALITY What Kind of Energy Are You? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY What Kind of Energy Do You Hold? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min TRIVIA Can You Ace This Math Vocabulary Quiz? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min PERSONALITY Could You Be an Undercover Agent for the FBI? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Take This Personality Assessment and We'll Guess What Trade is Right For You 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Can We Guess How Young You Feel? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min How much do you know about dinosaurs? What is an octane rating? And how do you use a proper noun? Lucky for you, HowStuffWorks Play is here to help. Our award-winning website offers reliable, easy-to-understand explanations about how the world works. From fun quizzes that bring joy to your day, to compelling photography and fascinating lists, HowStuffWorks Play offers something for everyone. Sometimes we explain how stuff works, other times, we ask you, but we're always exploring in the name of fun! Because learning is fun, so stick with us! Playing quizzes is free! We send trivia questions and personality tests every week to your inbox. By clicking "Sign Up" you are agreeing to our privacy policy and confirming that you are 13 years old or over. Copyright © 2021 InfoSpace Holdings, LLC, a System1 Company Experts say geothermal energy is cleaner, more efficient, and more cost-effective than burning fossil fuels, and it can reduce our dependence on foreign oil.Geothermal energy is clean because it can be generated without burning fossil fuels. Geothermal plants release a fraction of the carbon dioxide produced by fossil fuel plants, and they create very little nitrous oxide or sulfur gases [source: U.S. Department of Energy]. Reykjavik, Iceland, which heats 95 percent of its buildings using geothermal energy, is considered one of the cleanest cities in the world [source: International Geological Congress Oslo].Because the energy is generated right near the plant, it saves on processing and transportation costs compared to other types of fuel. Geothermal plants are also considered to be more reliable than coal or nuclear plants because they can run consistently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.The initial costs of geothermal energy are high -- wells can cost \$1 to \$4 million each to drill, and installation of a home geothermal pump system can run as much as \$30,000 [sources: REPP, Consumer Energy Center]. However, a home geothermal energy pump can cut energy bills by 30 to 40 percent and will pay for itself within 5 to 10 years [source: Consumer Energy Center].Geothermal energy is considered renewable because the heat is continually replaced. The water that is removed is put right back into the ground after its heat is used.The world uses about 7,000 megawatts of geothermal energy, about 2,700 megawatts of which is produced in the United States (the equivalent of burning 60 million barrels of oil each year) [source: Geothermal Education Office]. Still, we're not using nearly as much geothermal energy as is available. That has to do with the limited geographic availability of geothermal energy, and the difficulty and expense of drilling down far enough to reach that energy. More advanced techniques being developed could allow for deeper drilling, potentially bringing geothermal energy to more people in more places. For right now, geothermal heat pumps are the most viable option. They can be used just about anywhere in the world because the temperature beneath the ground always remains constant.Related HowStuffWorks ArticlesConsumer Energy Center. "Geothermal Energy." (Feb. 2, 2009) Information Administration. Energy Kid's Page. (Feb. 2, 2009) Education Office. "Geothermal Energy Facts." (Feb. 2, 2009) Energy Association. "All About Geothermal Energy -- Basics." (Feb. 2, 2009) Daniel. "World energy supplies are set to run out faster than expected, warn scientists." The Independent. June 14, 2007. (Feb. 7, 2009) out-faster-than-expected-warn-scientists-453068.htmlREPP. Geothermal Resources. (Feb. 2, 2009) Underground Heat." Canada and the World Backgrounder. October 1999, pgs. 21-25.U.S. Department of Energy, Geothermal Technologies Program. "Geothermal Basics." (Feb. 2, 2009) Jessica. "Clean Heat: The Geothermal Energy Beneath Our Feet." House & Home. January/February 2005, Volume 16, Issue 1, pgs. 44-45. what is the source of wind energy

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