

## Natural Resources Essential Vocabulary

**Biomass:** organic matter that can be used as an energy source. (ex: wood, crops, and animal waste)

**Conservation:** a careful preservation and protection of something; especially planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.

**Fossil Fuels:** a natural fuel formed in the past from the remains of living things. (ex: coal, oil, natural gas)

**Geothermal Energy:** heat energy from within the earth.

**Hydropower:** energy that comes from the force of moving water.

**Nonrenewable:** an energy source that cannot be replaced by natural means at the same rate that it is consumed.

**Nuclear Energy:** energy stored in the nucleus of an atom.

**Renewable:** energy from a source that is not depleted when used

**Solar Energy:** energy radiated from the sun.

**Wind Energy:** energy harnessed from air in motion.

**Energy Source** – an object or item that has the ability to cause a change in matter; often used to generate electricity

**Conservation** – the careful use of resources so that they will last as long as possible

**Reduce** – to use less

**Recycle** – to process used products into new products by using the materials again

**Reuse** – to use items again after their original use

**Natural Resource-** a material that occurs in nature that is essential or useful to people