

EarthComm Earth's Natural Resources: Energy Resources and Your Community Activity 5

This investigation will help you to:

- Fossil Fuels and the Carbon Cycle:
- Coal and Acid Rain
- Advantages and Disadvantages of Energy Resources
- To learn more about the Clean Air Act and SO₂ emissions, visit the following web sites:

Fossil Fuels and the Carbon Cycle:

- "Understanding the Global Carbon Cycle" - Woods Hole Research Center
Site reviews the basics of the global carbon cycle and how fossil fuels are linked to the cycle.
- "Climate Change" - EPA
Explains climate change, which has been linked to emissions of greenhouse gases (including CO₂).
- "Greenhouse Gas Emissions" - EPA
Explains what greenhouse gases are and how the greenhouse effect works.

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Coal and Acid Rain

- "USGS Tracks Acid Rain" - USGS Fact Sheet FS-183-95
Online primer defines acid rain and explains how acid rain forms and what impacts it has on the environment. Site includes color images.
- "What is Acid Rain?" - EPA
Defines acid rain and includes links to images and additional information.

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Advantages and Disadvantages of Energy Resources

- "Coal Resources in Environmentally-sensitive Lands Under Federal Management" - Watson, et al., USGS Open-File Report 95-631
Online report presents estimates of coal-bearing acreage and coal tonnage in environmentally-sensitive areas and explains how these areas are dealt with. Includes plates that give detailed examples.
- "Coal-Bed Methane: Potential and Concerns" - Nuccio, V., USGS Open-File Fact Sheet 123-00
Visit this site to learn more about the potential use of methane as an energy source, as well as some of the problems associated with its use.
- "Coalbed Methane--An Untapped Energy Resource and an Environmental Concern" - USGS Fact Sheet FS-019-97
This site looks at the potential of using coalbed methane as an energy resource, but also considers the environmental

implications associated with removing the methane from the ground.

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To learn more about the Clean Air Act and SO₂ emissions, visit the following web sites:

- ["The Plain English Guide To The Clean Air Act" - EPA](#)

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