

FORMS OF ENERGY

All forms of energy fall under two categories

POTENTIAL

Potential energy is stored energy and the energy of position (gravitational)



CHEMICAL ENERGY

Chemical energy is the energy stored in the bonds of atoms and molecules. Biomass, petroleum, natural gas, propane and coal are examples of stored chemical energy.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Nuclear energy is the energy stored in the nucleus of an atom - the energy that holds the nucleus together. The nucleus of a uranium atom is an example of nuclear energy.

STORED MECHANICAL ENERGY

Stored mechanical energy is energy stored in objects by the application of a force. Compressed springs and stretched rubber bands are examples of stored mechanical energy.

GRAVITATIONAL ENERGY

Gravitational energy is the energy of place or position. Water in a reservoir behind a hydropower dam is an example of gravitational potential energy. When the water is released to spin the turbines, it becomes motion energy.

KINETIC

Kinetic energy is motion - the motion of waves, electrons, atoms, molecules and substances



RADIANT ENERGY

Radiant energy is electromagnetic energy that travels in transverse waves. Radiant energy includes visible light, x-rays, gamma rays and radio waves. Solar energy is an example of radiant energy.

THERMAL ENERGY

Thermal energy (or heat) is the internal energy in substances - the vibration and movement of atoms and molecules within substances. Geothermal energy is an example of thermal energy.

MOTION

The movement of objects or substances from one place to another is motion. Wind and hydropower are examples of motion.

SOUND

Sound is the movement of energy through substances in longitudinal (compression/rarefaction) waves.

ELECTRICAL ENERGY

Electrical energy is the movement of electrons. Lightning and electricity are examples of electrical energy.