

ENERGY AT A GLOBAL SCALE

Energy is used to create electricty, fuel vehicles, power industry, and much more. Renewable energy sources like hydroelectric, wind, and solar power are powered by flowing water, moving air, or the rays of the sun, all of which can be replenished. Biofuel and waste are also renewable resources that can be burned to create energy, but emissions from these fuels can harm the environment. Nonrenewable sources, like nuclear and fossil fuels, draw on finite resources. Fossil fuels include coal, oil, and natural gas. They emit climate altering greenhouse gases when burned to create energy.



In coming decades, the global demand for energy will increase as will the impacts of climate change driven by greenouse gas emissions. Countries will either have to continue drawing from increasingly scarce fossil fuel reserves or adapt their infrastructure for renewable energy.

ENERGY IN THE UNITED STATES

The United States gets the majority of its energy from fossil fuels, with only 8% coming from nuclear power plants and 12% coming from renewable energy sources in 2018. Although renewable energy production in the US is increasing, and recently surpassed the amount of electricity produced by coal, America is still the second biggest CO2 emitter in the world.





renewable energy producer globally







University of Richmond Office for Sustainability // sustainability.richmond.edu

ENERGY AT UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

University of Richmond is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. In order to accomlish this, the University transitioned from coal to natural gas to heat campus, chooses Energy Star appliances, uses LED bulbs and occupancy sensors for lights in many buildings, and has a solar array on top of the Weinstein Center for Recreation. Each year, the Office for Sustainability publishes an updated Climate Action Plan detailing UR's progress in saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Where the University's Energy Comes From





ENERGY IN THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Sustainability Plan will guide University of Richmond's stewardship efforts through 2025. Read the full plan online at richmond.edu/sustainabilityplan.



3.2.2 Conduct a solar feasibility study to understand potential for more renewable energy on campus.



3.2.5 Explore ways to establish baseline measures and encourage building and department-specific reduction targets.



3.3.1 Implement an energy conservation management plan.



3.3.2 Establish an energy management system to guide and monitor campus energy usage.

SAVE ENERGY & BE A GREEN SPIDER

Always turn off lights when a room is unoccupied, take advantage of natural light, and choose LED bulbs.



Use sleep setting on your electronics and turn them off when you're not using them.



Unplug countertop appliances when not in use.

Buy renewable energy through Dominion.



Adjust your thermostat up a few degrees in the summer and down a few degrees in the winter when you leave for the day.



Connect with organizations like Interfaith Power and Light and Virginia Solar United Neighbors.

Sources: Global Energy Institute, International Energy Agency, Enerdata, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, U.S. Energy Information Administration, WorldAtlas