

# Glossary

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## RENEWABLE ENERGY

### A

**active solar heating** the gathering of solar energy by collectors that are used to heat water or heat a building

**alternative energy** energy that does not come from fossil fuels and that is still in development

### B

**biomass fuel** plant material, manure, or any other organic matter that is used as an energy source

### E

**energy conservation** the process of saving energy by reducing energy use and waste

**energy efficiency** the percentage of energy put into a system that does useful work

### F

**fuel cell** a device that produces electricity chemically by combining hydrogen fuel with oxygen from the air

### G

**geothermal energy** the energy produced by heat within the Earth

### H

**hydroelectric energy** electrical energy produced by falling water

### O

**ocean thermal energy conversion** the use of temperature differences in ocean water to produce electricity (abbreviation, OTEC)

### P

**passive solar heating** the use of sunlight to heat buildings directly

### R

**renewable energy** energy from sources that are constantly being formed