Glenthorne High School
Achievement for all

Year 8 – Energy Glossary

Key term	Definition
chemical energy store	Emptied during chemical reactions when energy is transferred to surroundings, for example when you burn a fuel.
conduction	The transfer of heat through a solid, via the vibration of particles.
convection	The transfer of heat through a liquid or gas, via moving currents.
dissipate	When thermal energy spreads out and is wasted.
elastic energy store	Filled when a material is stretched or compressed, for example when you stretch a spring.
efficiency	The percentage of energy that is converted to a useful form.
energy	Energy is needed to make things happen.
energy resource	Something with stored energy that can be released in a useful way.
fossil fuel	Non-renewable energy resources formed over millions of years from the remains of ancient plants or animals. Examples are coal, crude oil, and natural gas.
gravitational potential energy store	Filled when an object is raised, for example when climbing a ladder.
Joule	The unit of energy, symbol J.
kilojoule	1 kilojoule = 1000 J, symbol kJ.
kilowatt	1 kilowatt = 1000 W, symbol kW.
kilowatt hour (kWh)	A unit for energy, used to calculate the cost of energy bills.
kinetic energy store	Filled when an object speeds up, for example when a car accelerates.
law of conservation of energy	Energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transferred between stores.
non-renewable	An energy resource that cannot be replaced and will be used up, such as coal, oil, or gas.
power	How quickly energy is transferred by a device (watts).
renewable	An energy resource that can be replaced and will run out. Examples are solar, wind, waves, geothermal, and biomass.
thermal energy store	Filled when an object is warmed up, such as when you heat water in a kettle.
watt	The unit of power, symbol W.

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