

Table 1: The main energy sources and their impact on the environment

Energy Source	Is it renewable?	Impact on the environment
Coal	No	Generates greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
Oil	No	Generates greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
Natural gas	No	Generates greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
Nuclear	No	Waste produced is highly toxic Leakage can damage human health and the environment
Biomass	Yes if the vegetation used is replanted	Generates greenhouse gases and other air pollutants Competes with other land uses
Wood	Yes if trees providing wood are replanted	Generates greenhouse gases and other air pollutants Competes with other land uses
Solar	Yes	Impact on landscape
Wind	Yes	Impact on landscape Competes with other land uses Impact on wildlife and habitats
Tidal	Yes	Impact on landscape Impact on wildlife and habitats
Wave	Yes	Impact on landscape Impact on wildlife and habitats
Hydroelectric power	Yes	Impact on landscape Impact on wildlife and habitats
Ground source heat	Yes	

Source: <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-informed/people-and-the-environment/energy/>