

Energy takes many forms. *Thermal energy* (or heat) boils water, keeps us warm and drives engines. Chemical energy fuels automobiles and airplanes. Electrical energy drives many machines and keeps lights glowing. Almost every form of energy can be converted into other forms. But whatever form it is in, energy is essentially the capacity for making something happen or, as engineers and scientists say, "doing work."



The Sun Produces  
Light Energy



Plants turn the light  
energy into  
chemical energy



Plants are fossilized  
and compressed  
into fossil fuels  
such as coal and oil



Fossil Fuels  
burned in power  
plants to produce  
electricity for  
homes and  
businesses