

CHAPTER 13:

FOSSIL FUELS

Energy of the Industrial Age?

You should be familiar with these words:

- fossil fuels
- hydrocarbon
- natural gas
- coal
- oil
- conventional reserve
- unconventional reserve
- biofuels
- mountain removal
- hydraulic fracturing/ fracking
- tar sands
- carbon emissions
- carbon tax
- cap-and-trade

By the end of this chapter, you should understand...

- ★ Explain what fossil fuels are, how each type forms and where they are found. (13.1)
- ★ Discuss the negative impacts of using coal and oil as energy sources. (13.2)
- ★ Outline the effects of mining for coal on the environment. (13.3)
- ★ Summarize the process of fracking for extracting fossil fuels from unconventional reserves and its negative impacts. (13.4)
- ★ Debate the benefits of using natural gas as an energy source over coal and oil, and the risks associated with it. (13.5)
- ★ Assess how carbon taxes and cap-and-trade systems can be used as policy responses to cost and impact of fossil fuels. (13.6)

Note: We will not focus on the power, productivity or economics of fossil fuels at this time.