Environmental Science Unit 6 Vocabulary

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| **Fossil Fuels** | A nonrenewable energy resource formed from dead plants and animals, over millions of years. i.e. oil, coal, and natural gas. |
| **Petroleum** | Crude oil naturally occurring below the ground and used as a fuel source. |
| **Oil Reserves** | Oil deposits that are discovered and are in commercial production. |
| **Nuclear Energy** | The energy released by a fission or fusion reaction, used to generate electricity.  |
| **Passive Solar Heating** | The use of sunlight to heat buildings directly. |
| **Active Solar Heating** | The gathering of solar energy by collectors that are used to heat water or heat a building. |
| **Biomass Fuel** | Plant material, manure, or any other organic matter that is used as an energy source. |
| **Hydroelectric Energy** | Electrical energy produced by the flow of water. |
| **Alternative Energy** | Energy that does not come from fossil fuels.  |
| **Energy Efficiency** | The percentage of energy put into a system that does useful work. |
| **Geothermal Energy** | The energy produced by heat within Earth. |
| **Energy Conservation** | The process of saving energy by reducing energy use and waste. |