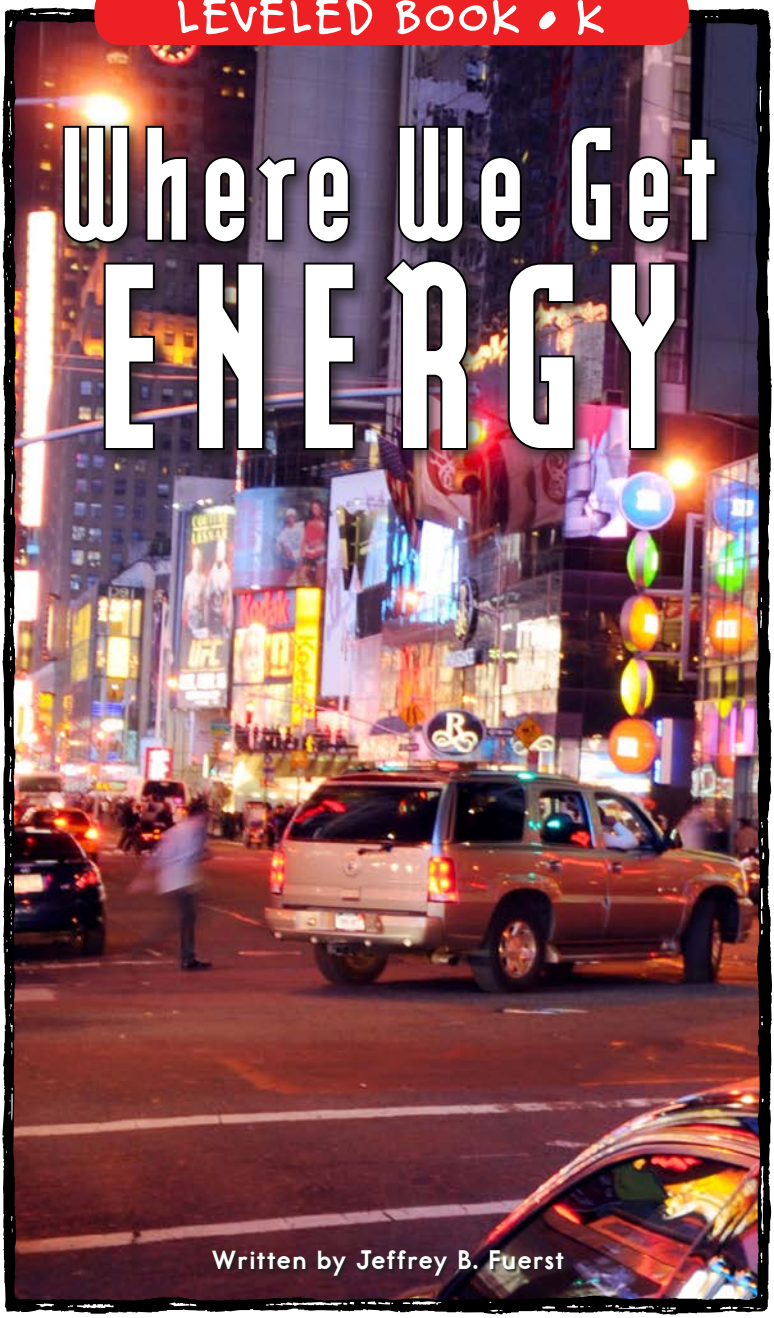
LEVELED BOOK • K

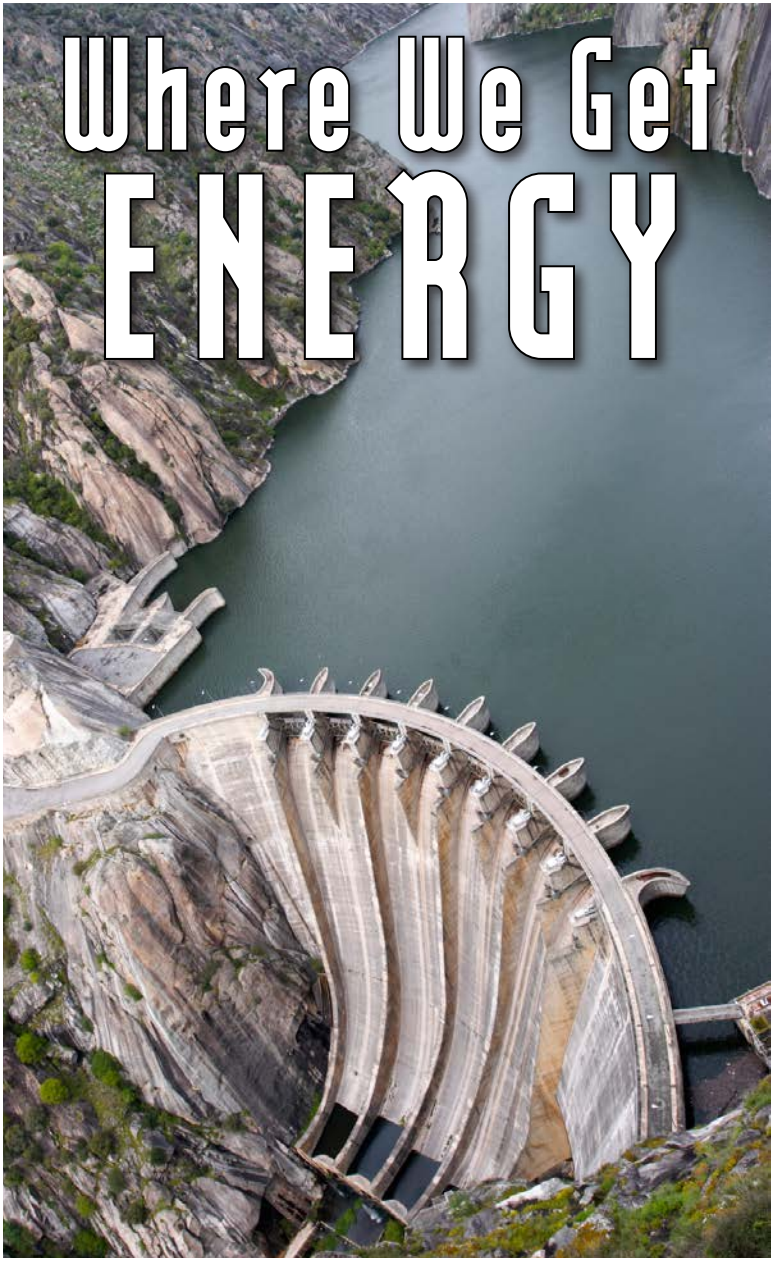
Where We Get ENERGY



Written by Jeffrey B. Fuerst

www.readinga-z.com

Where We Get ENERGY



Written by Jeffrey B. Fuerst

www.readinga-z.com

Table of Contents

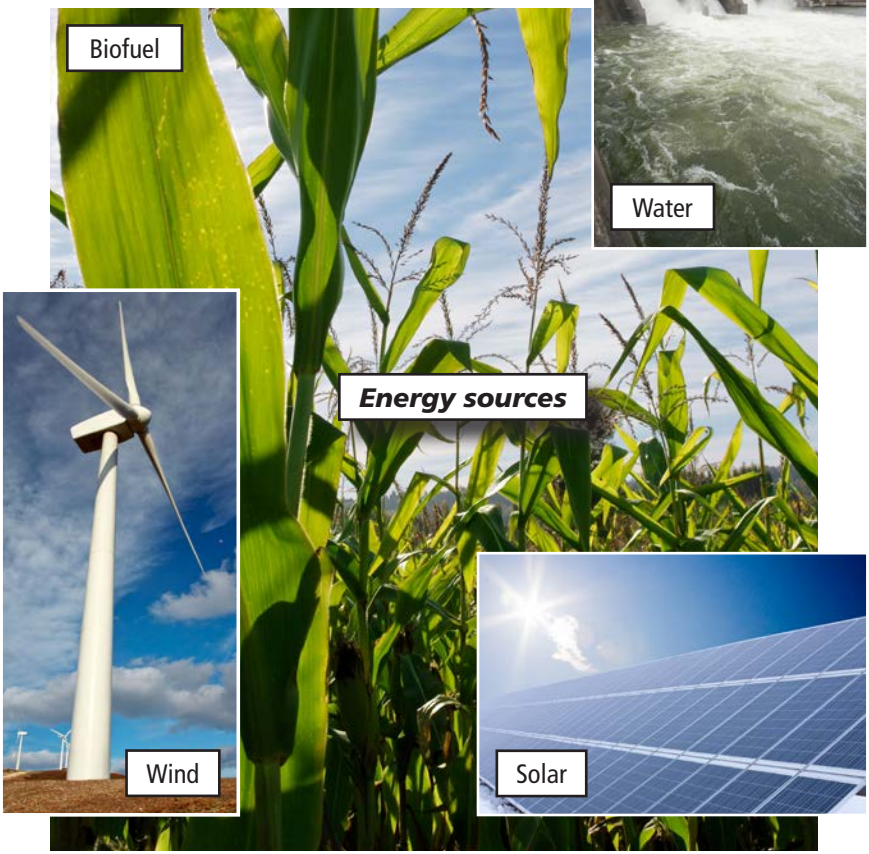
All the lights in this house use energy.

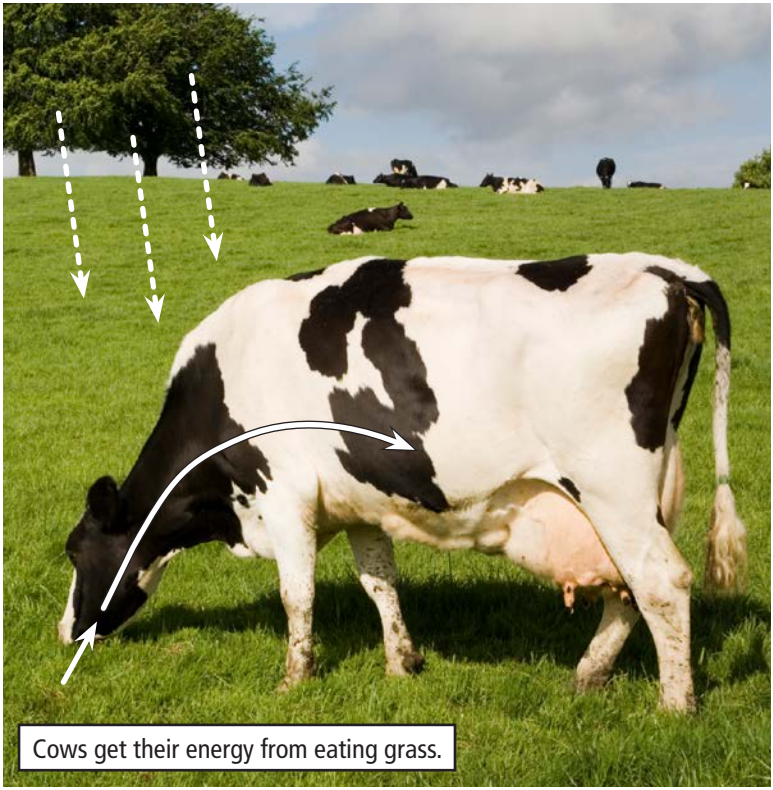
Introduction

We use **energy** for many of the things we do every day. Energy lights, heats, and cools our homes and schools. It allows things to move around.

You need energy to run and play. You need energy to think and sleep. Where does this energy come from?

Energy comes from many kinds of important natural resources. Sunlight is our most important natural resource. Coal, natural gas, and oil are natural resources, too. So are things like plants, wind, and water.





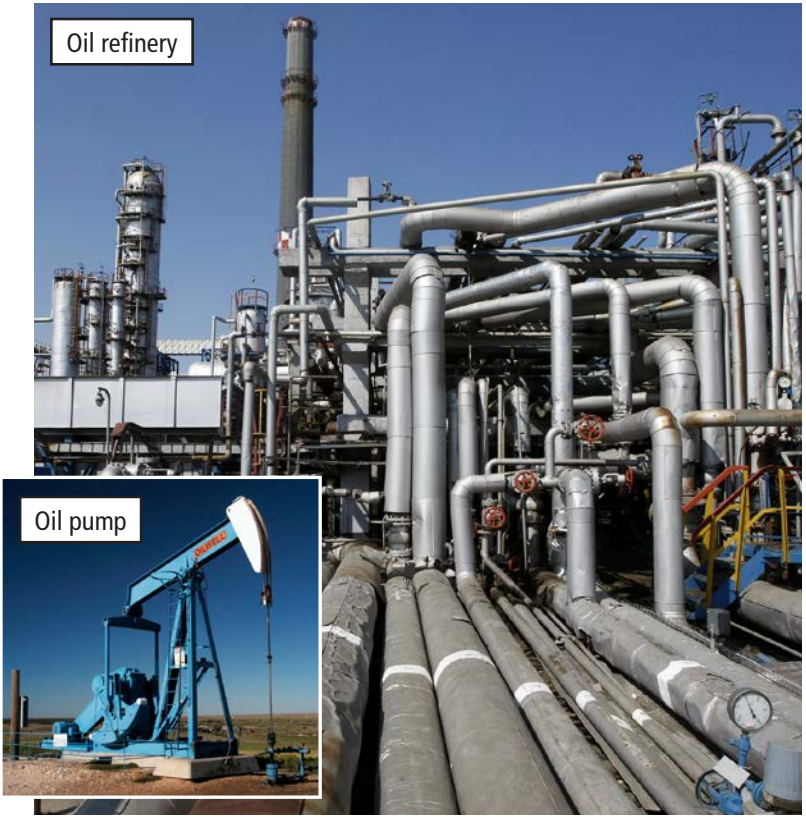
Cows get their energy from eating grass.

Energy from Food Sources

You get energy from foods you eat. Animals you eat may get energy from the plants they eat. Plants use energy from the Sun to make their own food. Plants can store the food they make in roots, stems, and leaves.

Energy from Gasoline

Most cars, trucks, planes, and trains get energy from gasoline. Gasoline is made from oil. Oil is a natural resource found deep underground. Wells pump oil up from the ground. Factories change the oil into gasoline.



All these things run on electricity.

Electricity

Electricity is a kind of energy. We use electricity to run many things that we use every day. How do we get electricity?

Making Electricity

We can get electricity from a **generator**. A generator is a machine with huge blades that spin to make energy. A large power plant near your town may have many generators. Many kinds of **fuel** are used to run the generators.

Generators

Coal being loaded into a huge mining truck

Energy from Coal

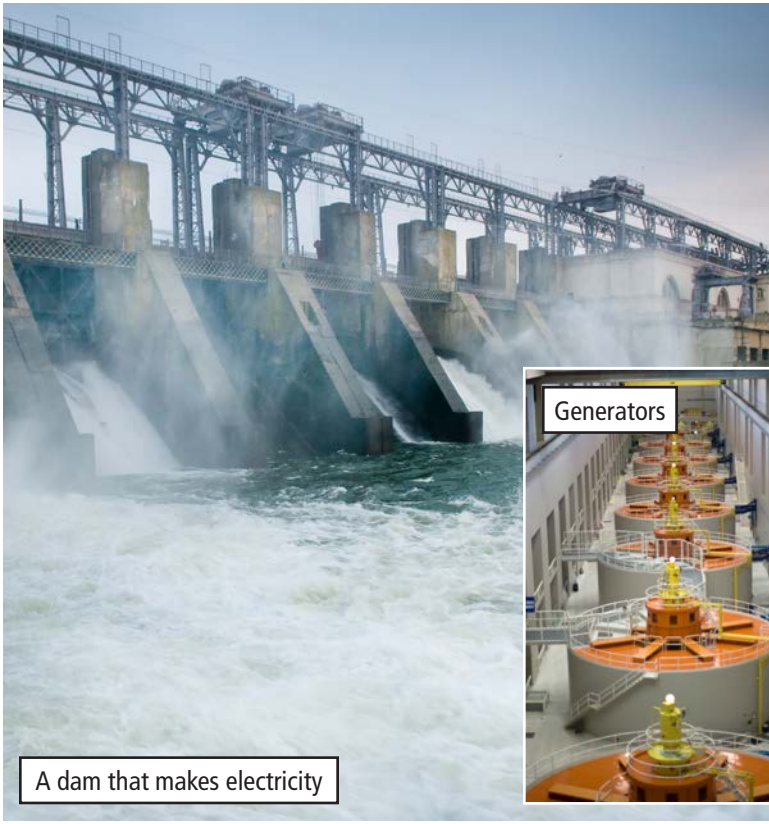
About half the energy used to run generators comes from burning coal. Coal is a natural rock resource that is usually mined under the ground. Power plants can burn coal to make energy to heat water.

When water becomes hot enough, it changes to steam. Flowing steam makes the fan blades inside a steam generator spin fast. Generators use energy made by the spinning blades to make electricity.

Wind generators

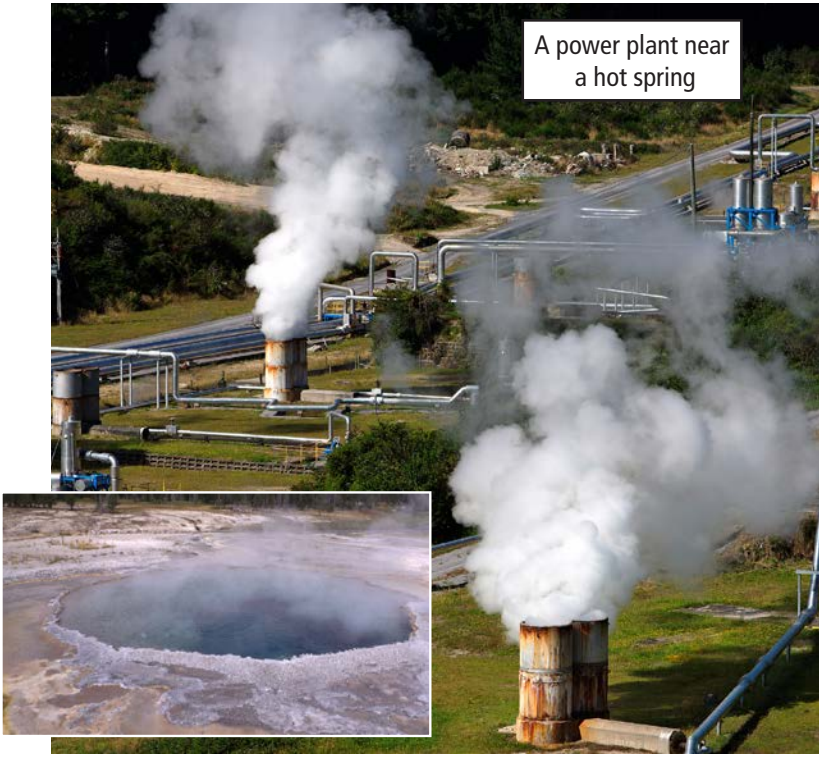
Energy from Wind

Wind can be used to make electricity. Blowing wind turns the large blades of a wind generator. The generator uses energy from the spinning blades to make electricity.



Energy from Water

Moving water can be used to make electricity. People build dams to block rivers. Water from a river moves through large pipes in the dam. The moving water spins the blades of the dam's generators.


A power plant near a hot spring

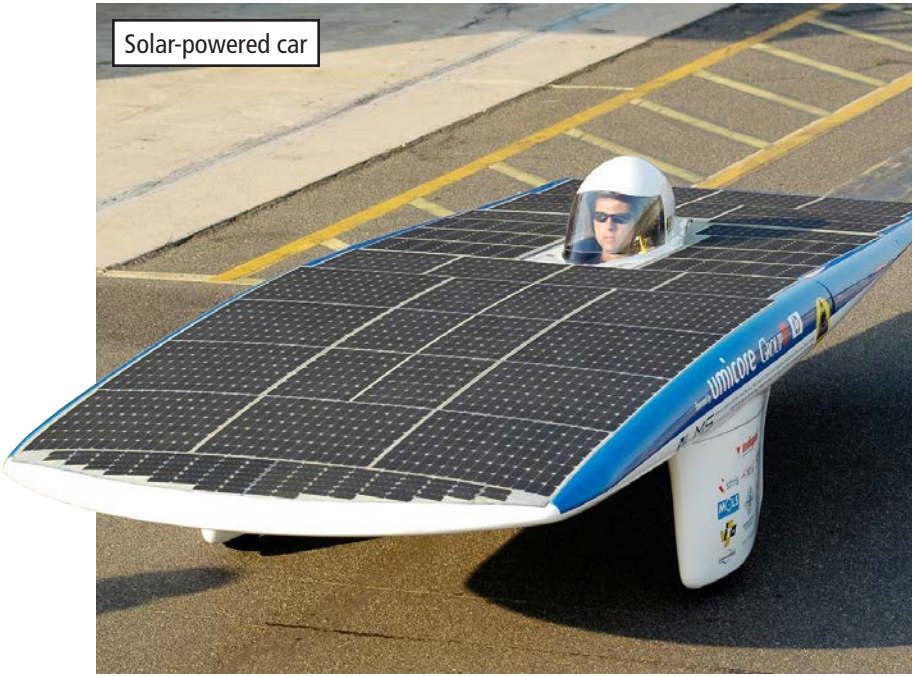
Energy from the Earth

Some places under the earth are very hot. They have layers of hot rock and hot water deep underground. Hot steam rises out of openings in the ground. The steam is trapped in pipes and used to spin the blades of a generator.

Energy from the Sun

People can use the Sun's energy to make electricity. **Solar cells** and solar panels can change sunlight into electricity. Solar cells make this car move!

Solar panels can help heat water and air in houses.



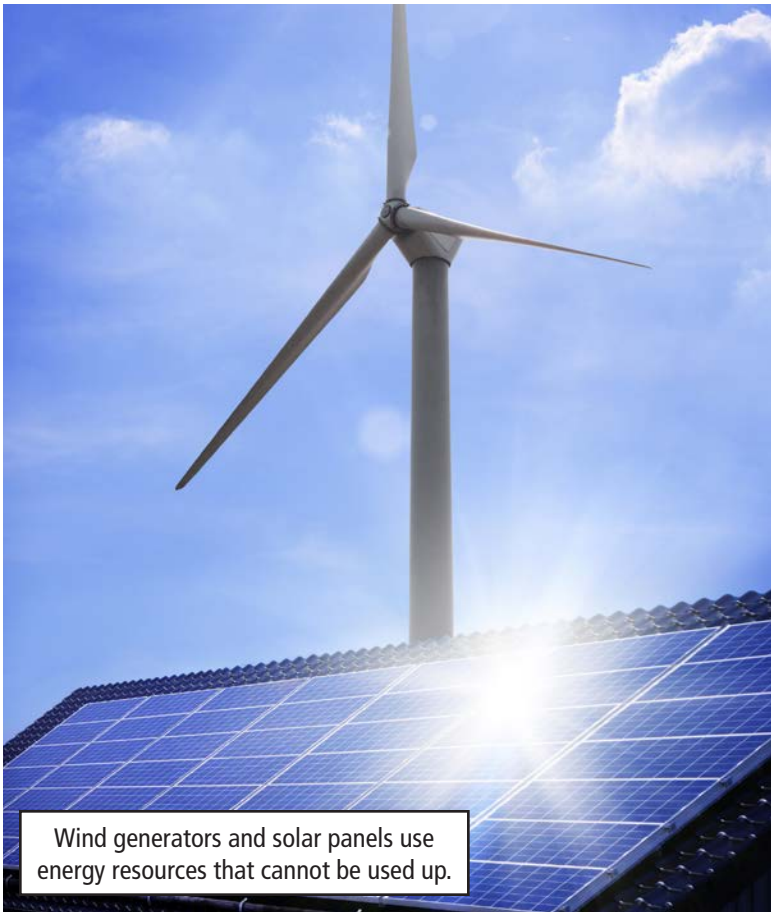
Solar-powered car

Some people ride their bikes to help save natural resources.

Saving Energy

People use more energy each year. We use lots of coal, oil, and natural gas to run our cars, homes, and businesses. Our natural resources are limited. They can't last forever.

It is important not to waste resources like coal, oil, and natural gas. When they are gone, they can't be replaced. Sun and wind are good energy resources to use instead. Sun and wind cannot be used up.



Wind generators and solar panels use energy resources that cannot be used up.

Glossary

electricity a form of energy we use to run lights, computers, and machines (p. 8)

energy power that helps us do work and run our bodies and our machines (p. 4)

fuel any material used to make energy in the form of heat or power (p. 9)

generator a machine that turns motion into electricity (p. 9)

solar cells cells used to turn sunlight into electricity (p. 15)

Index

Photo Credits:
Front cover: © Serban Enache/Dreamstime.com; back cover: © Airphoto/Dreamstime.com; title page: © iStockphoto.com/Jose Luis Gutierrez; page 4: © iStockphoto.com/Ross Chandler; page 5 (main): © iStockphoto.com/Jo Ann Snover; page 5 (upper right): © Sergiu Turcanu/Dreamstime.com; page 5 (lower right): © Pista23/Dreamstime.com; page 5 (left): © Rafa Irusta Machin/123RF; page 6: © iStockphoto.com/Gordon Dixon; page 7 (main): © Viorel_Dudau/Dreamstime.com; page 7 (inset): © iStockphoto.com/Jim Parkin; page 8 (center): © Jupiterimages Corporation/Comstock/Getty Images; pages 8 (BL, TL, TR, CR, BR), page 14 (inset): © Jupiterimages Corporation; page 9: © Harris Shiffman/Dreamstime.com; page 10: © Dreamstime.com; page 11 (main): © Vera Kallova/Dreamstime.com; page 11 (inset): © Patrick Allen/Dreamstime.com; page 12: © William Casey/Dreamstime.com; page 13 (main): © Aleksandr Keriak/Dreamstime.com; page 13 (inset): © iStockphoto.com/Mark Jensen; page 14 (main): © Paulstock/Dreamstime.com;; page 15 (top): © Igorsky/Dreamstime.com; page 15 (bottom): © Idealink Photography/Alamy; page 16: © iStockphoto.com/Can Balcioglu; page 17: © Noah Golan/Dreamstime.com

Where We Get Energy
Level K Leveled Book

Written by Jeffrey B. Fuerst

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL K	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18

Where We Get Energy

A Reading A–Z Level K Leveled Book
Word Count: 486