

# Renewable Energy Day

Renewable Energy Day is also known as Indian Akshay Urja Diwas. Indian Akshay Urja Diwas is celebrated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August every year. This day marks the birthday anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt. of India has declared the 20th August, the birth day of Late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as “National Renewable Energy Day”

Renewable Energy Day is a campaign that is celebrated since 2004, to raise mass awareness about the importance of renewable energy among the people who do not know much about it. The 20th of August wasn't chosen at random to be the date of the observance.

## History of Indian Akshay Urja Day

The main objective of the program is to support renewable energy development programs and promote its use instead of traditional sources of energy. The very first event relating to Akshay Urja Diwas was organized by honourable Ex-Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. In 2004, the Prime Minister released a commemorative stamp, and 12,000 school childrens formed a human chain to promote renewable energy. Later on, during the upcoming years, the events were organized in Nagpur, Hyderabad, Panchkula, Haryana.

The main target group of this programme are School & College Students. On Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas, different competitions are organised like School Level Model, Quiz, Sit & Draw, Debate Competitions and Cultural Programmes etc. A rally with Posters, Banners and Slogans of School Children marches around the venue of the programme. In the year 2012, in addition to the traditional rally, another rally of Battery Operated Two Wheelers was introduced.



## What is Renewable Energy?

The energy such as Solar Energy, Wind energy, hydroelectrical power are few example of Akshay Urja. It is essential to develop way to use akshay urja or renewable energy more efficiently. The energy which we are getting naturally doesn't have any side effect on environment, and by using this energy we can use the traditional energy for more long time.



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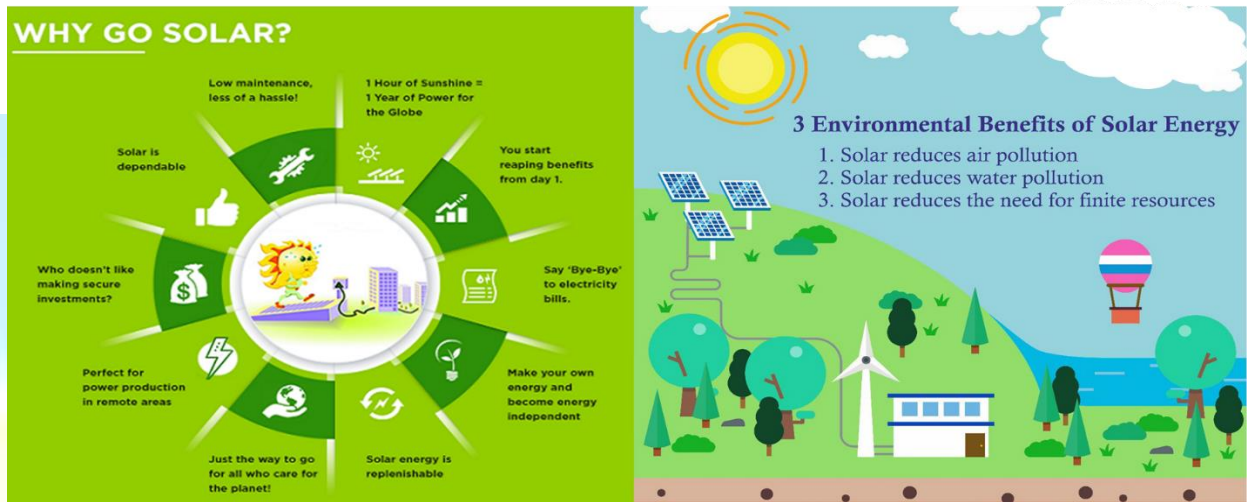


Figure 1: Benefits of solar energy

What are the sources and extent of the usage of renewable energy?










Sunlight, wind, and water-falls are the major sources of renewable energy. Other sources include tides, waves, solid waste and geo-thermal heat.



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## Energy saving tips



1  Turn off lights when leaving a room	2  Switch to energy efficient appliances	3  Use LED lights
4  Unplug devices when not in use	5  Keep thermostat at low temperature	6  Reduce water consumption
7  Use a smart meter to track usage	8  Wash at a cold temperature	9  Use solar powered devices

