**BIG IDEA Energy and Conservation**

S6E6. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the uses and conservation of various naturalresources and how they impact the Earth.

1. Ask questions to determine the differences between renewable/sustainable energy resources (examples: hydro, solar, wind, geothermal, tidal, biomass) and nonrenewable energy resources (examples: nuclear: uranium, fossil fuels: oil, coal, and natural gas), and how they are used in our everyday lives.
2. Design and evaluate solutions for sustaining the quality and supply of natural resources such as water, soil, and air.
3. Construct an argument evaluating contributions to the rise in global temperatures over the past century. (Clarification statement: Tables, graphs, and maps of global and regional temperatures, and atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, should be used as sources of evidence.)

* Human activity can have a positive or a negative impact on the surface of our Earth.
* Human activities can cause or accelerate erosion.
* Renewable resources can be replenished within a relatively short time period.
* Nonrenewable resources form very slowly, over millions of years. When present supplies are used, there will be no more.
* The Earth’s resources can be reduced or used up if humans don’t use conservation strategies.
* The sun is the major source of energy for phenomena on the Earth's surface, including winds, ocean currents, and waves.
* Through conservation strategies, people can slow down the degradation of the environment and the depletion of non-renewable resources.
* The atmosphere and the oceans have a limited capacity to absorb wastes and recycle materials naturally. Cleaning up polluted air, water, or soil or restoring depleted soil, forests, or fishing grounds can be very difficult and costly.