



## P-Glossary



### **Biomass**

Biomass means organic resources from renewable biological origins, excluding fossil resources. In energy production and industry, biomass refers to living and recently living biological material that can be used as fuel or for industrial production. Most commonly, biomass refers to plant matter grown for use as biofuel, but also includes plant or animal matter used for the production of fibers, chemicals, or heat. It excludes organic material that has been transformed by geological processes into substances such as coal or petroleum. It is usually measured by dry weight.

Biomass was the main energy source for humans until the 19th century. In the 20th century, biomass was replaced by oil and coal, and then by natural gas and atomic energy. The reasons why biomass energy is currently receiving attention are mainly related to biomass characteristics. Biomass is renewable, available in vast reserves, carbon neutral, storable, and can substitute for oil.

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*See also: Biofuel Crops*

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