2025

What are the renewable alternatives to fossil fuels?

Below is given the energy use in EJ (exajoules, 10¹⁸ J) in 2023 by fuel source : (https://www.energyinst.org/statistical-review/resources-and-data-downloads)



We want to try and estimate by order-of-magnitude what is needed to replace fossil fuels by renewables, using some very crude assumptions :

Oil is used for mobility
Gas is used for heating
Coal is used for electricity

Hydro and nuclear will remain constant

Approach:

- 1. Apply meaningful conversion efficiencies for each of the 3 fossil resources + uses
- 2. Choose which of the 3 fossil resources you'll replace by which renewable resource among the following:
 - Solar PV
 - Wind
 - Wood
 - Biowastes for biogas
 - Biocrops for liquid biofuels
- 3. Find the conversion efficiencies and m² requirements of the renewable technologies to propose estimates
- 4. Discuss the findings