

Contents

Summary.....	8
1. Introduction.....	9
1.1. Historical Development of Energy Consumption	9
1.2. Energy Scenarios	11
2. Arguments for Using Renewable Sources.....	17
2.1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	17
2.1.1. A brief list of greenhouse gases, their properties and sources.....	20
2.1.1.1. Water vapour.....	20
2.1.1.2. Carbon dioxide (CO ₂).....	21
2.1.1.3. Oxygen (O ₂) and ozone (O ₃).....	21
2.1.1.4. Methane (CH ₄).....	21
2.1.1.5. Nitrous oxide (N ₂ O).....	21
2.1.1.6. Halogenous hydrocarbons.....	22
2.1.2. Global warming and increasing greenhouse gas concentrations	22
2.1.3. Synergic effects of global warming on the energy sector	29
2.1.4. Renewable sources and their alternative	30
2.2. Depletability of Non-Renewable Sources.....	30
2.2.1. Classification of mineral resource reserves and deposits	31
2.2.2. Reserve lives of fossil fuels.....	33
2.2.3. Estimates of world reserves of non-renewable resources.....	34
2.2.4. Renewable sources and their alternative	36
2.3. Sustainable Thermal Stability of the Planet in Terms of Using Internal Resources	36
2.3.1. Renewable sources and their alternative	38
2.4. Further Arguments.....	38
3. Characteristics and Indicators for Assessing Energy Generating Plants.....	39
3.1. Influencing Factors and Linkages on the Source and Product Sides.....	40
3.1.1. Transformability.....	40

3.1.1.1.	Energy and energy types.....	40
3.1.1.2.	Exergy.....	43
3.1.1.3.	Analysis of transformation chains.....	48
3.1.2.	Accumulability of energy.....	50
3.1.2.1.	Accumulability of energy on the source side.....	50
3.1.2.2.	Accumulability of energy on the product side.....	51
3.1.3.	Transportability.....	55
3.1.3.1.	Transportability of energy on the source side.....	55
3.1.3.2.	Product transportability.....	55
3.1.4.	Reliability of energy supplies.....	58
3.1.4.1.	Reliability of energy supplies on the source side.....	59
3.1.4.2.	Reliability of energy supplies on the product side.....	59
3.1.4.3.	Virtual power plants.....	59
3.2.	Energy and Energy-Economic Indicators.....	60
3.2.1.	Nominal output.....	60
3.2.2.	Peak output.....	60
3.2.3.	Annual energy production.....	60
3.2.4.	Average annual output.....	60
3.2.5.	Annual installed output utilisation.....	61
3.2.6.	Nominal investment costs.....	61
3.2.7.	Energy returned on energy invested.....	62
3.2.8.	Economic indicators.....	63
3.3.	Examples of Energy Generating Plants Evaluation.....	64
3.4.	Example Assessment of Electricity Production Within a Country.....	66
4.	Characteristic Properties of Renewable Sources.....	69
4.1.	Properties.....	69
4.2.	Energy Potentials.....	70
4.2.1.	Theoretical potential.....	70
4.2.2.	Technical potential.....	71
4.2.3.	Available potential.....	71
4.2.4.	Usable potential.....	71
4.2.5.	Economic potential.....	71
4.2.6.	Achieved potential.....	71
4.3.	Reliability of Energy Supplies from Renewable Sources.....	71
5.	Properties of Stochastic Renewable Sources.....	72
5.1.	Hydropower.....	72
5.2.	Wind Energy.....	76
5.3.	Solar Energy.....	83

6. Conclusion	93
References	95
Abbreviations	99
Appendixes.....	100