

Energy resources– the global distribution and availability*Bernhard Cramer*

Price fluctuations of energy resources and the impact of energy technologies on the climate stimulate the discussion on future energy mix. As the contribution of renewable energies grows continuously, our world energy consumption still relies mainly on non-renewable energy resources. Here natural gas, coal, and uranium are available for the future in sufficient quantities. However, bottlenecks in the availability of conventional oil are expected soon. In a worldwide comparison coal has the largest resource potential.

GS 183, 32. vol., p. 1–1

Mineral Resources in Germany*Simone Röhling*

The author informs about the distribution of important mineral resources in Germany and discusses their availability. Whereas the country is rich in rock salt, potassium salt, and kaoline, most of the energy resources and ores must be imported. Taking into account the dependency and guided by the principle of sustainability, it is necessary to improve the management of mineral resources in Germany.

GS 183, 32. vol., p. 1–1

Sedimentary basins – important stores of mineral resources*Autor*

Sedimentary basins contain almost all of our fossil fuel resources as well as most of our drinking water and many metal resources. They are increasingly used to store solids, liquids and gases. This paper presents some new results on the large Central European Basin and provides a summary of state-of-the-art knowledge on generation and accumulation of oil, gas, and coal in sedimentary basins in general.

GS 183, 32. vol., p. 1–1

Ecological consequences of providing raw materials – presented by mining platinum and gold in South Africa*Oswald Blumenstein, Sven Meyer and Sandra Münzel*

The increase of entropy by human activities causes a trend towards worthlessness of energy resources, a trend towards intensification of matter eco-balances and a trend towards information deficits on the status of our environment. The resulting negative environmental impacts influence the intactness of subjects of protection in habitats. Furthermore they increase the regional differences in quality of human life. Examples from South African platinum and gold mining areas show the contrariness and ecological consequences of these trends. From the geo-ecological point of view there is a severe discrepancy between economic necessity, technological possibility and rapid consumption of the environment.

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Providing mineral resources – a topic in teaching geography*Reinhard Hoffmann*

The problem of the security of resources is one of the core topics in teaching geography. Due to its complexity, related items are ideal for reaching the educational standards of the subject geography. Discussing the topic in classes requires a specific didactical and methodological approach. Using the example of deep sea resources mining, the paper gives some ideas to deal with in the subject geography.

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