

Fuel type descriptions

Anthracite - a hard type of coal with a carbon content of greater than 93%.

Aviation turbine fuel - This is a fuel used for aircraft jet engines, consisting either of kerosine (a petroleum fuel) or a mixture of naphtha and kerosine.

Blast Furnace gas (BF gas) - This is mainly produced and consumed within the iron and steel industry. It is obtained as a by-product of iron making in a blast furnace, and is recovered on leaving the furnace and used partly within the plant and partly in other steel industry processes or in power plants equipped to burn it.

Burning oil - Otherwise known as kerosene and is a refined petroleum fuel, intermediate in volatility between motor spirit and gas oil, and it used for lighting and heating.

Burning oil (P) - A premium grade oil with a lower sulphur content than the standard grade of burning oil.

Coal - This covers all grades of coal including slurry. This is a naturally occurring solid fuel which exists in the form of seams at varying depths below the earth's surface.

Coke - This is the dense product of the carbonization of coal in an oven. The process of carbonization involves the decomposition of coal by heat in the absence of air. Coke is used as a fuel and assist in chemical processes in blast furnaces.

Coke-oven gas - This is a gas produced as a by-product of solid fuel carbonisation and gasification at coke ovens, but not from low temperature carbonisation plants. As described above, carbonization involves the decomposition of matter by heat in the absence of air. Gasification involves the conversion of a solid or liquid feedstock to a lower molecular weight gaseous fuel of lower carbon to hydrogen ratio.

Colliery Methane (CH₄) - a colourless, odourless gas that occurs in coal mines. It is the chief component of natural gas.

DERV - This is diesel engined road vehicle fuel

Fossil Fuels - These are coal, natural gas and fuels derived from crude oil (for example petrol and diesel) and have been formed over long periods of time from ancient organic matter.

Fuel oil - These are the heavy oils from the refining process. These are used as fuel in furnaces and boilers of power stations, industry, in domestic and industrial heating and ships.

Gas oil - The medium oil from the refinery process; used as fuel in diesel engines, burned in central heating systems and as a feedstock in the chemical industry.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) - This is gas, usually propane (C₃H₈) or butane (C₄H₁₀), derived from oil under pressure so that it is in liquid form. Often used to power portable cooking stoves or heaters and to fuel some types of vehicle, e.g fork-lift trucks

MSW - This is municipal solid waste.

Naphtha - A product of distillation of crude oil, and is often used as a solvent.

Natural gas - This is a mixture of naturally occurring gases found either in isolation, or associated with crude oil, in underground reservoirs. The main component is methane. Other components that may be present include ethane, propane, butane, hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide, but these are mostly removed at or near the well head in gas processing plants.

Non-fuel landfill gas - This is gas that is not used as fuel, formed from the decomposition of organic matter in landfill.

Non-fuel sewage gas

Other petroleum gases (OPG) - This consists mainly of ethane, plus some other hydrocarbons, excluding butane and propane.

Orimulsion - This is an emulsion of bitumen in water and is used as a fuel in power stations.

Petrol - a complex blend of products from crude oil distillation and is used as fuel for motor vehicles.

Petroleum coke - This is the solid carbon-containing material obtained as a by-product by the decomposition of gasoline into fractions of lower molecular weight using high temperatures.

Scrap tyres—

Sour gas - This is a gas burned on offshore platforms, consisting mainly of methane and some other hydrocarbons. Hydrocarbons are all compounds of carbon and hydrogen only.

SSF - This is solid smokeless fuel.

Town gas - This was used as a gasworks gas, until it was phased out in the 1970's, and is now replaced by natural gas.

Waste oils - This is a mixture of solvents and oils and is burnt in cement kilns.