



Today I want to discuss fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas.

今天我想讨论化石燃料，如：煤炭，石油，以及天然气。

The term "fossil fuel" refers to the trapped remains of plants and animals in sedimentary rock.

术语“化石燃料”指的是植物和动物困在沉积岩中的遗骸。

You see, living plants trap energy from the sun by the process of photosynthesis, and they store the energy in their chemical compounds.

活着的植物通过光合作用从太阳截留能量，并且它们储存这些能量于它们的化合物中。

Most of that energy is released when the plant dies and decays.

大多数储存的能量在植物死亡和腐烂的时候被释放出来。

However, sometimes organic matter is buried before it decays completely.

然而，有时候有机物质在它完全腐烂之前就被埋藏了。

In this way, some of the solar energy becomes trapped in rocks, hence the name fossil fuel.

通过这种方法，太阳能的一部分被保留在岩石中，因此得名化石燃料。

Although the amount of organic matter trapped in any one growing season is small, the accumulated remains from millions of years are considerable.

虽然在任何生长季被保留的有机物质的数量很小，但是由上百万年积累下来的残骸是很可观的。

Because the accumulation rate is so slow, millions of times slower than the rate at which we now dig up this organic matter and burn it for energy, we must consider fossil fuels as nonrenewable resources.

因为累积速度是如此之慢，百万倍的慢于我们挖掘这种有机物质并燃烧它获取能量的速度，我们必须把化石燃料当做不可再生资源考虑。

Tomorrow we'll be discussing alternatives to fossil fuels that can be renewed.

明天我们将会讨论能够再生的、化石燃料的替代品。