

THE WATER CYCLE: PROVIDING HYDROPOWER ITS RENEWABLE FUEL

Energy from the sun powers the water cycle. **Evaporation** from oceans, rivers, lakes and even puddles turns water from a liquid to gas (also called vapor) that rises into the atmosphere. **Transpiration**, when water is given off through the pores of plants and animals, is another form of evaporation. **Condensation** happens when the water vapor condenses around and clings to fine particles of air. As the air gets moister, droplets that form clouds get larger and larger. Eventually, **precipitation** returns these droplets to earth as rain, snow, sleet or hail. The cycle begins again.