Hydropower is renewable energy that uses the force of falling water to create electricity. The water cycle replenishes hydropower’s fuel source. Water from melting snow pack feeds rivers in spring and summer. Some hydropower projects store water in reservoirs for later use.

THE WATER CYCLE
Providing Hydropower Its Renewable Fuel

Energy from the sun powers the water cycle

Draw a line below to match each definition with a word from the water cycle.

Heating water from oceans, rivers, lakes and even puddles turns water into a liquid gas (also called a vapor) that rises into the atmosphere.

Water vapor that rises into the atmosphere from the pores of plants and animals.

The process of water vapor turning back into liquid water. Clouds form during this stage of the water cycle.

Water droplets return to earth as rain, snow, sleet or hail and the water cycle begins again.
The flowing river spins turbines at hydropower projects to generate low-cost, reliable, carbon-free electricity. This provides flexibility to provide power when you need it and helps balance the variability of when wind and solar power are available. Some hydropower projects also support boat transportation, irrigation, recreation, and water supply for our communities. High voltage transmission lines carry electricity to substations where the voltage is reduced. Smaller power lines carry electricity to where we use it.

We’re always on the move because electricity can’t be stored on the power grid. The flow of electricity across thousands of miles of power lines never stops.

And because wind and solar power aren’t always available due to weather, our renewable energy team relies on hydropower to keep the electricity flowing. Together, we deliver!!