



# Hydropower

Hydro comes from the Greek word meaning water. **Hydropower** is the energy we make with moving water. Moving water has a lot of energy. We use that energy to make electricity.

**Gravity**—the force of attraction between all objects—makes the water move. Gravity pulls the water from high ground to low ground. The rain that falls in the mountains flows down the valleys to the oceans.

## Hydropower is Renewable

The sun heats the water in the oceans, lakes, and rivers, turning some of it into **water vapor**, a gas, almost like steam. This is called **evaporation**. The water vapor rises and turns into clouds. When it reaches the cold air above the Earth, it turns back into liquid water. This is called **condensation**. The clouds release the water as **precipitation**—rain or snow—that falls to the Earth. The water flows back into rivers, lakes, and the oceans, and the cycle starts again. This process is called the **water cycle**.

The water cycle will keep going forever. The water on Earth will always be there. We won't run out of it. That's why we call hydropower a **renewable** energy source.

### The Water Cycle

