Chemical energy facts



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Chemical energy is a form of potential energy that is stored in the bonds of a compound. It is released through chemical reactions in which old bonds break and new bonds form. The bond that stores the most chemical energy is the double bond.

Chemical energy can be converted into other forms, like thermal and mechanical energy. Living beings need chemical energy to survive. Chemical energy sources are coal, petroleum, natural gas, biomass, and food.

Chemical energy is calculated by simply subtracting the energy of the products from that of the reactants. The difference is either absorbed or released as heat. Heat is absorbed if the product"s energy is greater than that of the reactants. Heat is released if the product"s energy is less than the reactants. Thus, calculating the chemical energy us to predict whether the reaction will be exothermic (heat released) or endothermic (heat absorbed).

Chemical energy is defined as the form of potential energy stored within atoms and molecules. Usually, it's the energy stored within chemical bonds, but it's also the energy of the electron arrangement of ions and atoms. Chemical energy is observed when a chemical reaction occurs or matter changes forms. Energy is either absorbed or released when chemical energy changes form as the result of a chemical change.

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