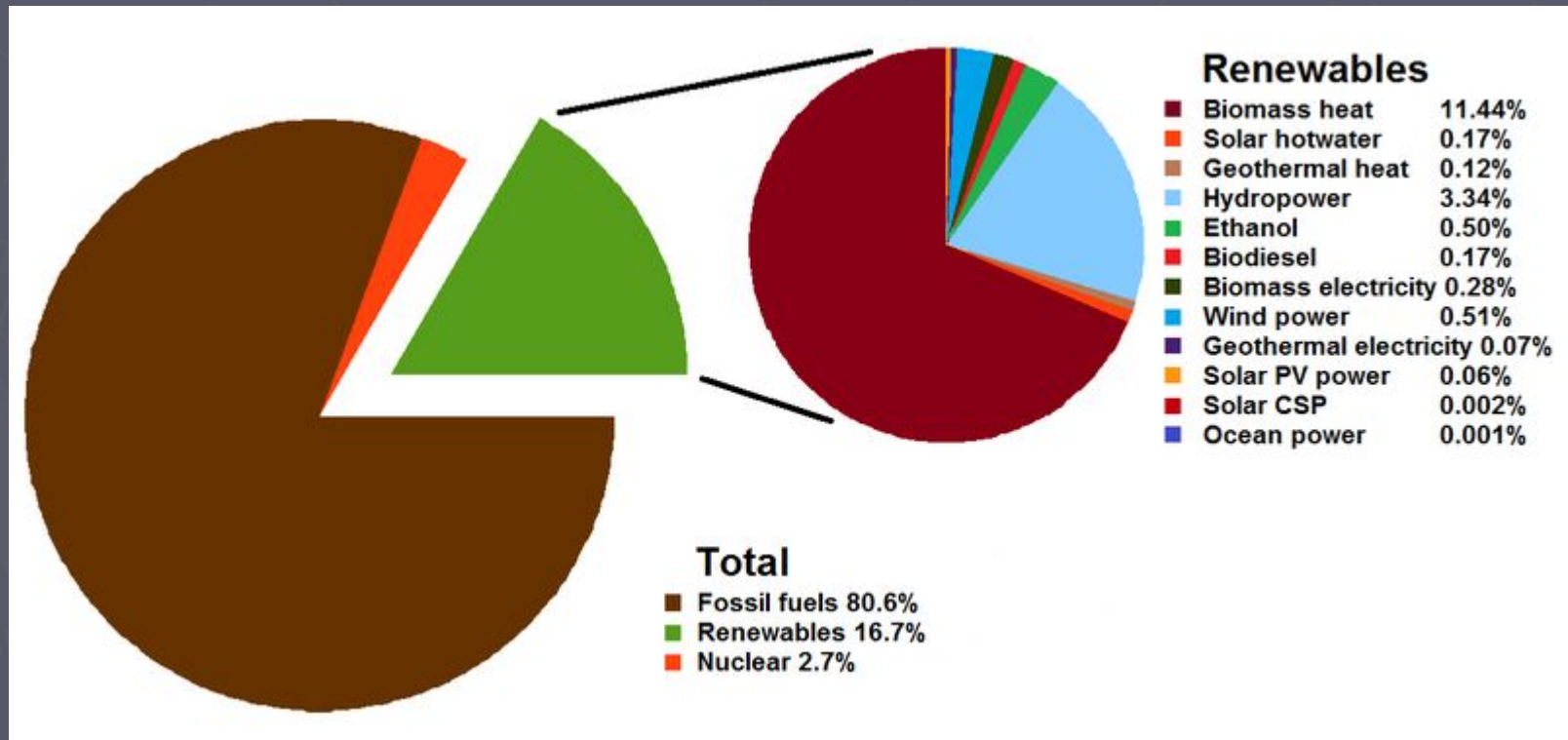


Alternative sources of energy

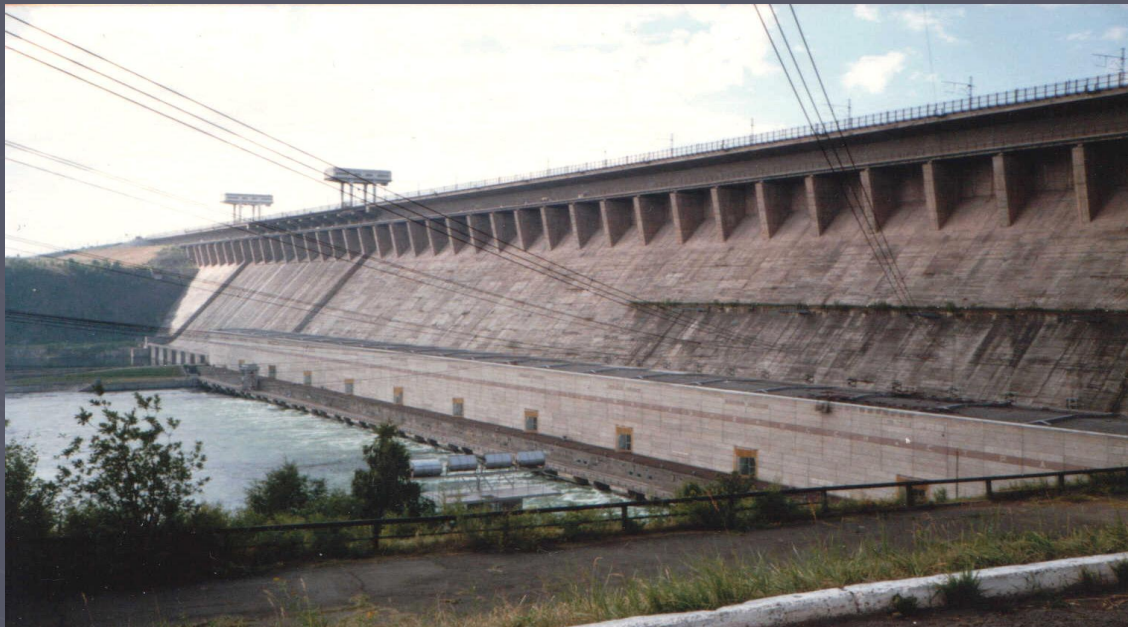
The background features a dark blue-grey color with faint, light-colored technical drawings and a gear-like pattern. The drawings include various geometric shapes, lines, and a prominent gear on the left side, suggesting a theme of engineering or technology.

- ▶ Nowadays there are three kinds of sources of energy: fossil fuels, renewable power and nuclear power. Fossil fuels are the most widely used and traditional sources of energy. But they are limited and ecologically dirty. That's why people are searching for new sources of energy.



Hydropower

- ▶ Hydropower is used in the hydropower plants through the use of the gravitational force of falling or flowing water. It's the second most widely used source of energy after fossil fuels. But hydropower isn't an ecologically pure source of energy because building the hydropower plants requires interrupting of the flow of rivers which can harm local ecosystems and creating large dams and reservoirs which often makes people and wildlife leave the territories where they live.



Nuclear power

- ▶ Nuclear power is used in the nuclear power plants. They use uranium to heat water which drives the turbine connected to the generator which produces electricity. Nuclear power is the third most widely used source of energy after hydropower and fossil fuels. But uranium is a limited natural resource like fossil fuels and nuclear power stations are ecologically dirty because they produce radioactive waste.



Solar power

- ▶ Solar power is a renewable source of energy. People use it by converting sunlight into electricity, either directly using solar panels generally made of silicon, or indirectly using concentrated solar power which is focused into a small beam by the system of lenses and mirrors to heat water. Solar energy is one of the ecologically pure sources of energy though people need to cover big territories by solar panels to produce electricity.



Wind power

- ▶ Wind power is also a renewable source of energy. It's used by converting the energy of the wind's flow into a useful form of energy, such as using wind turbines to make electrical power or windmills for mechanical power. Wind power is also an ecologically pure source of energy but some people think that noise of wind turbines and windmills can have a bad influence on some animals.



Geothermal energy

- ▶ Geothermal energy is used in the geothermal power plants through the conversion of thermal energy of geysers or underground water into electrical power. Geothermal energy is one of the ecologically pure and renewable sources of energy but geothermal power plants can be situated only near the geysers or above the underground reservoirs of water.



Fusion power

- ▶ Fusion power is a prospective source of energy. Nowadays there is only one fusion power plant which is building in the south of France. It's one of the largest international projects. Building will be finished in 2019 and producing electricity will begin in 2027. This power plant will use lithium and water as fuel. Lithium and water are less limited resources than uranium. That's why many scientists think that fusion power will be the main source of energy in future.

Conclusion

- ▶ There are a lot of alternative sources of energy known by people. The mankind learnt to use most of them. But the main sources of energy are still fossil fuels because they are widespread and it's easier to produce and use them. But they are limited and people need more energy for industry and agriculture every year. That's why producing fossil fuels is getting more every year and some day they will finish. So, the mankind needs to use and search for alternative sources of energy to continue to develop itself.

THE END