Figure 1.15. Sources and end use of electricity in the US for 2001. Units are quadrillion (i.e., $10^{15}$) Btu. Source: EIA (2002).

Figure 1.16 displays some attributes of this energy-prosperity-environmental dilemma. Note that adverse impacts from energy include a vast legacy of prior damage, current pollution, and the real prospect of continued ecosystem degradation for decades or more to come. Table 1.6 lists some of the environmental and other hazards from a selection of renewable and non-renewable energy supply technologies. Note that energy-derived pollutants include gases, liquids, solids, or mixed phases, and that they may adversely impact a host of environmental media and ecosystems. Further,

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6 Links between energy and the environment are not new. In 1776, British physician Percival Pott attributed the high incidence of scrotal cancer among London chimney sweeps to their regular exposure to combustion-derived soot (NRC, 1972). Supposedly when the King of Denmark learned of Pott’s findings, he ordered all Danish chimney sweeps to take daily baths, thereby promulgating one of the earliest energy-related environmental regulations.