Some Background Knowledge Definitions

Not all the definitions from the notes – you still have to take notes!

Energy – capacity to do work or produce heat

Potential Energy – due to position or composition

Kinetic Energy - due to motion

Electrical Energy – flow of electrical charge

Thermal Energy – molecular motion

Light/Radiant Energy – energy transitions in an atom

Nuclear Energy – potential energy in atomic nuclei

Chemical Energy – due to structure of atoms/bonds

Law of Conservation of Energy –
cannot create or destroy energy

1st Law of Thermodynamics –
total energy content of universe is constant

State Function –
depends only on present state, not pathway to get there