

## WIND ENERGY

### Definition

Wind power refers to the extraction of kinetic energy from the wind to generate electricity. In early 2017, the total installed capacity reached 153.7GW, placing wind energy as the second largest form of power generation capacity in Europe.

Wind energy generation is categorized by the type of wind turbine (horizontal or vertical axis), and the on- or off-shore location of the turbines. The predominant use is of horizontal axis turbines, with vertical axis turbines more commonly used in urban or built environments.

- (a) *Onshore wind energy generation* is land-based with developments ranging in the size (height of tower and diameter of rotor blades) and the number of turbines. Energy capacity of turbines (currently) range up to 3.6MW, with a rotor diameter of 130m. Developments may be classified as small, medium or large scale the definitions of which vary by country.
- (b) *Offshore wind energy generation* is marine, sea or lake, typically employing turbines of a larger capacity than onshore, with capacity up to 8MW, and a rotor diameter of 164m.

### Related terms

Energy landscape, Visual impact, Visual impact assessment, Marine energy

### Keywords

Wind farm, Wind park, Wind turbine



*Figure 29a* Onshore wind farm near Diepholz, Germany, with the currently world's highest performing onshore wind turbine, i.e. the Enercon-126, with a hub height of 135m (443 ft), rotor diameter of 126m (413 ft). (Photo: Olaf Schroth 2015)



*Figure 29b* Offshore wind production in Wirral Peninsula - West Kirby, Wales, United Kingdom. (Photo: Elsie Roulston 2016)



*Figure 29c* Old and new wind power use in Terras Altas de Fafe, Portugal. (Photo: Filipa Soares 2013)

### Source

http35: [https://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/index.cfm?pg=area&areaname=renewable\\_wind](https://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/index.cfm?pg=area&areaname=renewable_wind)

http36: <https://windeurope.org/about-wind/statistics/>

<p><b>Translations: Wind onshore energy</b></p> <p>Bosnia and Herzegovina Energija vjetra na kopnu  Bulgarian Енергия от вятърни генератори  Croatian Energija vjetra na kopnu/na obali  Czech Větrná vnitrozemská energie  Danish Landvindmøller  Dutch Wind op land  Esperanto Venta energio surtera  Estonian Maismaa tuuleenergia  Finish Tuulivoima (<i>general term</i>)  French Energie éolienne terrestre  German Onshore-Windenergie  Greek Αιολικό Πάρκο  Hebrew יבשתית רוה אנרגיית</p>	<p>Hungarian Szárazföldi szélenergia  Italian Energia eolica on-shore  Islandic Vindorka á landi  Latvian Sauszemes vēja enerģija  Lithuanian Vėjo energetika sausumoje  Montenegrin Energija vjetra na kopnu  Polish Energia wiatrowa on-shore  Portuguese Energia eólica em terra  Romanian Energie eoliană terestră  Russian Ветроэнергетика на суше  Slovenian Vetna elektrarna na kopnem  Serbian Енергија ветра на копну  Spanish Energía eólica  Swedish Onshore vindkraft</p>
<p><b>Translations: Wind offshore energy</b></p> <p>Bosnia and Herzegovina Energija vjetra u priobalju  Bulgarian Енергия от вятърно морски генератори  Croatian Energija vjetra u/na moru  Czech Větrná pobřežní energie  Danish Havvindmøller  Dutch Wind op zee  Esperanto Venta energio ekstertera (<i>surmara</i>)  Estonian Avamere tuuleenergia  Finish Merituulivoima  French Energie éolienne en mer (<i>offshore</i>)  German Offshore-Windenergie  Greek Θαλάσσιο Αιολικό Πάρκο  Hebrew בים רוה אנרגיית</p>	<p>Hungarian (<i>nyílt</i>)Tengeri szélenergia  Italian Energia eolica off-shore  Islandic Vindorka á sjó  Latvian Jūras vēja enerģija  Lithuanian Vėjo energetika jūroje  Montenegrin Energija vjetra na moru  Polish Energia eólica no mar  Portuguese Energia eólica em terra  Romanian Energie eoliană maritimă  Russian Офшорная ветроэнергетика  Slovenian Vetna elektrarna na morju  Serbian Енергија ветра на мору  Spanish Energía eólica marina (<i>offshore</i>)  Swedish Offshore vindkraft</p>