Renewable-Energy-Series-2-Important-Topics

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Module 3

1. Simple Mechanism of Wind

What is Wind?

Wind is simply air that is moving. When air moves, it creates wind energy, which can be harnessed to do work. The strength of the wind (how much energy it has) increases dramatically as its speed increases, following a mathematical relationship where the energy is proportional to the speed cubed.

How Does Wind Form?

Wind is primarily created due to the sun's heating effects on the Earth. The sun warms the Earth's surface unevenly—areas near the equator receive more heat than those near the poles. This difference in temperature causes air to move: warmer air rises, and cooler air moves in to replace it, creating wind.

3. Types of Winds

Winds can be classified into two main categories:

- **Global Winds**: These are large-scale wind patterns that blow across the Earth. They are influenced by the unequal heating of the Earth and the rotation of the planet. The **Coriolis effect** caused by Earth's rotation affects the direction of these winds, typically pushing them to the west in the tropics.
- **Local Winds**: These winds are smaller and occur due to local temperature differences, such as between land and water. For instance, during the day, land heats up faster than water, causing air to rise and cool air to flow in from the water. At night, the opposite happens: the land cools faster than the water, and winds blow from the land back to the water.

4. Harnessing Wind Energy

Wind energy can be captured using wind turbines or windmills. The mechanical energy generated from the wind can be used to pump water, power machinery, or even generate electricity. However, to be effective, wind needs to be at a moderate to high speed (about 5 to 25 meters per second). Since wind patterns can vary, energy storage solutions are often needed to provide power when wind conditions are not favorable.

5. Factors Affecting Wind Distribution

Several factors influence where and how wind energy is distributed on Earth:

- **Topography**: Mountains and hills can direct air currents, while valleys can funnel winds, increasing their speed.
- **Obstructions**: Trees, buildings, and other structures can block or redirect wind flow.

- **Surface Type**: Wind moves faster over smooth surfaces (like the ocean) compared to rough surfaces (like forests).
- **Climate**: Weather patterns, like storms, can alter wind speeds and directions.

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2. Wind measuring devices

Anemometer

An anemometer is a tool that measures how fast the wind is blowing. Here's how it works, explained in simple terms:

1. **Swinging Plate**: Imagine a plate that swings from its top edge. When the wind blows, it pushes the plate and makes it tilt. The more it tilts, the faster the wind is blowing.
2. **Cup Rotation**: Some anemometers have cups attached to a vertical pole. When the wind blows, these cups spin. The faster they spin, the stronger the wind.
3. **Wind Pressure**: Another type has a flat plate that faces the wind. When the wind hits the plate, it creates pressure. The more pressure there is, the faster the wind is.
4. **Hot Wire**: In this method, a thin wire is heated up. When wind passes over it, it cools down the wire. By measuring how much the wire cools, we can figure out the wind speed.
5. **Sonic Effects**: Different wind speeds create different sounds (sonic effects). Anemometers can listen to these sounds and use them to estimate how fast the wind is blowing.
6. **Laser Technique**: Some advanced anemometers use lasers and the Doppler effect (which involves changes in sound or light frequency) to measure wind speed accurately.

Wind Rose

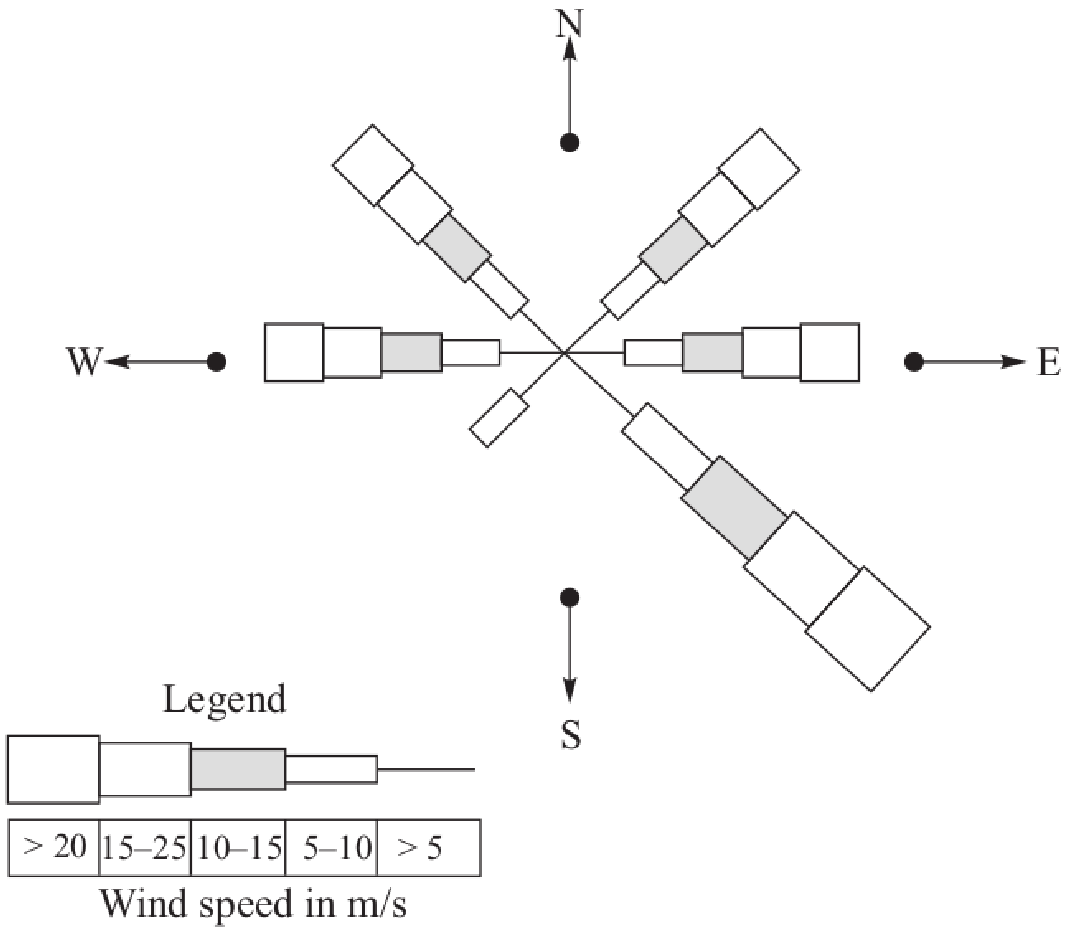


Figure 6.3 Wind rose describing mean wind speeds.

A **wind rose** is a visual tool used to display the patterns of wind direction and speed in a specific area over a certain period, usually a year. It helps us understand how wind behaves in a location.

How Does It Work?

1. **Measurement Height**: Wind speed is typically measured at a height of **10 meters** above the ground to ensure accurate readings.
2. **Data Collection**: The wind speed data is collected over time, which can range from **10 minutes to 1 hour**.
3. **Graph Representation**: The wind rose is drawn as a circular graph. It shows:
   - **Wind Directions**: The directions from which the wind comes (like north, south, east, and west).
   - **Mean Wind Speeds**: How fast the wind blows from each direction on average.
   - **Duration**: How long the wind blows from each direction during the time period being measured.

4. **Bar Lengths**: The wind rose has bars that extend outwards from the center. The length of each bar represents the **percentage of time** that wind blows from that direction. Longer bars mean that the wind comes from that direction more often.

3. Site selection criteria for wind turbines

1. **High Wind Speed**: The location should have strong winds throughout the year. The more wind there is, the more energy the wind turbine can produce, since wind power increases rapidly with wind speed.
2. **No Obstructions**: There should be no tall buildings or trees within 3 kilometers of the wind turbine. Anything that blocks the wind can reduce its effectiveness.
3. **Open Area**: Ideal sites are open plains or shorelines where strong winds are common. These areas allow wind to flow freely without interruption.
4. **Height**: Wind speeds are usually higher at greater heights. Placing the turbine on a hill or ridge can help take advantage of these stronger winds.
5. **Proximity to Water**: Being near a lake or ocean is beneficial because water heats up and cools down differently than land, creating winds that can be harnessed for energy.
6. **Topography**: Natural features like mountain gaps can help funnel and increase wind speeds, making them good locations for wind turbines.
7. **Affordable Land**: The cost of the land should be reasonable to keep the overall project costs down.
8. **Close to Power Demand**: The site should be near where the electricity will be used (load center). This minimizes the costs of transmitting the electricity to where it's needed.
9. **Access to Transport Links**: Being near roads or railways makes it easier to transport materials and equipment needed for building and maintaining the wind turbine.
10. **Wind Data Availability**: Having access to wind rose data (which shows wind direction and speed patterns) is useful for designing the wind turbine and predicting its performance.

4. Types of wind mills (HA and VA)

Windmills can be mainly classified into two types: **Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines (HAWT)** and **Vertical Axis Wind Turbines (VAWT)**

1. Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine (HAWT)

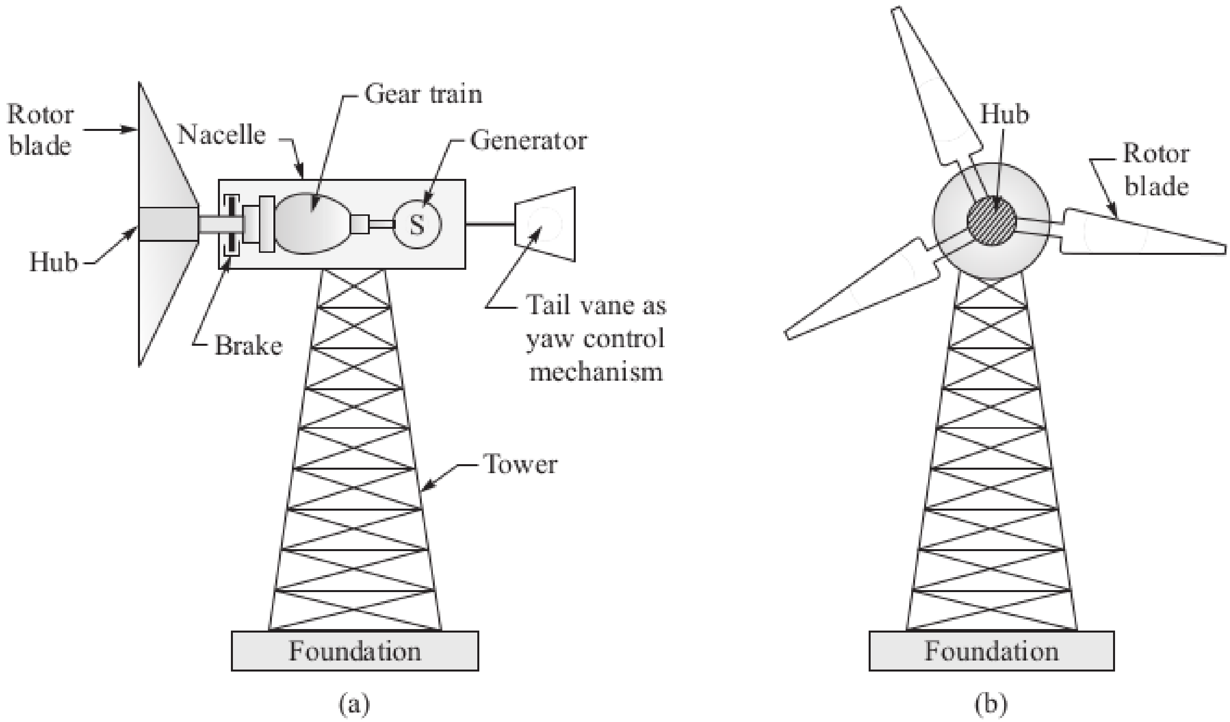


Figure 6.14 Wind turbine (a) Side view of the wind turbine, (b) Front view of the wind turbine.

- **Axis Orientation**: In HAWTs, the axis of rotation (the part that spins) is parallel to the wind direction. This means that the turbine blades rotate like the blades of a propeller.
- **Common Design**: HAWTs are the most commonly used type of wind turbine and typically have two or three blades that resemble those on an airplane propeller.
- **Advantages**:
  - They are efficient and can generate more power at higher wind speeds.
  - The blades are designed to have an aerofoil shape, which helps capture wind energy effectively.
- **Components**:
  - **Blades**: These extract energy from the wind and are usually made of lightweight materials.
  - **Hub**: The central part where the blades are attached.
  - **Nacelle**: This is the housing at the top of the tower that contains the gearbox, generator, and control systems.
  - **Tower**: Supports the nacelle and the rotor and is usually tall to access stronger winds.
- **Yaw Control System**: This system helps rotate the nacelle to keep the blades facing into the wind for maximum efficiency.

2. Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT)

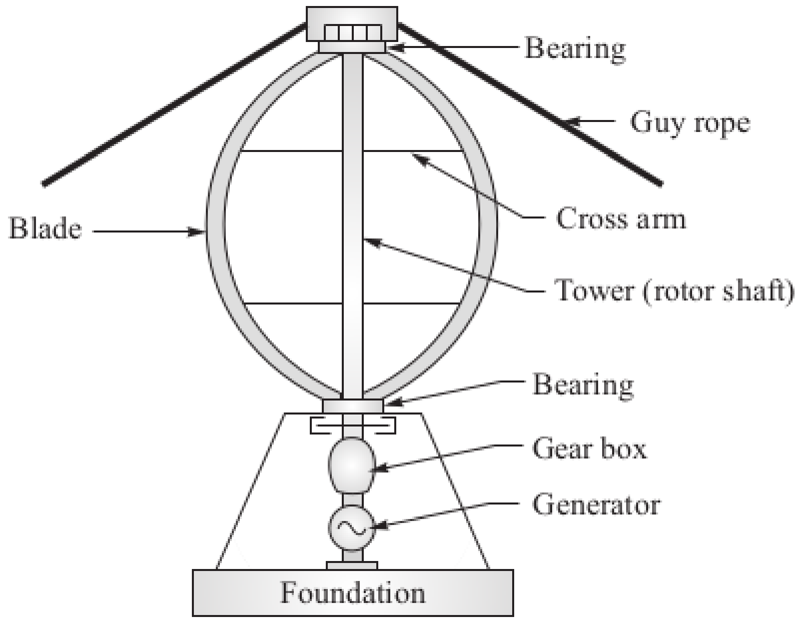


Figure 6.16 Vertical axis wind turbine.

- **Axis Orientation**: In VAWTs, the axis of rotation is perpendicular to the wind direction. This means the blades spin up and down, similar to an eggbeater.
- **Advantages**:
  - VAWTs can capture wind from any direction, eliminating the need for a yaw control system.
  - The gearbox and generator can be placed at ground level, making maintenance easier and reducing the overall height of the turbine.
- **Components**:
  - **Blades**: These are usually curved and designed to handle the wind's forces efficiently.
  - **Tower**: The structure supports the blades and components and can be quite tall, often reaching up to 100 meters.
  - **Support Structure**: This helps hold the blades and other components in place.
- **HAWT** is the traditional design, efficient at high speeds and requires facing the wind directly.
- **VAWT** is more versatile, can accept wind from any direction, and is easier to maintain due to its ground-level components.

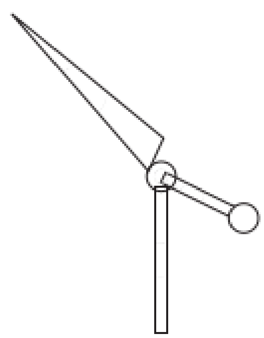
5. Rotor construction of HAWT and VAWT

Rotors are the parts of wind turbines that capture wind energy and convert it into rotational motion. Both Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines (HAWT) and Vertical Axis Wind Turbines (VAWT) have different rotor designs, each with its unique features, advantages, and disadvantages.

1. HAWT Rotor Designs

HAWTs can have various rotor designs, including:

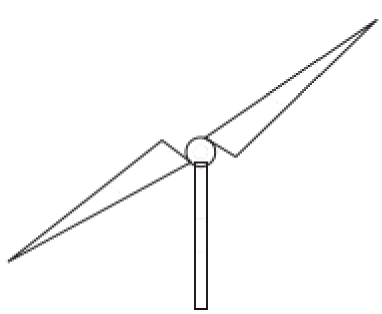
(i) Single-Blade Rotor



(a)

- **Description**: This rotor has one blade and a counterweight to balance it.
- **Merits**: Simple construction, lightweight, and low cost.
- **Demerits**: Makes more noise during operation and is generally less stable. Suitable for low-power applications.

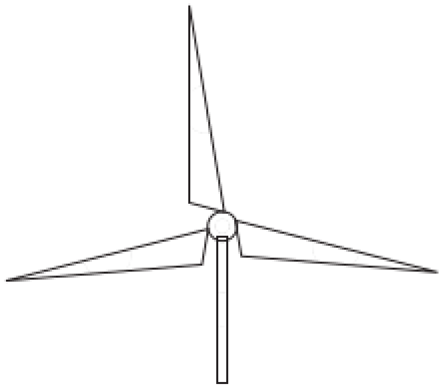
(ii) Two-Bladed Rotor



(b)

- **Description**: Consists of two blades attached to a central hub.
- **Merits**: Smoother power output than single-blade designs and less noise.
- **Demerits**: Less efficient than three-bladed designs and may require a yaw control mechanism.

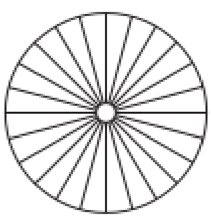
(iii) Three-Bladed Rotor



(c)

- **Description**: The most common type, with three blades.
- **Merits**: Higher efficiency and more power output than two-bladed designs. Good stability and quieter operation.
- **Demerits**: Heavier than two-blade rotors, leading to higher construction and installation costs.

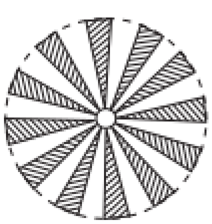
(iv) Chalk Multiblade Rotor



(d)

- **Description**: Features multiple blades designed for low-speed applications.
- **Merits**: High starting torque and can operate in low wind conditions.
- **Demerits**: Generally lower efficiency for power generation.

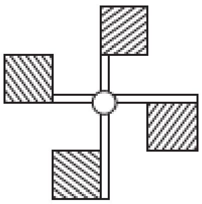
(v) Multiblade Rotor



(e)

- **Description**: Contains several blades, often used in specific applications.
- **Merits**: High solidity, which allows operation at low speeds.
- **Demerits**: Often less efficient for high-speed wind conditions.

(vi) Dutch-Type Rotor

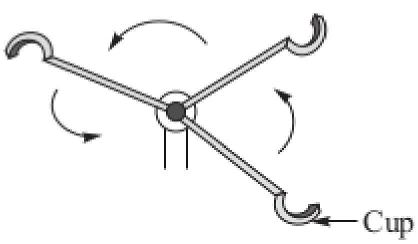


(f)

- **Description**: Similar to multiblade rotors, designed for low-speed applications.
- **Merits**: High starting torque and effective in low wind conditions.
- **Demerits**: Generally less efficient for high power generation.

2. VAWT Rotor Designs

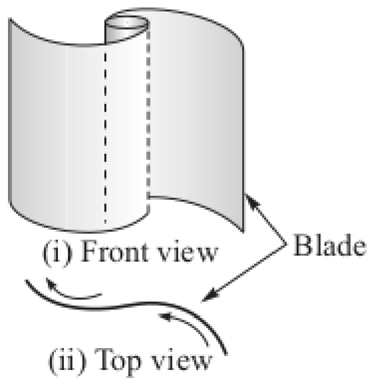
(i) Cup Type Rotor



(a)

- **Description**: Made of three or four cup-shaped structures attached to a vertical shaft.
- **Merits**: Simple design and easy to manufacture.
- **Demerits**: Low efficiency in capturing wind energy, mostly used for measuring wind speeds (e.g., anemometers).

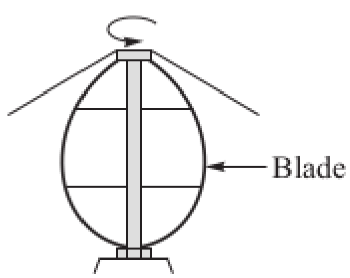
(ii) Savonius Rotor (S-Rotor)



(b)

- **Description**: Composed of two half-cylinders attached to a vertical axis, facing opposite directions.
- **Merits**: High starting torque at low wind speeds, can operate in a wide range of conditions.
- **Demerits**: Low overall efficiency for power conversion. Best for applications like wind pumping.

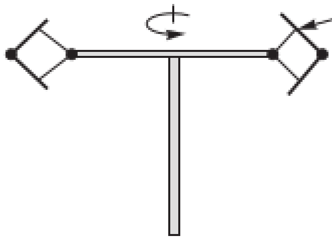
(iii) Darrieus Rotor



(c)

- **Description**: Features two or three curved blades, resembling an eggbeater.
- **Merits**: High power coefficient, suitable for large-scale power generation, and efficient at higher speeds.
- **Demerits**: Not self-starting, often requiring external energy to begin rotation, and has fixed blade pitch, leading to performance issues in high winds.

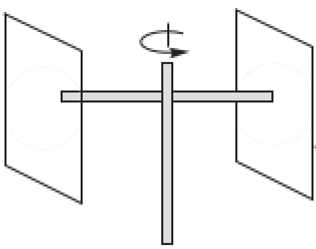
(iv) Musgrove (H-Shaped) Rotor



(d)

- **Description**: Composed of H-shaped blades that can fold to control power.
- **Merits**: Can adapt to changing wind conditions, allowing for better power management.
- **Demerits**: Fixed pitch can limit efficiency in varying wind speeds.

(v) Evans Rotor



(e)

- **Description**: Features hinged blades on a vertical shaft, with the ability to vary pitch during rotation.
- **Merits**: Self-starting design, allowing it to operate in low winds effectively.
- **Demerits**: More complex construction, which may increase maintenance needs.
- **HAWT** rotors are generally more efficient for power generation, especially with three-bladed designs. They are suited for high-speed applications.
- **VAWT** rotors are better for low-speed applications, with designs like the Savonius rotor being great for starting torque but less efficient for energy conversion.

6. Wind energy storage

Wind Energy Storage

Wind energy is an intermittent source of power, meaning that the amount of energy generated by wind turbines can vary significantly based on wind conditions. To ensure a steady supply of electricity even when the wind isn't blowing, it's essential to have effective storage solutions. Here's a simple explanation of how wind energy can be stored for later use:

1. **Chemical Energy Storage (Batteries)**:
    - Wind turbines can charge batteries, storing energy as chemical energy. When needed, this stored energy can be converted back into electricity, making it available for use.
2. **Thermal Energy Storage**:
    - The energy produced by wind turbines can be used to heat water. This can be done by using electric heaters or by using the power to churn the water. The hot water can then be used later for heating or other applications.
3. **Compressed Air Energy Storage**
    - Wind energy can be used to compress air and store it in a tank. When electricity is needed, the compressed air can be released to drive a turbine that generates electricity.
4. **Electrolysis of Water**:
    - Wind-generated electricity can power an electrolysis process that splits water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen gas can be stored and later converted back to electricity using fuel cells.
5. **Pumped Hydro Storage**:
    - Wind energy can be used to pump water from a lower reservoir to a higher one. When electricity is needed, the water can be released back down to generate electricity as it flows through turbines.
6. **Integration with the Electric Grid**:
    - Wind energy can be fed into the existing electric grid. This allows excess energy to be stored in the grid or used to meet peak electricity demands when needed.

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7. Environmental impacts of Wind Turbines

1. **Emissions**:
    - Wind turbines produce clean energy with no carbon dioxide emissions during operation.
    - However, some emissions occur during their manufacturing and installation, but these are minimal.

- The energy used to build and install turbines is usually recovered within a few months of operation.

2. **Impact on Birds**:
   - The rotating blades of wind turbines can pose a risk to birds.
   - Many birds accidentally fly into the blades, leading to injuries or fatalities. This is a concern for wildlife conservation.
3. **Noise**:
   - Wind turbines generate noise due to the movement of the blades and the air around them.
   - This noise can be quite loud and bothersome, which is why turbines are often located far from residential areas.
4. **Interference with Communication**:
   - Tall wind turbines can interfere with microwave signals used for television and communication, affecting the quality of radio and TV reception in nearby areas.
5. **Visual Intrusion**:
   - The large structures of wind turbines can be seen from great distances, which may disturb the natural beauty of landscapes. Some people find them unappealing in scenic areas.
6. **Safety Concerns**:
   - There are safety risks associated with wind turbines. For instance, if a blade breaks or gets damaged, it could potentially harm nearby people or property, especially during strong winds.
7. **Impact on Ecosystems**:
   - Wind is a natural part of the Earth's ecosystem, created by differences in temperature and pressure. Large-scale wind energy projects can disrupt local ecosystems and affect the natural balance.

8. Comparison between HAWT and VAWT

TABLE 6.2 Comparison of HAWT and VAWT

HAWT	*VAWT*
Axis of rotation is parallel to the airstream	Axis of rotation is perpendicular to the airstream
These are commonly used and almost fully developed	These are under development stage
The rotor has to face wind stream. It is provided with yaw mechanism to keep it facing wind stream	The rotor can accept wind stream from any direction. There is no need of yaw mechanism
Nacelle carrying gear train, controls and generator has to be mounted on top of the tower	Gear train, controls and generator can be located at ground level
Tower has to be strong and designed properly	Tower is simple in construction and installation
Inspection and maintenance of windmill is difficult	Inspection and maintenance of windmill is easy
Costly	Less costly
Less noisy	More noisy
Extract more power from wind	Extract less power from wind
Technology is fully developed	Technology is under development
Less fatigue to parts due to wind action	More fatigue to parts due to wind action
Designed to use lift force	Designed to use drag force
More efficient	Less efficient
Smooth output	Fluctuating output
Produces lower starting torque	Produces high starting torque
Operates properly in moderate wind speeds	Can operate even in low wind speeds
Pitch of blade can be controlled	Pitch of blade cannot be controlled

Module 4

1. Bio Fuels

- Biofuels are renewable energy sources made from organic materials, commonly referred to as biomass.
- They can be used as alternatives to fossil fuels for heating, cooking, and powering vehicles.

2. Different forms of Biomass available as bio fuels

1. **Fuelwood**:
    - Fuelwood is the most common biomass energy source.

- It is simply wood that is burned to produce heat. It has an energy density of about 16-20 megajoules per kilogram (MJ/kg).

2. **Charcoal**:
    - Charcoal is made by heating wood in a low-oxygen environment (a process called carbonization), which removes water and volatile substances.
    - It has a higher energy density of about 30 MJ/kg and burns without smoke.
3. **Fuel Pellets**:
    - Fuel pellets are small, compressed blocks made from crop residues like straw or rice husks.
    - They provide a convenient and efficient way to use biomass for heating.
4. **Bioethanol**:
    - Bioethanol is a liquid fuel produced from biomass that contains sugars, such as sugarcane or grains. It is a colorless liquid with a boiling point of 78°C and has an energy density of about 26.9 MJ/kg. Bioethanol can be used as a fuel for cars or blended with gasoline.
5. **Biogas**:
    - Biogas is produced from organic waste (like plant and animal materials) through a process called anaerobic digestion.
    - This process involves microorganisms breaking down the waste without oxygen. Biogas typically contains about 65-75% methane and can be used for cooking, heating, and generating electricity. It has an energy density of about 23 MJ/m^3.
6. **Producer Gas**:
    - Producer gas is generated by gasifying solid biomass, such as wood chips or crop residues, through a thermochemical process that partially burns the material.
    - It contains carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and other gases and can be used to power internal combustion (IC) engines and generate steam for small power plants.
7. **Biodiesel**:
    - Biodiesel is made by blending vegetable oils with regular diesel fuel. This creates a cheaper, renewable fuel option for diesel engines. Biodiesel can also come from certain plants that produce hydrocarbons similar to those found in petroleum.

3. Bio mass resources

- **Forests**:
  - Forests provide various biomass resources like **fuelwood**, which is used for burning to create heat. **Charcoal**, made from carbonized wood, and **producer gas**, obtained by gasifying wood or wood residues, are also derived from forests.
  - Additionally, some plants in forests produce seeds that can be turned into vegetable oils for biofuels.
- **Agricultural Residues**:
  - After harvesting crops, leftovers like **straw**, **rice husks**, **groundnut shells**, **coconut shells**, and **sugarcane bagasse** are called agricultural residues.
  - These materials can be gasified to produce producer gas or converted into **fuel pellets** for use as solid fuels.
- **Energy Crops**:
  - Energy crops are specially grown plants used for biofuels. Examples include:
    - **Sugar plants**, which are used to produce **bioethanol**.
    - **Starch plants** (like grains and tubers), which also yield bioethanol.
    - **Oil-producing plants** (such as sunflowers, palm oil, groundnuts, and cottonseeds) used to make **biodiesel**.
- **Urban Waste**:
  - Urban waste includes **garbage** (municipal solid waste) and **sewage**.
  - Garbage can be burned to create biomass energy, while sewage can be processed to produce **biogas**, a valuable renewable energy source.
- **Aquatic Plants**:
  - Certain fast-growing water plants, like **water hyacinth**, **seaweed**, **algae**, and **kelp**, can also be used as biomass.
  - These plants provide organic materials for producing **biogas**, which can be used for energy.

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4. Merits and Demerits of Biomass energy

Advantages of Biomass Energy:

1. **Renewable Source**: Biomass comes from living or recently living organisms, meaning it can be replenished naturally over time. This makes it a sustainable energy source.

2. **Storage Flexibility**: Biomass can be stored for later use, allowing energy to be produced when it's needed most.
3. **Waste Management**: Using biomass helps reduce waste by turning unwanted materials, like agricultural residues and urban waste, into energy
4. **Local Energy Source**: Biomass is often produced locally, which means communities can rely on their own resources instead of importing energy.
5. **Economic Development**: Biomass energy projects can create jobs and stimulate economic growth, especially in rural areas where jobs may be limited.
6. **Improves Sanitation**: Converting waste into energy can help clean up the environment, leading to better sanitation in rural areas and towns.
7. **Provides Fertilizers**: Biomass production can result in by-products that serve as fertilizers, enriching the soil for future crops.
8. **Efficient Waste Use**: Biomass energy allows for the economical use of various types of waste, reducing disposal issues.

Disadvantages of Biomass Energy:

1. **Low Energy Density**: Biomass generally contains less energy per unit compared to fossil fuels, which means more material is needed to produce the same amount of energy.
2. **Labor Intensive**: Producing and processing biomass can require significant human labor, making it less efficient in terms of labor costs.
3. **Large Land Area Required**: Growing biomass energy crops needs a lot of land, which can compete with land needed for food production or natural habitats.

5. Biogas

Biogas is a type of fuel that comes from the breakdown of organic materials, like food scraps, animal manure, and plant waste, in a process called anaerobic digestion. This means it happens without oxygen. During this process, microorganisms break down the organic matter, producing a gas.

Key Features of Biogas:

1. **Composition**: Biogas is primarily made up of:
   - **50–60% Methane**: This is the main component and is flammable, making biogas a useful fuel.

- **35–40% Carbon Dioxide**: This gas is not flammable and is a natural byproduct of the digestion process.
- **5% Hydrogen**: Another flammable component.
- **Trace amounts of Hydrogen Sulfide and other gases**: These are present in very small quantities.

2. **Energy Density**: Biogas has an energy density of about **23 MJ/m³** (megajoules per cubic meter), which indicates how much energy is contained in a certain volume of gas.
3. **Uses**: Biogas can be used for various purposes, including:
   - **Cooking**: It can replace traditional fuels like wood or gas for preparing meals.
   - **Heating**: Biogas can be used to heat homes or water.
   - **Lighting**: It can power lamps and other lighting systems.
   - **Running Engines**: Small internal combustion engines can also use biogas as fuel.

6. Explain typical arrangement of biogas digestor

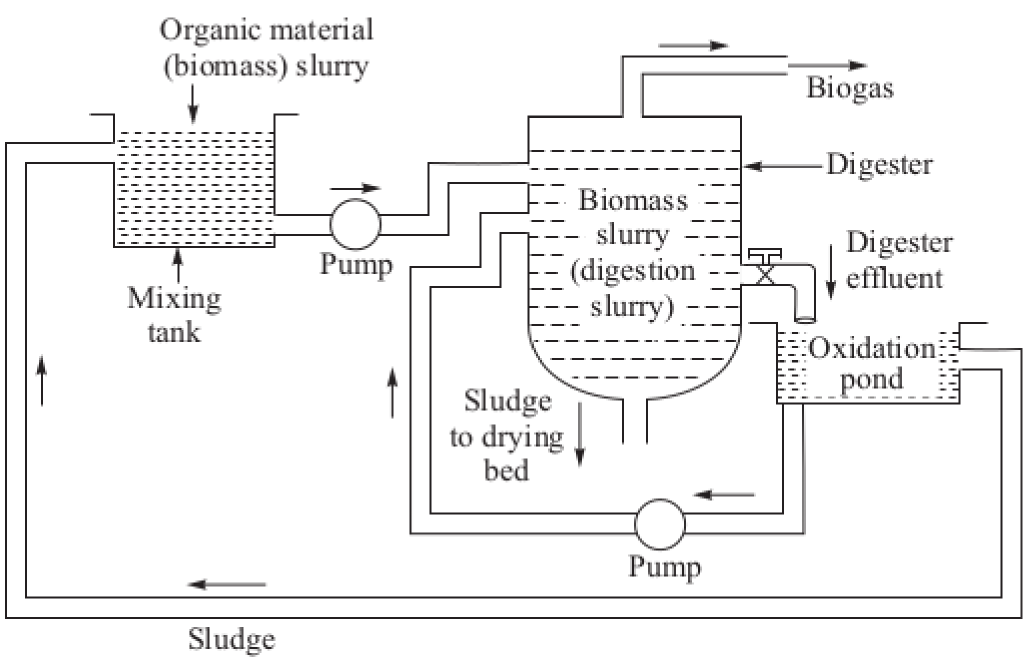

Figure 5.1 Biogas digester or plant.

1. **Mixing Tank**:
   - This is where organic material (biomass) is prepared into a slurry with a high water content (90-95%). This slurry is essential for the anaerobic digestion process.
2. **Digester**:

- The main component of the biogas plant, the digester is an airtight container where the actual digestion happens. Inside, anaerobic microorganisms (anaerobes) break down the biomass without oxygen, producing biogas primarily made up of methane (65-75%) and carbon dioxide (25-35%).
- The digester operates optimally at temperatures around 25°C and maintains a pH level of 7-8 for the best microbial activity.

3. **Feeding Process**:
    - The biomass slurry is fed into the digester at a controlled rate, known as the loading rate.
    - It's crucial to balance the amount of biomass to prevent overloading (which can hinder gas production) or underloading (which can reduce efficiency).
4. **Biogas Collection**:
    - As the anaerobic bacteria digest the slurry, biogas is produced and collected from the top of the digester. This biogas can be used as a renewable energy source.
5. **Digester Effluent**:
    - After digestion, the remaining material (digester effluent) is nutrient-rich and can be used as fertilizer. This residue is either pumped to an oxidation pond or sent to a drying bed for further processing.
6. **Sludge Management**:
    - The sludge, which is the solid byproduct from the digestion process, can be dried and used as a high-quality fertilizer. The management of this sludge is an important aspect of the overall system.

7. Factors affecting performance of digestor

1. **Temperature**:
    - Anaerobic bacteria thrive best in temperatures between 20°C and 65°C. If it's too cold or too hot, their activity slows down, affecting gas production.
2. **Pressure**:
    - The ideal pressure for the digester is between 6 and 10 cm of water column. Proper pressure helps maintain the right conditions for digestion.
3. **Water Content**:

- Water is crucial for mixing the biomass and helping bacteria move around. The biomass should have about 9-10% solid content to ensure effective digestion.

4. **pH Level**:
    - The pH level affects bacterial growth. In the first stage of digestion, the pH should be around 6 (slightly acidic). In the later methane-producing stage, it should be between 6.5 and 7.5, as too much acidity can harm the bacteria.
5. **Feeding Rate**:
    - It's important to feed the digester at a steady rate. If too much biomass is added too quickly, acids can build up and stop digestion. If too little is added, the process slows down due to a lack of material.
6. **Nutrients**:
    - Anaerobic bacteria need nutrients like carbon and nitrogen to function well. A good balance of these nutrients ensures that the bacteria can digest the biomass effectively.
7. **Seeding**:
    - To kick-start the digestion process, a small amount of digested slurry (which contains the bacteria) can be added to the new biomass. This helps speed up the breakdown of the biomass.
8. **Mixing and Stirring**:
    - Regular mixing helps keep the biomass well-distributed and allows the bacteria to work more effectively, leading to faster methane production.
9. **Retention Time**:
    - This is the amount of time the biomass stays in the digester, usually between 30 to 50 days. Longer retention times help ensure that a significant amount of the biomass is digested.
10. **Toxic Substances**:
    - Chemicals like pesticides, detergents, and ammonia can harm the bacteria and disrupt the digestion process, leading to lower biogas production.
11. **Type of Biomass**:
    - Different types of biomass (like cow dung, poultry manure, rice husk, etc.) have different properties and rates of biogas production. Some materials yield more gas than others.

8. Classification of biogas plant with diagrams

Biogas plants are mainly classified into **two types**: **Batch Type** and **Continuous Type**.

1. Batch Type Biogas Plants

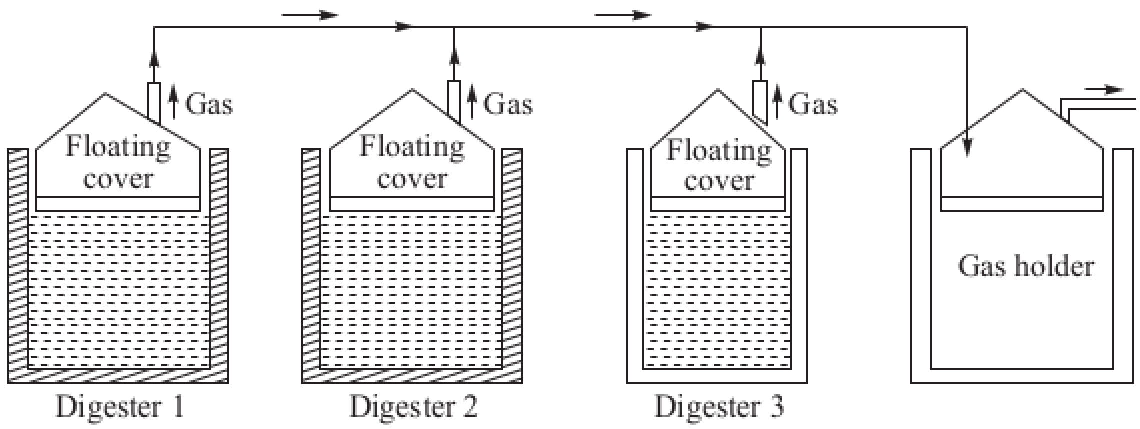

Figure 5.2 Biogas batch type plant with a number of digesters and a gas holder.

- **How it Works**: In a batch type plant, several digesters are used. Each digester is filled with fresh biomass (like food waste or manure) one at a time. After it's filled, it takes about 8-10 days to start producing biogas. It will produce gas for about 40-50 days before all the biomass is digested.
- **Operation**: Once a digester is empty, it is cleaned out and refilled with fresh biomass. This process means that each digester is used in a cycle, typically taking 50-60 days for each complete process.
- **Advantages**: This method is straightforward but requires more labor and capital to set up and run because of the need to manage multiple digesters.

2. Continuous Type Biogas Plants

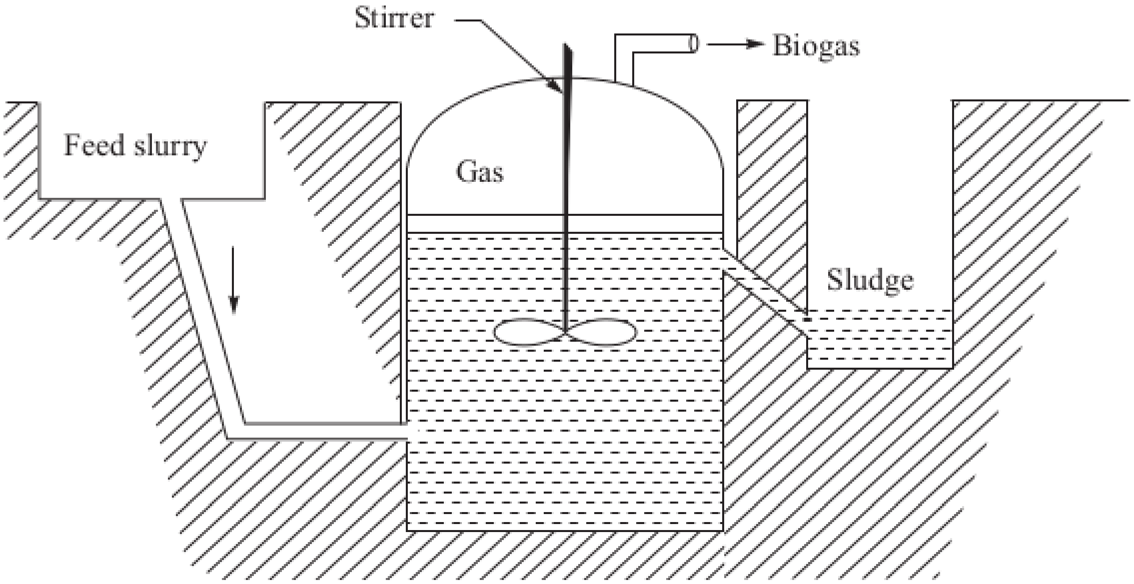

Figure 5.3 Continuous type biogas plant.

- **How it Works**: In a continuous type plant, biomass is added regularly—daily, in fact. While new biomass is being added, digested slurry (the leftover material) is removed. This keeps the digester working continuously without needing to stop for long periods.
- **Operation**: A stirrer mixes the contents to keep the biomass evenly distributed, which helps the bacteria break it down more efficiently. This type is great for homeowners who produce daily waste.

Subcategories of Continuous Type Biogas Plants

a. Floating Drum Type

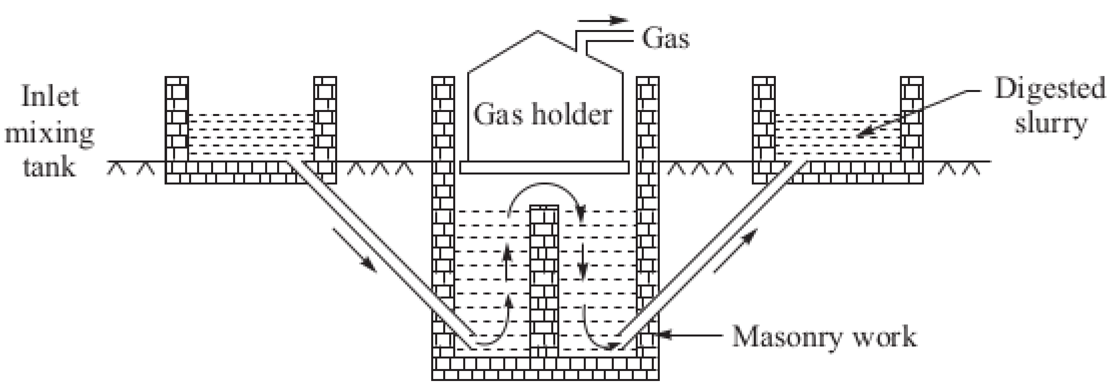

Figure 5.4 Floating drum type biogas plant.

- **Design**: This plant features an inverted metallic drum that floats on top of the digester. The drum acts as a gas holder, collecting the biogas produced.

- **Functionality**: The digester has a partition to create different conditions for bacteria that produce acids and those that produce methane. The pressure inside remains constant, reducing the risk of explosions.

b. Fixed Dome Type

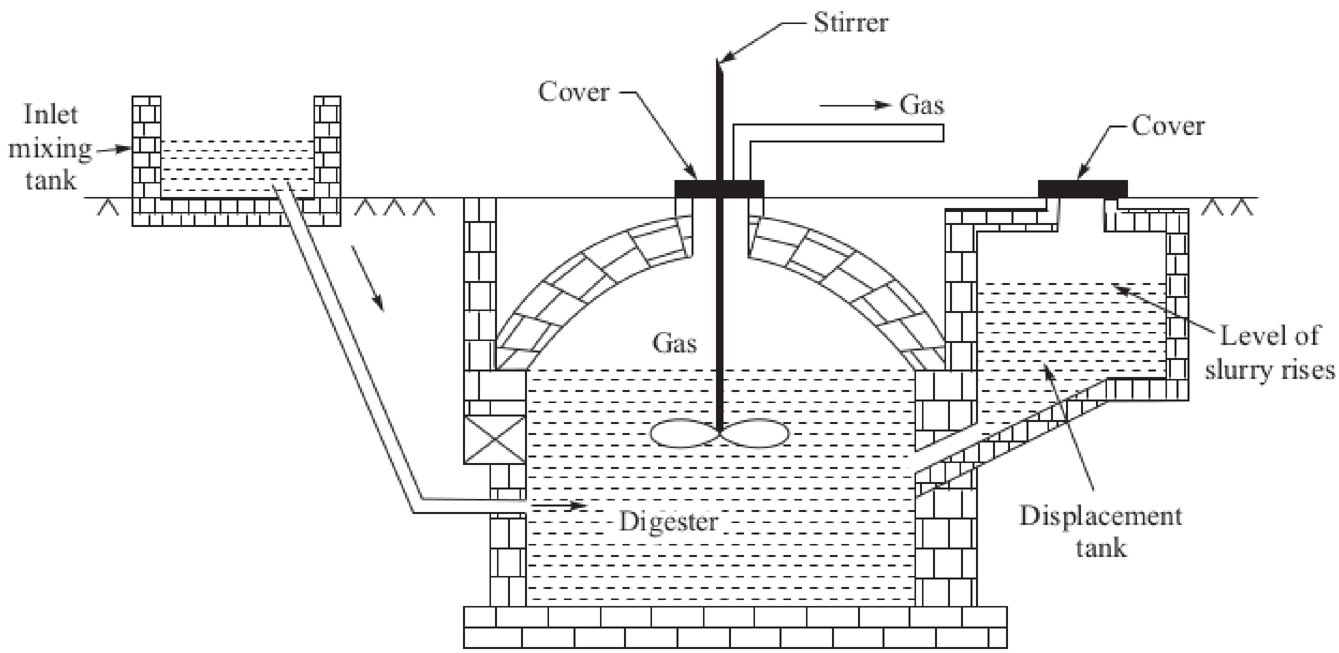

Figure 5.5 Fixed dome type biogas plant.

- **Design**: This type has a fixed dome at the top and does not have a movable gas holder. It maintains a constant volume but the pressure inside changes.
- **Operation**: Fresh biomass slurry is added, and biogas collects in the dome. The leftover material is removed through an opening at the bottom. There is also a modified version that includes a displacement tank to help manage pressure and the removal of digested slurry.

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9. Compare fixed dome type and floating dome type

TABLE 5.1 Comparison of floating drum and fixed dome plants

Floating drum	*Fixed dome*
It has constant pressure in the digester	It has constant volume in the digester
The pressure in the digester is slightly more than the atmospheric pressure	The pressure inside the digester can be as high as 1 m of water column
No danger of explosion of gas as pressure in the digester is low	Danger of explosion exists as pressure is high
No danger of leakage of gas	Due to high pressure there is danger of leakage of gas
Cost is more due to floating steel drum provision	Less costly
Corrosion of steel floating drum is likely	No such danger
More maintenance needed due to sliding metallic drum	Less maintenance needed
Gas production is high due to lower pressure in the digester	Low production of gas
Installation is simple	Installation is difficult.