

# Wind power density estimation using meteorological tower data

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**Abstract:** The amount of power in the wind is very dependent on the speed of the wind. Because the power in the wind is proportional to the cube of the wind speed, small differences in the wind speed make a big difference in the power you can make from it. A 10% difference in speed makes about a 33% change in power. This gives rise to the primary reason for wind resource assessment. In order to more accurately predict the potential benefits of a wind power installation, wind speeds and other characteristics of a site's wind regime must be accurately understood. This gives rise to the primary reason for wind resource assessment. In order to more accurately predict the potential benefits of a wind power installation, wind speeds and other characteristics of a site's wind regime must be accurately understood. In this paper the important aspects of wind resource assessment for a period of three years from 2010-2012 will be studied for a 50 meter instrumented meteorological tower located at Sathyabama University, Chennai.

**Keywords:** Wind Resource Assessment, Wind Speed, Wind Energy, Meteorological Tower Data

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## 1. Introduction

In 2012, despite a slowing global economy, India's electricity demand continued to rise. Electricity shortages are common, and over 40% of the population has no access to modern energy services. India's electricity demand is projected to more than triple between 2005 and 2030. In the recently released National

Electricity Plan (2012) the Central electricity Authority projected the need for 350-360GW of total generation capacity by 2022. Despite major capacity additions over recent decades, power supply struggles to keep up with demand. India had another record year of new wind energy installations between January and December 2011, installing more than 3 GW of new capacity for the first time to reach a total of 16,084mW. As of march 2012, renewable energy accounted for 12.2 percent of total installed capacity, up from 2 percent in 1995. Wind power accounts for about 70 percent of this installed capacity. by the end of August 2012, wind power installations in India had reached 17.9 GW (India Wind Energy Outlook, 2012).

In Tamil Nadu the total installed Wind capacity as on 30.06.2012 is 7055.475MW, contributing to 40% of country's total wind capacity. All time high capacity addition of

1083.460 MW in 2011- 12. Wind capacity addition to a tune of 1000 MW is expected for 2012-13. A capacity addition of 6000 MW of wind energy installations is targeted under the 12th five year plan (Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency). The coast along Tamil Nadu is the best in the country having very high potential areas with net Capacity Utilization factor (CUF) of over 40% and wind power density of over 700 w/m<sup>2</sup> at many locations. Tamil Nadu has an advantage of location, where in both the Southwest Monsoon and Northeast monsoon 'tunnel' through the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar, contributing to a high wind speed potential zone.

The wind power density term is directly proportional to air density:

$$WPD = \frac{1}{2} \rho V^3$$

where the greek letter  $\rho$  stands for air density, which is defined by:  $\rho = M/Vol$ .

At sea level and under standard conditions (temperature of 25 degrees C and pressure = 1 atmosphere), the mass of air in this cube would be 1.225 kg, so the density of the air is 1.225 kg per m<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Area of Study

A tower used at a potential project site which has equipment attached to it which is designed to assess wind resource. Generally a met tower will have anemometers, wind direction vanes, temperature and pressure sensors, and other measurement devices attached to it at various levels above the ground. The 50 Metre Meteorological tower installed at Sathyabama University erected by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam has multilevel sensors for all the basic atmospheric parameters like wind speed and direction, temperature, relative humidity, pressure, rainfall and nuclear radiation. The meteorological tower is located at latitude 12° 52' N, longitude 80° 13' E with 4m elevation.

## 3. Importance of Meteorological Measurement Height

Wind speed is a function of height, topology and ground cover. Generally speaking, a better picture of the wind resource is gained from towers closest to the height of the turbine that is being contemplated for the installation. A small variation in wind speed has a significant impact on energy capture. Unfortunately, many 30m towers have been installed without proper technical guidance. This has occurred in regions that have high wind shear and complex terrain which requires the use of higher tower measurement of the wind. Hence, data collected does not have meaningful value for energy capture calculations, using wind turbines that are 70m (229ft) to the center of the turbine's rotor. Wind speed has a functional relationship to elevation. As a general rule, the higher a turbine rotor is placed above ground, the greater the velocity and power of the wind. Turbine generators placed on higher towers will produce more electrical energy.

For every 20 meter increase in elevation, the velocity of the wind increases 5% to 15% depending on type of ground cover. The type of ground cover in the region tends to offer a certain degree of resistance to the movement of wind as ground level is approached.

## 4. Materials and Methods

### 4.1. Towers

The most common equipment is a 40 or 50-meter met tower supported by guy wires. This type of tower is a temporary structure. No foundation is required.

### 4.2. Instruments

A cup anemometer & a direction vane designed for wind power applications are pictured here. The turning speed of the anemometer indicates the wind speed, and the direction of the vane indicates wind direction.

The instrumentation used for wind resource assessment includes three major components:

- anemometers and wind direction vanes, which are sensors to measure the wind speed and direction,
- a data logger, and
- a meteorological mast, or tower.

The NRG Systems Classic #40H anemometer is an unheated three-cup anemometer designed specifically for turbine control applications in non-icing conditions. The Classic #40H provides high precision wind speed measurements for accurate turbine control. The Classic #40 anemometer has recorded wind speeds of 96 m/s (214 mph). Their low moment of inertia and unique bearings permit very rapid response to gusts and lulls. Because of their output linearity, these sensors are ideal for use with various data retrieval systems. The following figure 1 & 2 shows the cup anemometer, Wind vane and Fig.3 shows the 50m tower.



Fig. 1. Cup Anemometer



Fig.2. Wind Vane



Fig.3. 50 m Meteorological Tower

## 5. Results and Discussion

### 5.1. Monthly Average Wind Speed Variation

The annual variability of wind speed has a strong influence on the analysis methodologies developed for the assessment of the long-term wind resource at a site and the uncertainty in such predictions. Before describing typical

methodologies used for the prediction of the long-term mean wind speed at a site. The Annual average wind speed for three years from 2010 to 2012 is as shown in the following Table1.

A three-year rolling average of the data has been taken. It is immediately apparent that the variability in the mean wind speed over three-year periods is substantially reduced compared with that of one-year periods.

Table 1. Monthly Average Wind Speed Variation

Year	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	3	3.1	3.6	4.7	5	4.7	4	3.8	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.7
2011	4.2	3.9	4	4.1	4.5	5.5	4.8	4.7	3.8	3.3	4.4	4.1
2012	3.4	3.2	3.5	4.1	5.4	5.3	4.3	4.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.3

### 5.2. Wind Power Density

Wind power density directly determines cost efficiency in using wind energy. We may categorize the density as poor (< 150 Watt/m<sup>2</sup>), fair (150 ~ 250 Watt/m<sup>2</sup>), good (250 ~ 350

Watt/m<sup>2</sup>), or excellent (> 350 Watt/m<sup>2</sup>). The following Table 2 describes wind power distribution and can be used as initial guidance in selecting region for wind power projects.

Table 2. Wind Power Density Calculation in W/m<sup>2</sup>

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	17	27	54	73	107	79	54	46	39	32	49	72
2011	78	43	36	59	86	119	87	57	51	25	67	67
2012	151	29	123	74	100	122	70	77	39	70	50	28

### 5.3. Wind Direction Distribution

A wind rose diagram in the following figures 6, 7 and 8 that shows the distribution of wind directions and speeds at this location for a period of three years. The frequency of winds blowing from particular directions over a period of 3 years. The length of each "spoke" around the circle is related to the frequency that the wind blows from a particular direction per unit time. Each concentric circle represents a different frequency, emanating from zero at the center to increasing frequencies at the outer circles.

A wind rose plot may contain additional information, in that each spoke is broken down into color-coded bands that show wind speed ranges. Wind roses typically use 16 cardinal directions, such as north (N), NNE, NE, etc., although they may be subdivided into as many as 32 directions. In terms of angle measurement in degrees, North corresponds to 0°/360°, East to 90°, South to 180° and West to 270°.

## 6. Conclusion

The wind power density estimation can be extended in the coastal areas of Chennai city. This work can be carried out with the help of Automatic Weather stations data provided by Indian Meteorological department.

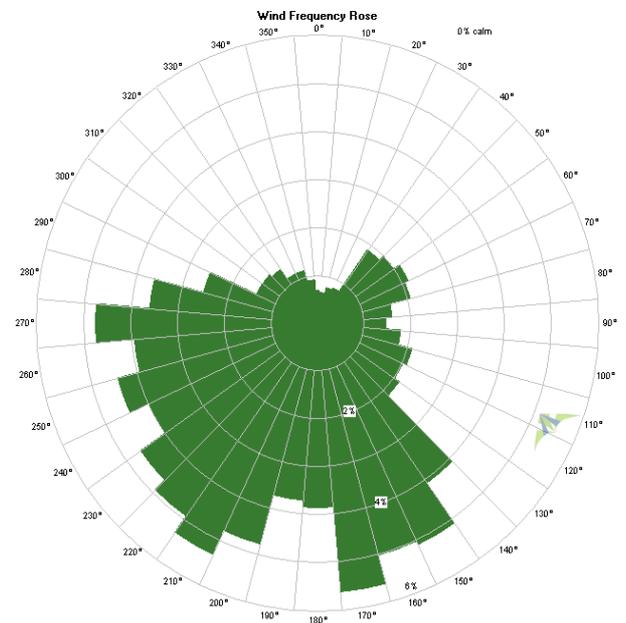


Fig 4. Wind Direction for the year-2010

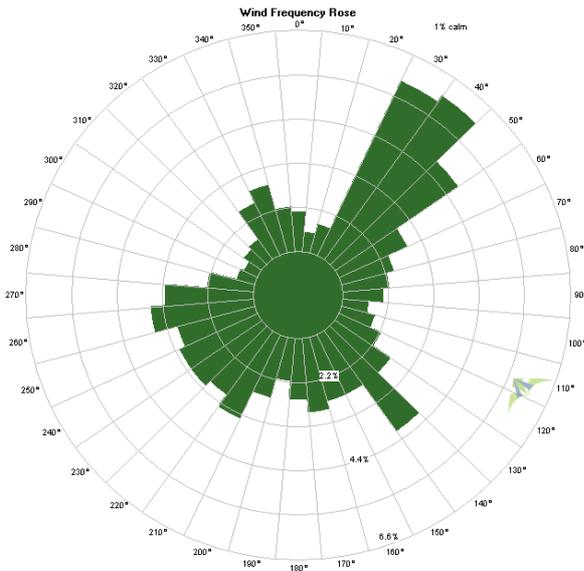


Fig 5. Wind Direction for the year-2011

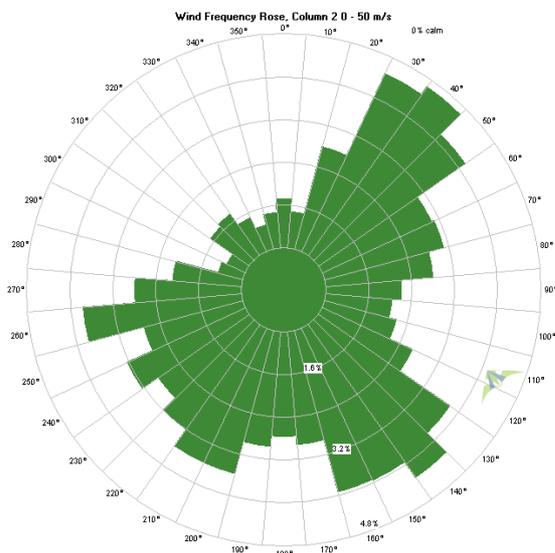


Fig 6. Wind Direction for the year-2012

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