

Why do you want to buy a turbine?

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What determines the cost-effectiveness of wind turbines?

1. Wind speed
2. Cost of turbine
3. Efficiency of turbine
4. Cost of installation
5. Price/value of the turbine

We will discuss these below.

So let's discuss the steps involved in buying a wind turbine.

1. Be clear about your motivations. Making money (=reducing electrical bills) is important but not the only one. Educate yourself. We have some important questions and answers below.
2. Research your wind potential. This is a crucial part of the pay-off. See some instructions below.
3. Research the cost of your electricity. Your electric bill is a good place to start. Note that the price they show you on one line may look low, but after they add surcharges and taxes, it is usually much higher. See if your locality or electric company has special incentives.
4. Calculate the cost-effectiveness.
5. Consider your location: On the ground? On your roof? On a pole? How much free space do you have?
6. Determine what model and how many you want. Remember that the more you place together perpendicular to the prevailing wind, the more you benefit from the cluster effect.
7. The electronics you order depends on whether you want to go off grid (you produce all your own electricity; you will need a battery for this) or provide the electricity to your panel and then the grid. They are included in the price
8. If you are going off grid, you need to decide whether you want some wind and some solar, or just wind or just solar (if so, you need to go to a solar website) with what size of battery. In many cases, we believe a combination of wind and solar together with a battery is the best combination for off grid.
9. Choose a color scheme for the blades. Standard is white outside, green inside.
10. Engage a local contractor for the installation. An electrician needs to be part of the team.

Why should I buy a small wind turbine?

Some reasons are:

1. Your area has a very good subsidy or tax credit.
2. The cost of electricity in your area is very high.
3. You are concerned about energy inflation.
4. You want to have a source of emergency power in case the grid goes down, as in a snowstorm.
5. You are serious about showing your commitment to the environment.
6. You enjoy looking at Eco-Art.
7. You intend to live off the grid.

Another, particularly for utilities and governments, is that wind can often solve the peak power problem. See our blog posting for more information on that.