

WHAT IS WIND ENERGY?

Wind energy is a form of solar energy. Sunlight falling on oceans and continents causes air to warm and rise. Cooler air rushes into the space left by the risen air, which in turn generates surface winds. Wind energy systems capture the energy in wind using large blades mounted on tall towers called turbines. The wind turns the blades and the blades rotate a generator, which produces electricity.

Wind energy is a very clean source of energy. It does not produce air emissions or hazardous waste. It offsets the emissions of other energy sources, thus reducing our contribution to global climate change.

By using wind instead of burning coal to power 200 homes (2,000,000 kWh), roughly 900,000 kilograms of coal stay in the ground and annual greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 2,000 tonnes. This has the same positive impact as taking 417 cars off the road or of planting 10,000 trees.

Wind energy generation avoids the production of greenhouse gases, sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, heavy metals and particulate matter - compounds which are linked to smog, acid rain and myriad health problems.