

Re: UK company brings affordable home windmill to the masses

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On Sat, 09 Oct 2004 22:25:46 GMT, habshi@anony.com (habshi) wrote:

> *Had asteroid Tautotis hit us last week , it would be equal to
>the energy release of one Hiroshima every second for 13 years !!!*

So we would all be dead.

> *How can we capture the energy of these fast moving demons?
>Could we attach a metal parachute to the back of T and convert the
>mechanical energy of the strain to electricity and beam it down to
>earth ? Eventually T will stop – what does stop mean in space ? We
>could supply all earth needs for hundreds of years from just one
>asteroid .*

> *Are my articles used in school rooms across the USA and if not
>why not ?*

> *Mini-turbine brings 'green power for all'*

>

> *Company claims its domestic wind unit can provide 15% of average
>household's electricity needs*

>

> *John Vidal, environment editor*

> *Monday November 24, 2003*

> *The Guardian*

>

> *The winds of change will blow a little stronger this morning when a
>small Scottish company launches Britain's first wind power system
>designed to be fitted on almost any roof or wall to supplement
>electricity from the grid.*

> *Just two days after Britain's biggest offshore wind farm started
>generating electricity off the north Wales coast, the designers of the
>tiny domestic unit believe they can provide up to 15% of the annual
>electricity needs of an average house for a one-off cost of £750 –
>bringing green electricity into the price range of most families.*

>

> *The machine, a 3ft by 2ft sealed box with three blades which face into
>the prevailing wind, is backed by the energy minister, Brian Wilson,*

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- >who is a paid consultant for Windsave, the company behind it.
- >
- >Unlike old-style domestic wind generators, which needed a lot of land,
- >sat on top of poles and drove pumps and a few bulbs for farmers and
- >backwoodsmen, the machine does not need batteries to store the
- >electricity. Instead, it tops up the existing mains supply.
- >
- >Unlike bigger systems, it cannot sell excess power back into the grid.
- >But the company believes it has cracked the holy grail of renewable
- >energy – getting government subsidies and making the machines silent.
- >
- >In theory, there are handouts both for installation and for "Rocs" –
- >renewable obligation charges – which currently pay green electricity
- >providers about 6p per kilowatt-hour generated.
- >
- >The system, says the Scottish inventor David Gordon, who has pumped
- >£1m into the idea, can generate up to 750 watts – enough to power
- >lights but not high-energy items such as kettles or heaters.
- >
- >"Nobody has been able to take raw wind power and put it straight into
- >the domestic electrical system at 240 volts," he said. "We will be
- >able to bring green energy to the masses."
- >
- >Mr Wilson, who has declared his interest in the company on the House
- >of Commons register and has no financial share in it, was
- >enthusiastic. "I have looked at it upside down and sideways for a
- >catch and I don't think there is one. The amazing thing is its
- >affordability.
- >
- >"It will be a few hundred quid, you do your bit for the environment,
- >and you get a cheque back once a year. What more can you want? It's
- >been though all the standard checks and everyone who's seen it is of
- >the same opinion."
- >
- >Mr Gordon admits that his invention is not as technically efficient as
- >turbines sited on high poles to collect the optimum wind, but says
- >that it is the annual supplementing of household electricity which
- >makes it suitable for buildings. The machine starts working at a wind
- >speed of 3mph and is said to be most efficient in a 20mph breeze –
- >common for much of the year across large parts of Britain.
- >
- >Using the remote metering technology which made Mr Gordon's fortune
- >after he sold his company to BT, each unit installed will be
- >automatically phoned every quarter to see how much electricity it has
- >generated.
- >
- >The company will then collect the subsidy from the government and
- >distribute it back to owners according to how much they have
- >generated. "We believe the payback period could be as little as 30
- >months," said Mr Gordon.
- >

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- >juniorbond.co.uk
- > The British Wind Energy Association, which represents large-scale
- >>windpower generators, professed itself amazed at the development. "If
- >it works, it's fantastic," said spokeswoman Alison Hill.
- >
- >Yesterday it was provisionally backed by Country Guardian, the lobby
- >group which has opposed almost every planning application submitted
- >for windpower development in Britain in the past decade.
- >
- >"I think they are a good idea. I don't think they'll look very
- >beautiful, but we always feel that it's the people in cities who use
- >the power and that we in the country have to pay the price," said Ann
- >Evans, a vice-president.
- >
- >Local planners may be divided about whether the innovations need
- >planning permission. Technically, they do not, says Mr Gordon, if they
- >are sited below the highest point of houses. But many local
- >authorities and heritage groups objected strongly at first to
- >satellite dishes, and may not want to see large boxes with spinning
- >blades put up.
- >
- >The machines are to be made outside Edinburgh. Local authorities,
- >government offices and light industry will be targeted first, followed
- >by householders in about three months.
- >
- >· Windsave Ltd, 27 Woodside Place, Glasgow G3 7QL, 0141 353 6841
- >Email: info@windsave.com
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- >
- >Special report
- >Renewable energy
- >
- >The issue explained
- >14.12.2001: Renewable energy
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