How do solar windmills work

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Wind turbines work on a simple principle: instead of using electricity to make wind--like a fan--wind turbines use wind to make electricity. Wind turns the propeller-like blades of a turbine around a rotor, which spins a generator, which creates electricity.

A handful of enterprising renewable energy developers are now exploring how solar and wind might better work together, developing hybrid solar-wind projects to take advantage of the power...

According to many renewable energy experts, a small "hybrid" electric system that combines home wind electric and home solar electric (photovoltaic or PV) technologies offers several advantages over either single system. In much of the United States, wind speeds are low in the summer when the sun shines brightest and longest.

In the case of new proposals from renewable energy developers, hybrid energy systems can take the form of a wind turbine plus solar panel hybrid energy system. Solar and wind energy make a natural pairing and can ensure that a hybrid renewable energy system is producing more electricity during more hours of the year.

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In our current time, the majority of the world relies heavily on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas for energy. And though technically, they do provide us with sufficient energy, using them is not really a good idea in the long run. This is because fossil fuels are non-renewable, which means that they draw on sources that will eventually run out. And once these finite sources finally dwindle, they will be too expensive or too environmentally damaging to get back.

That is why, as early as possible, we have to find another way to generate energy without using fossil fuels. In other words, we need to start using energy that is renewable. Thankfully, our planet actually has a lot of renewable sources of energy. And two of the most popular right now are solar energy and wind energy.

But what are the differences between these two? And -- if it"s possible to answer this question -- which one is the better option?

True to their names, solar energy and wind energy generate electricity by using the sun and the wind, respectively. That is the easy way of describing the two of them. The way they actually work is a little more complicated than that.

To begin with, solar energy generates electricity either through the sun"s heat or the sun"s light. The former makes use of the Concentrated Solar Thermal systems (CSP), which concentrate the radiation of the sun to

heat a liquid that will then be used to drive a heat engine and drive an electric generator. Meanwhile, solar energy can also produce electricity through light and the technology of Photovoltaic (PV). Simply put, solar PV cells absorb light, which then knocks electrons loose. Then once those loose electrons flow, a current is created, which is then captured and transferred into wires, effectively generating direct electric current.

Wind energy, on the other hand, is actually another form of solar energy. It is caused by a combination of three concurrent events: 1) the sun unevenly heating the atmosphere, 2) irregularities of the earth"s surface and 3) the rotation of the earth. The way wind power works is that it uses wind turbines to convert the kinetic energy from the wind into mechanical power. And then, that mechanical power can be used for specific tasks like grinding grain or pumping water, or a generator can convert it into electricity.

Solar energy has the following benefits:

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