

How tall are windmill turbines

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Higher wind speeds mean more electricity, and wind turbines are getting taller to ...

World's Largest Wind Turbine Would Be Taller Than the Empire State Building

Massive, flexible blades would bend with storm winds like the palm trees that inspired them

Wolfgang Kaehler Getty Images

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Concept of SUMR project. Credit:Chao Qin

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Wind energy is soaring in the U.S.; the nation's renewable energy capacity has more than tripled in the past nine years, and wind and solar power are largely responsible. Now businesses want to harness even more wind energy, at a cheaper price--and one of the best ways to lower cost is to build bigger turbines. That's why an alliance of six institutions led by researchers at the University of Virginia are designing the world's largest wind turbine at 500 meters tall--almost a third of a mile high, and about 57 meters taller than the Empire State Building.

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Wind turbines are soaring to record sizes. The average rotor diameter of turbines installed in 2023 grew to 438 feet, up 178% since 1998-1999.



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