Abstract. Electricity demand is increasing worldwide due to the advancements in lifestyle, technology, and increased population. Governments are facing common challenges to generate electricity from low-cost and clean energy resources. Water desalination, air-conditioning, and lighting are the main sectors that consume a significant amount of electricity with great demand in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Many countries’ water shortage problem, specifically in the Gulf area, has led to increased challenging electricity demand. Electric power is currently generated from mainly fossil fuel, which has an enormous ongoing impact on environmental pollutions and, thus, climate problems. UAE has recently started to look and was managed to deploy environmental-friendly energy resources, such as renewables for power generation. Attempts were made to utilise solar energy for desalination systems, and none of these attempts was made regarding using wind energy systems. The water need is met by seawater desalination. This purpose’s energy consumption is getting high with the increase of demand to separate the salt from seawater. There exists more consumption in building and street lighting. Ajman is the smallest Emirate in the UAE, which imports its power from the neighbouring emirates with a cost to be paid. This research reviews the feasibility of resourcing more than 20% of the electricity demand by wind energy to satisfy power needs towards desalination and lighting for street and official and newly built buildings. Wind energy potential at the Emirate of Ajman has been reviewed and showed a suitable wind energy potential for utilisation to supply more than 20% of the demand of about 350 MW. A wind-powered desalination system can meet the water demand when a properly design system is to be installed.

1 Introduction

The energy use per capita has increased in recent years as the lifestyle, and everyday items increase worldwide, resulting in an increased demand for energy. Electricity is a significant type of energy demand. It will be a prime sector of power demand for the future as most countries are heading for applications that only operate by electricity. Fossil fuel is to be limited for petrochemical industries. Primary energy demand differs from one country to another. GCC countries are consuming electricity, mainly for Airconditioning, water desalination, building, and lighting purposes see Figure 1, for residential consumption [1].

All this demand is primarily met by fossil fuel. UAE has recently realised that its carbon footprint and overall pollutions are significantly increasing, and the country started to look for alternative energy resources [2]. Figure 2 shows the amount of CO2 emission per annum 1990–2050 regarding the historical periods, present situation, and forecast to 2050. The effect of COVID-19 is also demonstrated [3]. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the UAE’s greenhouse gas emissions present 46–58% increase above 2010 levels and show that the implemented policies are insufficient to stop emissions from increasing beyond 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on future emissions could decrease the emission by around 10–16% below our pre-COVID-19 is estimated by 2030 when the Government’s recent planned green – sustainable projects and policies are implemented [3].

Seawater desalination is a prime resource that significantly contributes to electricity consumption in the UAE and substantially impacts the environment. The alternative to fossil fuel energy resource of electricity could minimise the impact on the environment, and sustainable which provide affordable, accessible, and reliable energy to satisfy the economic, social and environmental needs [4]. As one of the GCC regions, UAE needs to utilise two sources of energy, solar and wind, as solar can cover the daily demand
Wind resources must be assessed carefully. It is a prime contributor to wind energy potential analysis. It directly affects decision-making in designing and selecting the wind farms and the suitable wind turbines to extract the maximum available wind energy for a chosen area. Figure 3 [14] summarises the assessment process.

2.2 Wind energy potential in UAE

Data presented by the UAE wind atlas [15, 16] shows that the country is experiencing mean average wind speeds between 5.5 and 7.5 at 100 m height (buildings average heights) for most of the year. Wind speed in the UAE is generally below 10 m/s for most of the year. Figure 4 extracted from [16] indicates areas with potential wind farms (offshore/onshore). Maximum wind speeds are more likely to be in the southern inland areas, which have higher wind speeds. However, coastal areas are with promising wind potential.

2.3 Wind energy potential in Ajman

Two areas were selected for the Emirate of Ajman coastal and on land. The average wind speed at the coastal area shows wind speeds at different heights shown in Figure 5, data adapted from [15]. Monthly mean wind speeds are in the range of 6.5–7.5 m/s are most likely at heights higher than 100 m. Figure 6, data adapted from [15], shows the monthly mean wind speeds on land areas which shows 6.0–7.0 m/s are most likely at the buildings’ height. To model the wind’s vertical profile of the wind, the extrapolation of the speed $v(z_{10})$ measured on a level $z_{10}$ towards a level $z_2$ is written by the law of power by the expression [17, 18]:

$$v(z_2) = v(z_{10}) \left( \frac{z_2}{z_{10}} \right)^{\alpha_1}$$

(1)

where, $v(z_2)$ = wind speed at the hub height $z_2$, $v(z_{10})$ = wind speed at the original height $z_{10}$, $\alpha_1$ = surface roughness coefficient, it is determined from the following expression [19]

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{0.37 - 0.088 \ln \left(\frac{v_{10}}{10}\right)}{1 - 0.88 \ln \left(\frac{v_{10}}{10}\right)}$$

(2)

2.4 Wind powered desalination system

The operating systems and strategies proposed for water desalination are numerous and highly diverse. Three designs are available for the wind-powered desalination system [14]:

- The integration of desalination technologies and wind energy generation systems in the corresponding conventional power distribution grids;
- The use of stand-alone micro-grids where the desalination plants are connected directly to the wind energy generation systems;

Fig. 1. Residential electricity consumption per person/day – GCC [1].

only to a certain extent. Still, wind can substitute the lack of supply in the nighttime. Ajman, the smallest Emirate, could practically utilise these two sources to cover some of the energy needs. Wind energy utilisation depends on several factors. These factors are the available wind speed frequency distribution over several years, social acceptance, economic benefits, technical support, distance from the main electricity grids, and environmental impact. Matching between the site suitability and the suitable wind turbines is an important issue before installing wind turbines in any country. Several studies were done to specify the most relevant sites and showed the feasibility of implementation; for instance, see [5]. Renewable energy is able to have advantages and be environmentally friendly. For example, in areas around the west of UAE, Saleous et al. [13] have concluded that some offshore areas are unsuitable due to restricted zones (marine protected areas, oil extraction platforms, and oil pipelines in particular). However, some suitable offshore sites could be identified, especially around Delma Island and North of Jabal Barakah in the Western Region [13]. Ongoing suitability is available for many areas. Street Lighting is another application for utilising wind energy, specifically at motorways, as there is plenty of wind created by vehicle motion. A suitable system for the Emirate of Ajman consists of hybrid resource (Solar & Wind) will save a considerable amount of electricity and enhance Sustainable Emirate’s efforts.

Moreover, wind turbine technology is suitable and feasible to light the buildings and save a minimum of 10% of the buildings’ electricity demand. This can be achieved by integrating wind technology or hybrid systems (Solar/ Wind) with the newly built buildings. It will have the advantage to have the buildings moving towards sustainable buildings and be environmentally friendly.
The use of hybrid wind-diesel energy systems to power the desalination technologies. Wind-powered desalination systems are classified as in Figure 7 [14].

2.5 RO desalination system

In principle, the RO technology is a membrane-based system that applies hydraulic pressure pushing the water through a semi-permeable membrane. It has been globally used with 65% of the installed desalination plants. Figure 8 represents the installed technologies and their installed percentages [20].

Several advantages to the use of RO systems [21].
- RO can provide a wide range of production capacities, from small stand-alone installations, delivering less than 1 m³/day to large-scale plants producing over 500 000 m³/day;
- RO can handle a wide range of feed water salinity including, brackish water and seawater;
- RO plants can provide continuous and reliable operation without shutting down for extended periods;
- RO plants operate at low specific energy consumption (SEC) ranging from 2 to 4 kWh/m³.

2.6 Wind-RO desalination system

Replacing the traditional Reverse Osmoses desalination plants with a hybrid approach in renewable energy sources (wind, solar, wave etc.), will reduce the impact of conventional fossil fuel electric power resources and the associated effects on the environment. Wind – desalination system coupled with an RO technology, has a broad acceptance and is limited by [22]:
- Operability over a large power envelope;
- Robustness to feedwater variation;
– Management of multiple, often conflicting, requirements;
– In-situ monitoring of membrane degradation and compensation via operations and chemicals;
– Reduction in the cost of water for commercialisation.

As seen in Figure 9, it has been proved that as the electrical power needed for the RO plant constitutes 44% of the water cost [23], this power can be generated from renewable energy and wind could have a significant possibility for utilisation [21,24].
A wind energy conversion system’s power output contains the rotor, transmission gearbox, and output load. The turbine starts running with useful power at its cut-in wind speed reaching limited power output at the rating wind speed, and must shut down when the wind speed comes its furling value that might cause damage to the rotor blades, see Figure 10. The interrelation between the available wind speed and the wind turbine’s power output is modelled to calculate the power output related to the probability density function of Weibull distribution [25].

The coupling interface between wind energy and desalination unit is met at the place/subsystem where the power generated by wind energy is promoted to the desalination plant.

Reverse Osmosis is a pressure-driven process that separates two solutions with different concentrations across a semi-permeable membrane. It consists of four components: membranemodules, high-pressure pumps, power plants, and energy recoverydevices as needed [26]. RO requires about 3–10 kWh of electric energy per m³ of freshwater produced from seawater [27]. Eventually, production cost could be much lower in windy regions and on a more extensive implementation scale (Fig. 11) [28]. Therefore, it is safe to say that independent wind-powered desalination systems will have a bright future in the coming years.

### 3 Suitable pilot projects: practical examples

#### 3.1 Self-contained desalination plant

These systems are fast small-sized wind turbine that converts the kinetic energy extracted from the wind into electrical energy, and the resulting electricity drives a designed desalination plant according to the power output.
Wind turbines placed middle way or on top of the street lighting post can generate enough power backed with a battery system can be the perfect system. These lighting systems are either driven by a horizontal axis or vertical axis wind turbines. These turbines can capture the “wind” produced by cars’ passage and convert it into electricity. The turbine is used to power two LED lamps that guarantee the illumination of the roadway. The system is, therefore, will illuminate the road for 24 h [30,31]. Figure 14 is for the vertical axis example, and Figure 15 represents a hybrid system (Solar–Wind) using a horizontal axis wind turbine [32].

5 Building integrated wind technology for lighting purposes

The principle of considering self-powered buildings by implementing renewable energy is discussed on different occasions, energy-saving technology controlled by artificial intelligence and smart technology. It is highly recommended that the Emirate of Ajman implement the latest renewable energy systems integrated or augmented to the existing or newly built building, emphasising the use of smart technology to control and support the whole process. Main advantages were concluded in [33]:

- Meet targets of green building designers;
- Promote sustainability in the built environment;
- Minimum transmission/distribution losses;
- Accessing greater wind velocities at higher altitudes 40% increase;
- Replace the existing buildings with self-sufficient energy buildings;
- Satisfy up to 20% of the building’s energy needs;
- Present an ecological power generation in the future of the sustainable building;
- Can play a crucial role in unexpected situations delivering lacking energy;
- New wind turbines are developed quietly, with no vibration, and high-power output;
- Provide visible evidence to a building owner’s commitment to the environment and increase the building performance’s energy rating;
- Wind will complement solar PV integrated systems to sustain the energy supply for a sustainable building and reach more than 40% of the building demand.

Each building in Ajman, especially the newly built ones and the Governmental buildings, can achieve 10% of its demand, covering the building lighting. It has been shown that wind technologies are most efficient when augmented to buildings, specifically the high buildings, as the wind speeds are higher at higher heights, Figures 5 and 6. The systematic framework introduced by [34], Figure 16, can be used as guidance and a model for implementing the wind technologies in buildings [33,34]. Possible methods are shown in Figure 17.

Examples of building-mounted wind turbine with a vertical axis rotor type and building-mounted wind turbine with a horizontal axis rotor type are shown in Figures 18 and 19 [34,35].
Therefore, using renewable energy on buildings will become more profitable nowadays because of applying advanced technology and using wind energy technology to create comfort with low energy consumption. In this situation, the systems’ performance that takes energy from renewable sources and converts it into useful energy is growing [36].

To approach the sustainable environmental buildings, it is essential to set a sustainable strategy for the city and introduce a green building code guideline. However, the lack of building regulations is apparent. It needs to be revised in favourites of greenery and saving lands to allow housing developers to build on the land plot’s edge without a setback from three sides of the land [37].

6 Conclusions

Wind energy utilisation in the Emirate of Ajman – UAE was reviewed in this article considering the available wind data for two areas, offshore Monthly mean wind and the onshore regions at different heights. It is concluded that

![Wind energy converter and self-contained desalination plant installed by [29].](image)

![Basic schematic representation of the medium-scale wind-driven desalination system developed by Enercon [14].](image)
these areas are suitable for wind energy utilisation. Mean wind speed values between 6.5 m/s and 7.5 m at the buildings' height level, encouraging different types of utilisation. The paper reviews possible technologies such as seawater desalination, street lighting and buildings integration for lighting purposes. Desalination techniques were reviewed. The most applicable system is the Reverse Osmosis (RO) system driven by wind turbines supported by battery banks or solar panels to sustain its operation. The paper presented a comprehensive description of wind
desalination techniques applicable to this Emirate and provided practical examples. The article has also introduced the street Lighting as another application for utilising wind energy, specifically at motorways as there is plenty of wind created by vehicles’ motion. Suitable systems for the Emirate of Ajman that consist of hybrid resource (Solar & Wind) street lighting were discussed and practical examples of designs were presented. Buildings’ integrated wind technology has also been considered as another area for wind energy utilisation and verified for its feasibility to be implemented at this Emirate moving the building construction sector to sustainable structural

Fig. 16. Systematic framework for the efficient integration of WTs into buildings [34].

Fig. 17. Main methods of wind turbines Integrated into Buildings [34].
development. Moreover, it can be concluded that the available wind energy density at this Emirate can contribute to 20% of the Emirate’s total electricity demand. It will have the advantage to have the Emirate enhance its contribution and performance towards sustainable development goals initiated by the UAE Government.

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