Introduction & Background

- There is a perpetual deficiency of electrical energy
- Experiencing positive trend in off-grid demand for electricity
- Power banks and other charge carriers present short-term solution to such issues but do not solve problem in long run
- Efficient, reliable sources of renewable energy are key to solving issues related to energy shortages and inaccessibility
- Need for inexpensive and consistent energy source made from infinitely recyclable (sustainable) material
- Affordable, sustainably-built vertical-axis wind turbines (VAWTs) are uncommon
- Savonius VAWT configuration poses strong advantages over others due to its ease-of-use, widespread application, and low cost

Objectives & Hypothesis

- Create a proof-of-concept, portable VAWT that can produce output power sufficient to charge a mobile phone
  - Portability: able to be carried in a backpack
  - Sustainability: infinitely recyclable material
- Predicted power output ~ 5.32 W
- Expected power to be less than that produced by the comparable TexEnergy horizontal axis model

Design Approach

- Utilized TexEnergy base and generator for standard comparison in testing
- Savonius blades initially printed out of PLA filament with elliptical curvature for capturing wind
- Slotted “T” embedded for user-friendly blade insertion and removal

Testing & Results

- Data was collected so that wind speed and output voltage could be compared ultimately for power output calculations
- Voltage was tested through a circuit consisting of the turbine (power source), varying resistance, and single conducting wire

Social & Environmental Benefit Analyses

- Wind EnGen offsets carbon emissions from power required to charge mobile devices
- A single iPhone charge produces between 3g and 35g CO2, depending on grid load curve
- Enhanced efficiency and lower waste than portable batteries or car chargers
- PET filament used for production to maximize recyclability of turbine
- Allows for long-term flexibility in electricity generation when disconnected from grid
- Turbine durability and portability ensure suitability for extreme conditions
- Potential for expansion into charity sector and supply free power for underprivileged communities

Conclusions

- Product represents original model for proof-of-concept prototype geared towards sustainability and portability
- Turbine parts are low-cost and easily 3D-printable with recyclable materials (e.g. PLA and the more sustainable PET filaments)
- Results of testing process were lower than anticipated → Refine design:
  1) reduce diameter of overall turbine
  2) add “caps” to reduce wind escapage

Business Plan & Target Market

- Target audience consists of mostly backpackers and off-grid populace aged 20 - 29
- Wind EnGen production costs projected to fall from prototype levels of $155 to ~$62 wholesale
- Distribution through partner tech and travel stores like Dick’s, Camping World, or REI
- Marketing through renewable energy fairs and conferences

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