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Design and Development of a Mini Wind Turbine Intergrated with an Alternator for Charging a Car

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Abstract

This project focuses on the Design and Development of a Mini Wind Turbine Integrated with an Alternator for Charging a Car Battery. Wind energy offers a significant alternative to fossil fuels, and small-scale wind turbines have the potential to contribute to localized energy generation.

The system is designed to operate efficiently under low wind speed conditions, making it suitable for regions with moderate wind resources. The key components of the

system include the wind turbine blades, rotor, alternator, charge controller, rectification system, and a 12V car battery. The wind turbine is responsible for converting wind energy into mechanical energy, which is then transformed into electrical energy by the alternator.

This project demonstrates the feasibility of integrating a small-scale wind turbine with an alternator for renewable energy applications, specifically for charging car batteries.

Keywords: Alternator, Car Battery Charging, Charge Controller, Low Wind Speed, Mini Wind Turbine, Renewable Energy, Small-scale Power Generation.

1. Introduction and Background

Wind energy is one of the most promising forms of renewable energy, harnessing the kinetic energy of wind to generate electricity. As a clean and sustainable energy source, wind energy plays a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and decreasing reliance on fossil fuels. The basic principle behind wind energy involves converting the wind's kinetic energy into mechanical energy using wind turbines, which then drives a generator to produce electrical power. The efficiency of wind energy systems is influenced by various factors, including wind speed, turbine design, and geographic location. Modern wind turbines are designed with advanced aerodynamics and materials to maximize efficiency and durability. They are typically installed in areas with consistent and strong wind patterns to ensure optimal performance. Recent advancements in wind technology have focused on increasing turbine size, improving energy conversion rates, and reducing costs. Additionally, there is ongoing research into integrating wind energy with other renewable sources and energy storage systems to create more reliable and stable energy supplies. Wind energy offers several advantages, including low operating costs, scalability, and minimal environmental impact compared to conventional energy sources. However, challenges such as intermittency and the need for appropriate siting continue to be areas of active research and development Nicolle, J. (2019) ^[1].

Mini wind turbines, also known as small wind turbines, are designed to harness wind energy for small-scale applications. These turbines are typically used in residential areas, small businesses, and remote locations where access to grid electricity is either limited or expensive. Unlike large wind turbines used in wind farms, mini wind turbines are converted into direct current (DC) for charging the car battery. Alternators consist of three main components: A rotor (which spins to generate a magnetic field), a stator (a stationary coil of wire where electricity is generated), and a rectifier (which converts AC into DC). According to Smith (2018), alternators are widely adopted in modern vehicles due to their ability to provide a continuous supply of electrical power, even at low engine speeds. This ensures that vital vehicle systems, such as the lighting, ignition, and audio systems, remain functional regardless of the engine's performance. Additionally, advances in alternator technology have led to more efficient designs that reduce energy losses and improve overall vehicle efficiency.

Car batteries play a critical role in providing the electrical energy necessary to start the engine, power vehicle electronics, and stabilize voltage. Traditionally, car batteries are recharged by an alternator while the vehicle's engine is running, converting mechanical energy into electrical energy to restore the battery's charge. However, in recent years, alternative methods, such as renewable energy sources, have gained prominence, especially for off-grid or sustainable applications. A growing concern in modern energy systems is the ability to provide reliable, clean energy for charging vehicle batteries, especially in remote or off-grid environments where traditional electricity access is limited. Renewable solutions such as wind turbines present a viable alternative to conventional fossil fuel-based energy systems. According to Chanda (2019), the integration of small-scale renewable energy technologies, like wind turbines, into automotive systems can provide a sustainable way to maintain battery charge, extending the operational time of the vehicle's electrical system without reliance on fossil fuels. The integration of a mini wind turbine with an alternator presents a unique opportunity for on-demand energy generation. The alternator's role in converting the rotational mechanical energy from the wind turbine into electrical energy can provide continuous battery charging, even when the vehicle is stationary, thus reducing dependence on traditional energy sources (Chanda, 2019).

1.1 Statement of the problem

The reliance on traditional energy sources for vehicle battery charging presents several challenges, especially in remote areas and regions with limited access to grid electricity. As the global demand for sustainable energy solutions increases, there is an urgent need for alternative and renewable methods to charge car batteries efficiently and affordably. Conventional charging methods often require access to electrical infrastructure, which can be costly and inaccessible, particularly in rural or off-grid locations. The increasing number of electric and hybrid vehicles highlights the necessity for eco-friendly energy solutions. However, the current market lacks a widely available, portable, and efficient system that can utilize renewable energy sources, such as wind, to charge car batteries. The problem this project seeks to address is the lack of a practical, small-scale wind energy solution that can provide reliable power for charging car batteries in areas where conventional energy sources are unavailable or unreliable. Developing a mini wind turbine integrated with an alternator offers a promising solution by harnessing wind energy to generate the necessary electrical power for automotive battery charging. This system aims to reduce dependency on grid power, lower energy costs, and promote the use of renewable energy in the automotive industry.

1.2 General objective

To design and develop a mini wind turbine integrated with an alternator to provide an efficient, renewable energy solution for charging car batteries.

1.3 Specific objectives

1. To design the wind turbine blades and rotor for optimal performance.
2. To develop a rectification system for converting AC to DC for battery charging.
3. To test and evaluate the system's performance under various wind conditions.

1.4 Research questions

1. What are the optimal design parameters for a mini wind turbine to charge a car battery effectively?
2. How does the alternator's performance impact the overall efficiency of the system?
3. What are the challenges and limitations of using a small-scale wind turbine in different wind conditions?

1.5 Significance of the Study

"Design and Development of a Mini Wind Turbine Integrated with an Alternator for Charging a Car Battery" holds significant value by advancing the practical application of renewable wind energy in small-scale systems. It offers a cost-effective, environmentally friendly solution for charging car batteries in remote or off-grid areas, thereby enhancing energy accessibility and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. This innovation not only supports sustainable development and environmental impact reduction but also contributes to educational and research fields by providing valuable insights into integrating renewable energy with automotive technology. Moreover, the potential for commercialization and practical application in emergency situations underscores its broader impact on both technological advancement and sustainable transportation.

1.6 Scope of the study

"Design and Development of a Mini Wind Turbine Integrated with an Alternator for Charging a Car Battery" focuses on the design and integration of a mini wind turbine with an alternator to convert wind energy into electrical power suitable for charging car batteries. It covers the development of the turbine and alternator system, including the mechanical and electrical integration, power conversion using a AC/DC converter and DC/DC converter, and energy storage in the car battery. The research also addresses the performance testing of the system under various wind conditions, evaluates its practicality for use in regions with adequate wind resources, and considers the economic implications of the system, excluding large-scale turbines and alternative energy sources.

2. Literature Review

The efficiency of a wind turbine is heavily reliant on the design of its blades and rotor, which serve as the primary components for capturing wind energy. Manwell *et al.* (2018)^[5] highlighted that the aerodynamic design of turbine blades, including their shape, size, and angle, significantly affects the conversion of wind energy into mechanical energy. Innovations in blade design focus on optimizing the lift-to-drag ratio, thereby enhancing the turbine's power output. For small-scale wind turbines, lightweight materials like fiberglass and carbon Fiber are often employed to achieve both durability and optimal performance (Hau, 2019)^[3]. Moreover, the rotor design must be compatible with the blades to ensure smooth rotation, particularly at low wind speeds.

To refine the design process, computational tools like CAD and airflow simulation software are widely used. Sahin *et al.* (2020)^[7] explored the use of simulation techniques to model airflow around turbine blades, enabling designers to customize blade profiles for specific wind conditions. This approach allows for the identification of optimal blade geometries that maximize energy capture, especially in

environments where wind speed and direction fluctuate. The findings from these studies indicate that meticulous design of both blades and rotor is crucial for achieving high-efficiency energy conversion in small-scale wind turbines.

Wind turbines typically use alternators to generate alternating current (AC), which must be converted into direct current (DC) for effective battery charging. The development of efficient rectification systems has been a key area of research in this field. Chen and Yang (2018) [2] demonstrated that bridge rectifiers are widely adopted due to their simplicity and cost-effectiveness for small-scale wind turbines. However, power losses during the conversion process can impact overall system efficiency.

To address these losses, modern systems incorporate Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) algorithms to maximize power extraction from varying wind conditions (Mouli *et al.*, 2019) [6]. MPPT adjusts the load on the wind turbine to operate at its optimal power point, thereby improving the performance of the rectification system. Furthermore, Sharma *et al.* (2020) [8] emphasized the importance of stable DC output for the battery charging process. Their study showed that an optimized rectification system not only enhances charging efficiency but also prolongs battery life by providing consistent voltage and current levels.

Evaluating the performance of a wind turbine under different wind conditions is essential to validate its design and operational reliability. Khan *et al.* (2019) [4] investigated how small-scale wind turbines adapt to variable wind speeds to maintain power output. Key operational parameters, such as cut-in speed, rated speed, and cut-out speed, were identified as critical factors influencing the turbine's efficiency. The study found that turbines designed to operate efficiently over a wide range of wind speeds tend to have better overall performance.

In addition to field testing, simulation tools have proven invaluable in analysing turbine behaviour under diverse environmental conditions. Zhang and Wei (2020) [10] conducted performance tests that involved monitoring rotor speed, power output, and battery charging rates. Their research underscored the importance of testing turbines in real-world scenarios to identify design improvements and operational limitations. Similarly, Singh *et al.* (2018) [9] used MATLAB/Simulink for simulating wind turbine performance, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of system responses to varying wind patterns. These studies collectively emphasize the necessity of robust performance evaluation to ensure that small-scale wind turbines are reliable and effective for energy generation and storage.

3. Methodology

The baseline study for the Design and Development of a Mini Wind Turbine Integrated with an Alternator for Charging a Car Battery involves an assessment of existing small-scale wind turbine technologies, environmental conditions, and automotive battery charging requirements. Current small-scale wind turbines are designed to operate effectively at low wind speeds (typically 3-12 m/s) and often use permanent magnet alternators for efficient power

generation. However, integrating these systems with car batteries introduces challenges related to voltage regulation and power stability. This study reviews various alternator and rectification systems, such as bridge rectifiers, to identify components that offer stable DC output suitable for automotive applications.

Environmental conditions, specifically wind speed and direction, are critical factors that influence the turbine's design and performance. The baseline study includes a detailed analysis of wind patterns in the intended deployment location to ensure the turbine's blade and rotor design is optimized for local wind conditions. Additionally, the study explores the car battery charging requirements, including voltage, current, and charging time, to tailor the turbine's electrical output to match the specifications of automotive batteries (e.g., 12V or 24V). It also considers different battery types, such as lead-acid and lithium-ion, to ensure safe and effective charging.

The study examines market needs and user requirements, focusing on off-grid and renewable energy applications. The increasing demand for sustainable energy solutions in remote and urban areas highlights the potential market for mini wind turbine systems designed for battery charging. By understanding these requirements, the study aims to guide the project's design and development process to create a cost-effective and efficient wind turbine system that meets the energy demands of car battery users.

3.1 Data Collection

Table 1: Data Collection

Data Parameter	Measurement Tool	Expected Range	Unit	Purpose
Wind Speed	Anemometer	3 - 12	m/s	Optimize blade design and energy capture.
Wind Direction	Wind Vane	0 - 360	Degrees	Determine turbine alignment for max efficiency.
Rotor Speed (RPM)	Tachometer	50 - 500	RPM	Assess turbine-alternator performance.
Alternator Output Voltage	Voltmeter	12 - 24	Volts (V)	Check compatibility with battery charging.
Alternator Output Current	Ammeter	0 - 10	Amperes (A)	Measure power output for charging capacity.
AC to DC Conversion Efficiency	Power Analyzer	80 - 95	Percentage (%)	Evaluate rectification system performance.
Battery Voltage (during charging)	Multimeter	12 - 14.8	Volts (V)	Ensure safe charging voltage levels.
Battery Charging Current	Ammeter	0 - 10	Amperes (A)	Monitor charging rate and optimize power flow.
Charging Time	Timer	4 - 8	Hours	Evaluate system charging efficiency.
Power Output (Alternator)	Power Meter	50 - 300	Watts (W)	Assess overall energy production of turbine.
Turbine Height	Measuring Tape	2 - 5	Meters (m)	Determine optimal installation height.

3.2 Research Approach Flowchart

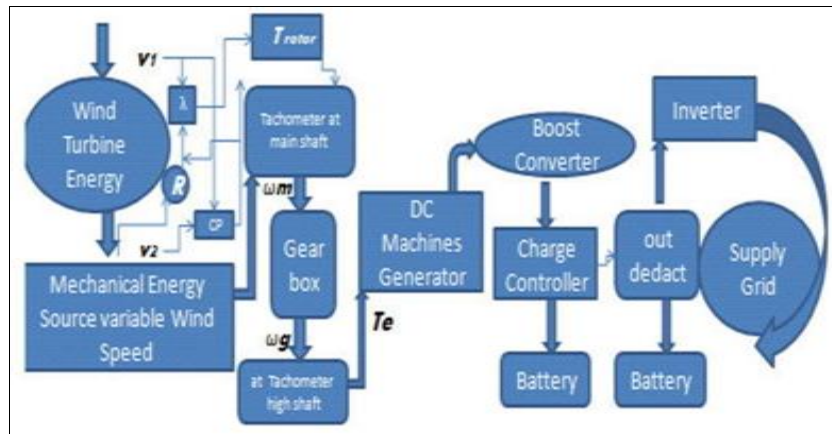


Fig 1: Flowchart

Circuit Design

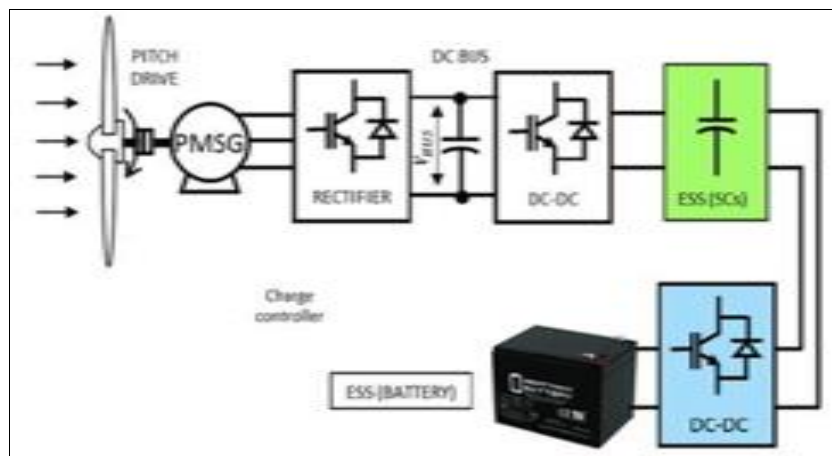


Fig 2: Block Diagram

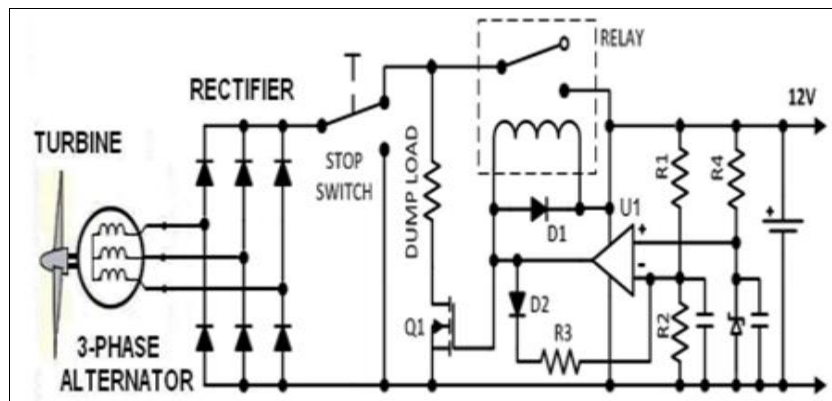


Fig 3: Circuit diagram

Mathematical modelling

Wind Turbine Calculation:

Wind Turbine output = $\rho AV3Cp$

where,

ρ – Air density (1.23 kg/m³)

A – Area of sweep (m²)

V – Wind speed (m/s)

Cp – Coefficient of performance (max value 0.59)

For PVC Blade which has a length of 0.205m:

ρ – 1.23 kg/m³

A – πr^2 (r= 0.205m)

V – 12 m/s

Cp – 0.4

Calculations for PVC Blade

$Pm = \rho AV3Cp$

= $\times 1.23 \times \pi r^2 \times (123) \times 0.4$

= $\times 1.23 \times 3.14(0.2052) \times (123) \times 0.4$

= $\times 1.23 \times 3.14(0.0420) \times (1728) \times 0.4$

= $\times 1.23 \times 0.1319 \times (1728) \times 0.4$

$Pm = 56.7 W$

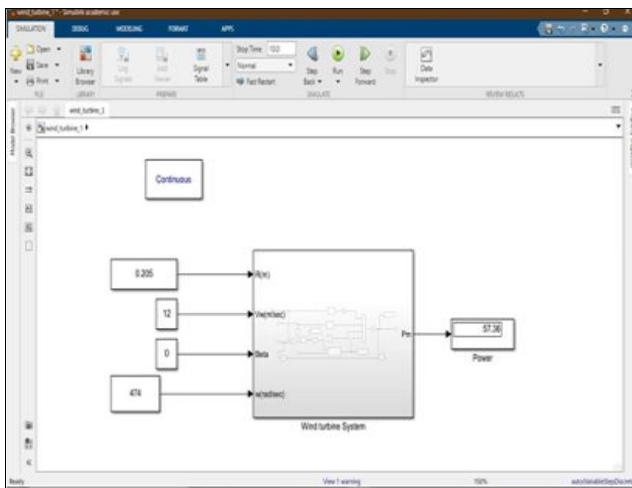


Fig 4: MATLAB modelling of PVC Blade

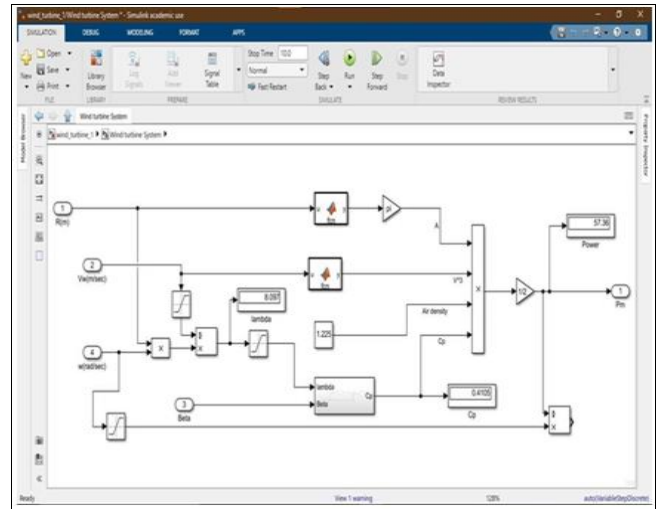


Fig 5: Inside the Wind turbine block of PVC Blade

4. Results and Discussion

System Testing and Analysis

Two different experimental setups. The first one was for calculating angular velocity of the shaft connecting to the alternator pulley and the second one was for calculating the values of the voltage and current. We did the first setup by using a pick- up car and three of us were at the cargo two are holding the system and one are measuring angular velocity by using tachometer. The tachometer has a leaser and it was directed to the pulley and we put the sticker at the pulley, so the tachometer can read the speed of the pulley.

Specifications:

- Non-Contact Measurement: 50 to 9999RPM $\pm(0.03\%+2)$
- Measuring Distance: 50 mm to 250 mm
- Auto Power Off: 30S
- MAX/MIN/AVG Functions: yes
- m/min m/sec ft/min ft/Sec in/min unit selection: Yes
- Data Hold: Yes
- Display Back light: Yes
- Low Battery indication: Yes
- Power Supply 4x1.5AAA Battery (Not Included)
- Package size: 19 * 11 * 6cm / 7.6 * 4.4 * 2.4in
- Package weight: 288g / 9.6 oz

In the second setup, insert a belt around the pulley of the alternator connecting with a fixed motor. The purpose of this setup is to calculate the voltage and current by using voltmeter and the belt helps the process in terms of high torque. The voltmeter has two sensors one is for positive with red colour and the second is negative with black colour. We put these sensors to the head of the cables which have metallic fixtures.

Specifications:

- Display: 4000 counts
- Range selection: Auto and manual ranges
- Over display: "O.L" is displayed(except AC/DC 600V ranges)

- Polarity: Automatic selection (only "-" is displayed)
- Battery low warning: Battery mark lights when the internal battery's power is below approx. 2.4V
- Sampling rate: 2 times / sec
- Operating temperature / humidity: 5 40°C / 5 31°C, 80%RH(Max)
- Storage temperature / humidity: -10°C 50°C, below 70%RH No condensation
- Environmental condition: Altitude 2000m or below, pollution degree II
- Power consumption: 7mW at DCV
- Continuous use time: About 150 hours at DCV
- Bandwidth: 40400Hz
- Fuse / Battery: 0.5A/250V 1.5kA ϕ 5.2x20mm / R6P x 2
- Size / Mass: H176 x W104 x D46mm / 340g
- Standard accessories included: Hand strap.

Table 2: Testing Parameters

Testing Parameters	Objective
Tachometer	To measure the angular velocity RPM
Voltmeter	To measure the voltages and currents
Belt	To give the pulley high torque
Motor	To rotate the belt

B. Results

Table 3: Results

Wind Velocity (km/hr)	Voltage (V)	Current (A)	Electrical Power (W)	Wind Power (W)	Coefficient of Power (%)
60	14.63	10.04	146.8852	1000.97	14.67428594
80	29.76	15.42	458.8992	2390.86	19.19389676
100	64.52	19.32	1246.5264	4690.15	26.57753803
120	90.22	27.79	2507.2138	7764.36	32.29131313

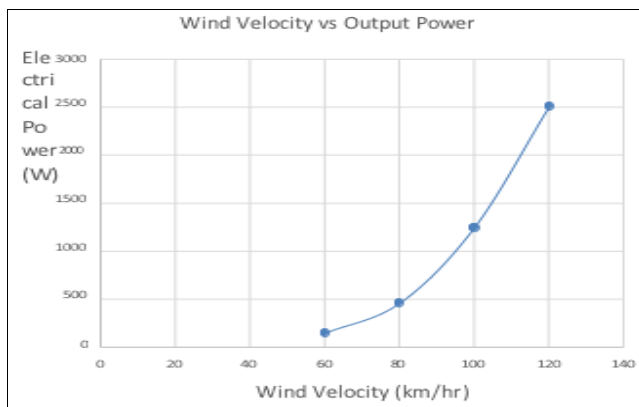


Fig 6: Graph of wind velocity versus electrical power

Coefficient of Power (%)

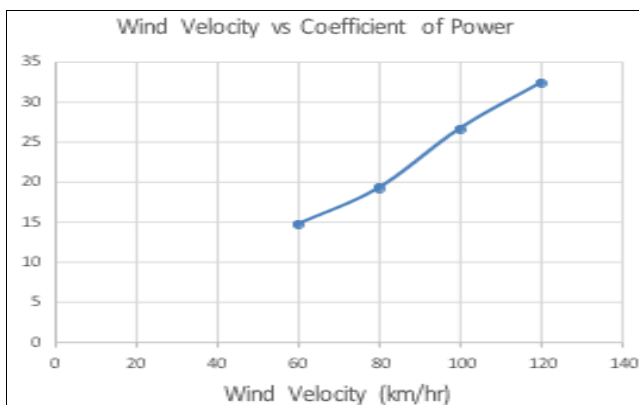


Fig 7: Graph of wind velocity versus coefficient of power

5. Conclusion

A. Conclusion

The design and development of a mini wind turbine integrated with an alternator for charging a car battery demonstrate a valuable intersection between renewable energy and portable power solutions. This project underscores the feasibility of using wind energy in small-scale applications, contributing to sustainable practices in vehicle power systems. By exploring the integration of mechanical and electrical components, such as optimized rotor blades and efficient alternators, the project provides insights into how renewable energy sources can be adapted to meet specific, localized needs. This approach not only promotes environmental conservation but also introduces an alternative energy solution for remote and off-grid areas.

Despite its potential, this project also reveals several limitations that need to be addressed. One of the primary challenges is the dependency on wind speed, which can significantly affect the turbine's energy output. The intermittent and site-specific nature of wind poses practical constraints on consistent energy generation, which must be considered when implementing this solution in different environments. Furthermore, the miniaturization of the turbine system leads to efficiency trade-offs, as smaller turbines generally produce less power compared to larger, utility-scale systems. Therefore, striking a balance between compactness and energy efficiency remains a key area for further research and development.

From a technical perspective, integrating the wind turbine with an alternator to charge various types of car batteries requires careful design and regulation. Ensuring that the system can safely and efficiently charge batteries without causing overcharging or damage adds complexity to the overall design. The development of reliable power control mechanisms is crucial for the system's performance and safety. Addressing these technical hurdles is essential for creating a universally adaptable charging solution that meets the varying requirements of different battery technologies, further expanding the applicability of wind-powered charging systems.

This project also brings attention to the ethical and practical implications of implementing renewable energy technologies on a smaller scale. Environmental impact, safety considerations, accessibility, and affordability are critical factors that shape the design and deployment of the mini wind turbine. By taking these aspects into account, this project emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to developing sustainable energy systems. In doing so, it advocates for continued stakeholder engagement, community involvement, and adherence to safety and environmental standards to create solutions that are both effective and socially responsible.

In conclusion, the design and development of a mini wind turbine for charging car batteries highlight the innovative possibilities of using renewable energy for portable power applications. While there are technical and environmental challenges to overcome, this study sets the groundwork for further exploration into small-scale wind energy systems. Continued research into optimizing turbine efficiency, enhancing power regulation, and mitigating environmental and social impacts will be necessary to fully realize the potential of this technology. Ultimately, the success of such projects could contribute significantly to the transition toward sustainable transportation, offering an

environmentally friendly alternative to traditional power sources.

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