

# WEEKLY ENGLISH PRACTICE

## How One Company is Beautifying the Wind Turbine

Flowers could help harness the power of the wind after a green energy company came up with its own **spin** on wind power in an “eco-art” design.

[Flower Turbines](#), based in the US and the Netherlands, has installations across Rotterdam, Amsterdam, in parts of Germany, Israel and Colombia. The company aims to democratise green energy for everyone and make small **wind farms** a leading player in the green energy industry.

The turbines pose no danger to birds and other wildlife, particularly in urban settings, the company claims, and they create noise at a low frequency undetectable to humans.

Opponents of **wind farms** often cite noise concerns along with aesthetic complaints. Dr Daniel Farb, the CEO of Flower Turbines, hopes to have solved this problem with an “eco-art” design.

“Big turbines are very efficient, but for some people they’re an **eyesore**,” he said. “They definitely produce noise, **flicker** and some degree of environmental degradation. I was looking for a way to solve these problems, to make wind energy available for everybody.

“I felt that there had to be a missing solution that would work for the combination of houses, large buildings, the environment – close to people. In other words, how could you make something that could be quiet but also efficient?”

The company has also looked into expanding into e-mobility, creating wind- and solar-powered electric bicycle charging stations.

Roy Osinga, the European director of Flower Turbines, said: “Our product – compared to big **windmills** – is silent, and good-looking, which makes it very successful for building in cities, because nobody wants to live next to a turbine which is up to 200 metres high making a lot of noise.

“Solar power doesn’t perform that well at night, or during the winter. The turbines that we are delivering are a good **match** with solar energy, because wind and solar have natural opposite panel patterns when they produce energy.

“We are not a competitor or an alternative for the big energy companies. We are a solution provider for companies and corporations that really want to pivot their business towards sustainability.” *Turn to page 2* 🗨️ 🗨️

10/06/21 / **Keyword: wind turbine**

**Are wind turbines too big and ugly? Tulip-shaped ‘eco-art’ turbines try to address common complaints about noise, danger to wildlife and ugliness.**

<https://flowerturbines.com>



*Could this soon become a familiar sight in our cities?*

### Useful vocabulary

**spin:** the presentation of information in a favourable way

**wind farm:** land with energy producing wind turbines

**eyesore:** a thing that is very ugly

**flicker:** a change in brightness

**windmill:** a building using wind to generate electricity

**match:** something that corresponds to another thing

**quirky:** having peculiar aspects

**(at the) forefront:** (in) the leading position or place

**to harness:** to control and make use of natural resources

**sweeping:** extending in a long, continuous curve

### Let’s chat about that!

1. Do you think that wind turbines are ugly and/or spoil the countryside? Why (not)?
2. Would it be better if they had different, quirky shapes?
3. What is your preferred method of renewable energy (see page 2)? Tell us why.
4. Where is it better to locate wind farms - on land or at sea? Why?
5. What else could be done to improve these wind turbines?

# LIVE! English Events

Come and socialise in English!



## Cinema Nights

Friday 25th June at 18:15

Send a WhatsApp to John on **657731354**

## COFFEE SATURDAYS

A big thanks to everyone who came to all our Coffee Saturdays this year! We'll be back in October!



## Types of Renewable Energy

### Wind Power

Large wind turbines generate electricity from the power of the wind.

### Solar Energy

The rays from the sun can help to heat a building or a pool. They can also be turned into electricity using solar cells.

### Hydropower

Water from a dam or a river can be used to spin turbines and generate electricity.

### Wave and Tidal Power

This new technology is working on ways to harness the vast power of the ocean's waves and tides.

### Geothermal Energy

Heat from inside the Earth can be used to heat homes and buildings with heat pumps. Steam from inside the Earth can also be used to generate electricity.

### Biomass Energy

Plants gather energy from the sun by photosynthesis. We can harness this energy by burning plants such as trees as well as creating fuel from plants such as ethanol and biodiesel. Even gas from trash and manure can be used to create energy.

Read more at: [https://www.ducksters.com/science/environment/renewable\\_energy.php](https://www.ducksters.com/science/environment/renewable_energy.php)

**Quirky** wind turbines have been at the **forefront** of wind power.

Vortex Bladeless, a turbine that can **harness** energy from winds without the **sweeping** white blades synonymous with wind power, went viral on Reddit in March where the turbine was likened to a giant vibrating sex toy, or "[skybrator](#)".

Another company, Alpha 311, which began in a garden shed in Whitstable, Kent, has begun manufacturing a small vertical wind turbine that it claims can generate electricity without wind.

Europe is working towards becoming climate-neutral by 2050, after member states and the UK parliament agreed on the necessary targets ahead of a virtual climate summit hosted by Joe Biden.

*Adapted by Darren Kez Kurien from [www.guardian.com](http://www.guardian.com)*

Follow ECP on  
[Instagram](#), [Facebook](#),  
[YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#)

