Chapter 12
Innovations in Offshore and Floating Wind Turbines

Siddharthsingh Chauhan
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2216-616X
Nirma University, India

Vineeta Chauhan
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6147-3755
Indus University, India

ABSTRACT

Wind energy plays a crucial role in global decarbonization,with continuous innovations enhancing turbine efficiency, grid integration and energy storage. Modern turbine technologies larger rotors, lightweight composite materials and floating offshore platform have increased energy capture especially in low areas. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are revolutionizing wind farm operations by optimizing power output and enabling predictive maintenance thus reducing operational costs and downtime.I.Smart grids with real-time monitoring and energy balancing capabilities are essential for reliable integration. Hybrid energy systems that combine wind with solar and storage technologies are emerging as effective solutions-furthermore, innovations in energy storage particularly advanced battery systems and green hydrogen are key to ensuring energy availability during periods of low wind.This chapter explores these transformative developments, emphasizing their potential to make wind energy more reliable, efficient and central to achieving global renewable energy and climate goals.

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INTRODUCTION TO WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS

Wind energy systems are central to the global effort to transition towards sustainable energy, combat climate change, and achieve a carbon-neutral future. As an inexhaustible and clean energy source, wind power has become a cornerstone of renewable energy strategies worldwide. This introduction provides an in-depth exploration of the critical advancements, challenges, and prospects of wind energy systems, with a particular focus on their role in efficiency improvements, smart grid integration, and shaping future renewable power networks. Wind energy is pivotal in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by replacing fossil fuel-based electricity generation. Its minimal environmental impact and scalability make it an essential part of achieving the targets outlined in global agreements like the Paris Agreement. The deployment of wind energy systems has accelerated in recent decades, driven by technological advancements and policy incentives (Akhter, M. Z., & Omar, F. K. 2021). These systems now account for a significant share of renewable energy capacity worldwide, with onshore and offshore wind farms contributing to clean energy grids.

Overview of Wind Energy's Role in Global Decarbonization

Wind energy is a cornerstone of the global transition to renewable energy, playing a pivotal role in reducing carbon emissions and addressing climate change (Adeyeye, K., Ijumba, N., & Colton, J. 2020). As one of the fastest-growing sources of renewable energy, wind power harnesses the kinetic energy of wind to generate electricity, offering a clean, sustainable, and abundant energy source.

Key Benefits in Decarbonization

Wind energy produces no direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during operation, making it a critical tool for reducing the carbon footprint of electricity generation. By replacing fossil fuel-based energy sources, wind power significantly contributes to lowering global emissions.

Global Deployment Trends

Wind energy capacity has seen exponential growth, with countries like China, the United States, Germany, and India leading installations. Offshore wind projects are becoming increasingly important, expanding wind energy’s potential by tapping into higher and more consistent wind speeds over oceans.