

SINGLE- AND HYBRID RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS: REVIEW AND ECONOMICAL EVALUATION

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Abstract

Energy (conventional as well as non-conventional) is the fuel for a growing world in addition to being the standards, since it is an essential requirement for socio-economic development. Renewable energies entail potential that contributes to the strengthening and development of sustainable energy infrastructure in many areas around the world. A hybrid renewable energy system is one of the most promising applications of renewable technologies, especially in remote areas where grid extension cost would be prohibitive and the cost of fossil fuels would be enormously high.

To determine inherent problems in combining different renewable energy sources in a hybrid system, four applied technologies (wind energy, solar energy, biomass energy and hydropower) were briefly introduced in the present paper. Special issues are common to the use of the above-mentioned technologies in hybrid systems (for example, air conditioners, generators and energy storage units). The overall objective here is to identify the availability of commercial hybrid renewable energy systems. In this respect, the paper presents a detailed review on the subject. Also, as a preliminary step in a detailed feasibility study, single and hybrid systems were evaluated economically.