



# Wind power does not generate electricity in winter

Can wind turbines work in cold weather?

No: with proper preparation, wind turbines can work in extreme cold temperatures and in snow and ice. Updated January 8, 2024 Wind projects are generating electricity today in a wide variety of locations and environments, including cold climates like Finland and Sweden and extreme environments like the cold waters of the North Sea.

Can wind power be used in cold climates?

We use these technologies here in the U.S., too. They're why the Great Plains, the Upper Midwest and New England can make use of wind energy year-round. In fact, data show that wind turbines actually produce more energy in these regions in the winter. So in general, we can safely rely on weatherized wind power in cold climates.

Can wind turbines survive winter?

But winter also comes with a problem: freezing weather. Even light icing can produce enough surface roughness on wind turbine blades to reduce their aerodynamic efficiency, which reduces the amount of power they can produce.

Can a wind turbine fail if it's cold?

Technically, this means wind turbines may fail if temperatures fall to extremely cold weather -- even with proper warming equipment installed. But this doesn't appear to be the case in Texas, where temperatures fell to 4°F on Monday -- with a wind-chill plummeting to -16°F.

How cold does a wind turbine work?

Wind turbines in these environments are outfitted to cope with snow, ice, and extreme cold. International design standards actually require that wind turbines can work at temperatures down to -4°F Fahrenheit.

Can a cold weather package keep wind turbines from failing?

Even with the wind chill, installing "cold weather packages" could keep wind turbines from failing, should the state experience record lows again. However, wind turbines face other perils in extremely cold weather, besides a need for internal heating.

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