

GLOSSARY



CAPACITY (MW)

The ability to generate electricity is measured in watts. To describe the capacity of wind turbine or other power plants, the terms kilowatt (kW = 1,000 watts), megawatt (MW = 1 million watts), and gigawatt (GW = 1 billion watts) are most commonly used.



ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION (MWh)

Electricity production and consumption are measured in kilowatt (1,000 watts) hours per hour (kWh). One 50 watt light bulb left on for 20 hours consumes one kilowatt-hour of electricity.



CAPACITY FACTOR

A modern wind turbine is available to produce electricity 80-98% of the time, but it generates different outputs depending on the wind speed. During one year, it will typically generate about 24% of the theoretical maximum output (41% offshore), which is the capacity factor (conventional power stations: 50-80%). More comparable with other sources of electricity is the overall efficiency, the relationship between the energy input (the wind) and the energy output (the electricity). The efficiency of a wind turbine has a theoretical limit of 59% (compared to coal with about 35% and gas with about 50%).