



# Vertical access wind turbine

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This type of wind turbine was created to expand and enhance power generation. That is the process of using different types of technology for electricity production. What sets apart VAWTs from other wind turbines is their ability to use wind from different directions.

The main rotor shaft of a VAWT is pointed vertically. Because of this, the turbine doesn't need to be pointed toward the wind to work. This was a great discovery because VAWTs can generate power even in unstable weather conditions.

If you're interested in the wind turbine industry, it's beneficial to have an understanding of the different types of wind turbines. At Universal Technical Institute (UTI), we offer a 30-week Wind Turbine Technician program that can help you gain the knowledge and skills needed to service and install wind turbine technology.<sup>1</sup>

What are the biggest differences between VAWTs and horizontal axis wind turbines (HAWTs)? It is their design. This highly affects the types of environments and conditions they thrive in.

HAWTs are the most common types of wind turbine as they are proven to be reliable and perform well. However, they are difficult to service because the gearbox and generator are located at the top of the tower. Typically, in order to service HAWTs, cranes are needed for repairs and installations.

From the 1920s to the 1930s, the VAWT was being developed and in the process of being commercialized. As progress was made, two types of vertical axis wind turbines were created.

The Savonius design doesn't have the same power coefficient as other models. This means that the power it takes to convert the wind into electricity isn't as efficient. However, the Savonius turbine is the most cost-effective, has low noise, and is the easiest to build and maintain.

The Darrieus vertical axis wind turbine is the type of VAWT that looks more like an eggbeater. It has two or three thin, curved blades, depending on the model. This type of VAWT relies on the air pressure to create a life force, which is what causes it to rotate.

The Darrieus model has more power coefficient as it is able to maintain a good torque speed. That allows it to generate more power than the Savonius design. A downside to this model is that it isn't self-starting.

Wind turbines are used to provide electricity for all kinds of areas, like neighborhoods, business districts and farmland. Wind energy technicians are needed to service VAWTs to inspect and maintain the turbines to make sure they work efficiently.

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Taking wind turbine courses could benefit anyone who is interested in training for a career in the wind technology industry. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), wind techs typically have attended technical schools to earn a postsecondary certificate in wind energy technology.

Similar to any industry, other industries, wind technician training program graduates are prepared for entry-level roles. Over time, technicians may be able to advance their careers with experience and hard work.<sup>77</sup> Jobs include:

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