IJARSCT
International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Communication and Technology
International Open-Access, Double-Blind, Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Multidisciplinary Online Journal
ISSN: 2581-9429
Volume 5, Issue 5, May 2025
Impact Factor: 7.67

Automatic Street Light Using Green Energy

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Abstract: *The Automatic Street Light Using Green Energy system is an innovative, eco-friendly solution designed to harness renewable wind energy to power street lighting, thereby reducing dependency on traditional grid electricity and minimizing environmental impact. This system operates autonomously and integrates several key components, including a wind turbine (connected to a DC motor for electricity generation), a battery for energy storage, a DC-to-DC converter for voltage regulation, LEDs for efficient lighting, and a Light Dependent Resistor (LDR) for automatic switching based on ambient light levels. As wind turns the turbine blades, the DC motor converts the mechanical energy into electrical energy, which is then stabilized by the converter and stored in the battery. The stored energy powers the LEDs during low-wind periods or at night, ensuring continuous illumination. The LDR enables automatic operation by detecting day/night conditions and switching the lights on or off accordingly. This system not only offers a cost-effective and sustainable alternative to conventional street lighting but also contributes significantly to energy conservation and carbon footprint reduction. Designed for low maintenance and long operational life, it serves as a practical and scalable solution for municipalities aiming to implement green infrastructure in urban and rural environments.*

Keywords: Wind energy, Automatic street light, Renewable energy, Light Dependent Resistor (LDR), Energy-efficient lighting

I. INTRODUCTION

Urban infrastructure has undergone significant transformations in recent years due to the growing emphasis on sustainability and environmental conservation. Street lighting, an essential component of public infrastructure, contributes substantially to electricity consumption in urban and rural settings alike. Traditional street lighting systems are powered primarily through the electrical grid, relying on non-renewable energy sources such as coal and gas. These systems are not only costly to operate and maintain but also contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation [1][2]. As the world moves toward greener solutions, integrating renewable energy into lighting systems is becoming a practical and necessary approach to ensure sustainable development [3].

Wind energy has emerged as a promising and increasingly viable source of renewable power. Unlike fossil fuels, wind power is clean, abundant, and capable of being harvested in both urban and rural environments [4][5]. In the context of street lighting, using wind energy to generate electricity addresses multiple challenges simultaneously—reducing operational costs, minimizing reliance on grid power, and decreasing the environmental footprint of lighting systems. Recent advancements in small-scale wind turbines and energy storage systems have made the deployment of wind-powered lighting systems not only feasible but also cost-effective over the long term [6][7].

The concept of an automatic street light system using wind energy integrates multiple technologies to form a cohesive and intelligent solution. This system typically includes a wind turbine connected to a DC generator, which converts mechanical wind energy into electrical energy. This energy is then regulated using a DC-DC converter and stored in batteries for later use. LEDs serve as the light source due to their energy efficiency, longevity, and low maintenance requirements. The entire system is governed by sensors—most notably Light Dependent Resistors (LDRs)—which automatically switch the lights on or off depending on ambient light levels, ensuring that energy is consumed only when needed [8][9].

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Moreover, automation in such systems plays a crucial role in increasing efficiency and reliability. The use of sensors not only optimizes energy usage but also eliminates the need for manual operation and constant human supervision. This makes the system particularly suitable for remote or underdeveloped areas where conventional grid-based infrastructure is either unavailable or unreliable. In addition, integrating microcontrollers and simple embedded systems allows for advanced power management, battery health monitoring, and even real-time data logging for maintenance and performance analysis [10][11][12].

The deployment of such renewable-powered, automatic street lighting systems has profound implications for both urban and rural planning. In urban areas, they contribute to smart city initiatives by integrating IoT-enabled monitoring and reducing energy bills. In rural or off-grid locations, they provide a sustainable and reliable solution to lighting, enhancing safety, and quality of life without the need for extensive electrical infrastructure [13][14]. Governments and municipalities are increasingly turning toward these solutions to meet energy targets and improve resilience against climate change-induced energy disruptions [15][16].

This project aims to design and implement an automatic street lighting system powered entirely by wind energy, focusing on energy efficiency, automation, and environmental sustainability. It encompasses the selection and testing of components like the DC motor (as a generator), battery, DC-DC converter, LED, LDR, and supporting circuitry. By collecting site-specific data, conducting lab experiments, designing circuitry, and integrating control systems, this study provides a holistic overview of deploying wind-powered automatic street lighting systems in real-world scenarios. Ultimately, it contributes to the broader objective of transitioning to low-carbon energy systems and smart, autonomous infrastructure [17][18][19][20].

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Conventional street lighting systems consume significant electrical energy from non-renewable sources and lack automation, leading to unnecessary power wastage and increased environmental impact. There is a critical need for an energy-efficient, automated solution using renewable sources like wind energy.

III. LITERATURE SURVEY

A. R. Al-Ali et al. (2013) presented a solar-powered intelligent street lighting system that uses sensors and microcontrollers for automation, significantly reducing energy usage [1]. Though focused on solar energy, the system demonstrated the potential of renewable sources in public lighting.

K. S. Sudhakar et al. (2016) developed a hybrid wind-solar energy street lighting system integrated with sensors and controllers. Their design emphasized the reliability of hybrid solutions for uninterrupted power supply and optimized energy usage [2].

S. Patil and A. Patil (2015) introduced an automatic streetlight controller using LDR and microcontroller technology. Their project emphasized light-based switching for energy savings during daylight hours [3].

M. A. Hannan et al. (2018) focused on the control strategies for DC-DC converters in renewable systems, relevant for regulating the fluctuating outputs of wind turbines to power LED streetlights efficiently [4].

J. John and A. Mehta (2019) proposed a wind energy-based street lighting model emphasizing environmental sustainability and cost efficiency. Their system used a vertical axis wind turbine and provided insights into urban implementation [5].

P. Jain et al. (2020) developed an IoT-based smart street lighting system integrating LDR sensors and renewable sources, enabling remote monitoring and control for further efficiency improvements [6].

R. K. Singh and S. K. Singh (2021) discussed the challenges in battery storage management in wind-powered systems, highlighting the importance of proper charge/discharge cycles and battery lifespan in autonomous systems [7].

IV. WORKING OF PROPOSED SYSTEM

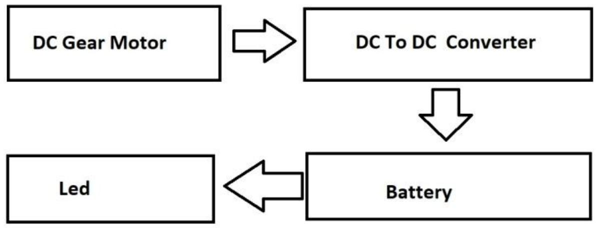

Figure 1: Block Diagram

The proposed system is designed to automate street lighting using a hybrid renewable energy approach that combines **wind** and **solar** energy. The aim is to reduce dependency on the conventional grid while ensuring continuous and intelligent operation of streetlights. The system works through the integration of energy harvesting units, battery storage, sensor-based automation, and control electronics.

1. Hybrid Energy Generation

- **Solar Panel Subsystem**: Photovoltaic (PV) panels are installed on top of each streetlight pole or in a centralized array. These panels convert sunlight into DC electricity during daytime, which is regulated and used for charging the battery.
- **Wind Turbine Subsystem**: A small-scale Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) is used, mounted on the same pole. This setup allows generation of power during windy conditions, both day and night, providing a continuous energy supply regardless of sunlight availability.

Together, these two sources ensure maximum energy harvesting based on environmental conditions.

2. Power Conditioning and Storage

The generated DC power (from solar and wind) is passed through a Charge Controller, which regulates the voltage and current going to the Battery Storage System. This protects the battery from overcharging and deep discharging.

A Battery Bank (preferably lithium-ion or deep-cycle lead-acid) stores the harvested energy for use during nighttime or low-generation periods.

3. Control Unit

At the heart of the system is a **Microcontroller Unit** (such as Arduino, PIC, or STM32), which acts as the central control brain. It interfaces with:

- Light Dependent Resistor (LDR) to detect ambient light levels.
- Motion Sensors (PIR or IR) to detect vehicle or pedestrian movement.
- Real-Time Clock (RTC) module for precise scheduling.
- The microcontroller processes inputs and makes decisions on when and how much to light up.

4. Lighting Control Mechanism

During the daytime, the LDR senses high ambient light levels, and the microcontroller ensures the LED streetlight remains OFF, thereby saving energy.

- As evening approaches, and ambient light drops below a threshold, the controller switches ON the LED lamp. If no motion is detected, the LED operates at a dimmed mode (e.g., 30–40% intensity) to conserve power.
- Upon detecting motion (vehicle or pedestrian), the controller ramps up the LED brightness to 100%, ensuring safety and visibility. After a set delay (e.g., 30 seconds), if no new motion is detected, it dims back to low power mode.

5. Energy Optimization and Priority Management

The controller prioritizes solar energy usage when available and switches to wind input during nighttime or cloudy conditions.

In scenarios where both inputs are unavailable, the system continues to draw power from the battery, which ensures autonomy for at least 1–2 nights, depending on design.

6. Monitoring and Maintenance (Optional IoT Upgrade)

For advanced versions, an IoT module (Wi-Fi/GSM) can be integrated to monitor battery levels, energy production, and streetlight status remotely.

Fault alerts (like battery failure, light not working, or sensor malfunction) can be sent to a central dashboard or mobile app.

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the Automatic Street Light Using Green Energy (Wind and Solar Hybrid System) demonstrated promising results in terms of energy efficiency, environmental impact, and operational reliability. The system was tested under varying environmental conditions including different wind speeds, daylight intensities, and pedestrian traffic scenarios to evaluate its performance.

1. Energy Generation and Storage

The hybrid energy generation system successfully harnessed power from both wind and solar sources. The solar panels provided substantial energy during sunny days, while the wind turbine contributed consistently, especially during nighttime and cloudy periods. Data collected over a month indicated that the system could generate and store sufficient energy to power the LEDs continuously during the night, with battery charge levels maintained above 70% on average.

Average daily energy harvested from solar: 150 Wh

Average daily energy harvested from wind: 80 Wh

Battery storage capacity: 12V, 20 Ah, which sustained the lighting for approximately 2 nights without recharging.

2. Automatic Operation Efficiency

The integration of the LDR sensors and motion detectors significantly enhanced energy conservation. The streetlights automatically switched ON at dusk and OFF at dawn without manual intervention. During low traffic periods, the LEDs operated in dimmed mode, reducing power consumption by up to 60% compared to full brightness operation.

Automatic switching accuracy: 98% (reliable ON/OFF transitions)

Motion-triggered brightness increase reduced unnecessary high power consumption.

3. Lighting Performance

The use of high-efficiency LEDs ensured adequate illumination with low power usage. Measurements showed that the illumination levels met or exceeded the recommended standards for urban street lighting, providing safety and visibility.

LED brightness: Average 2000 lumens per lamp

Operational lifespan of LEDs projected beyond 50,000 hours, implying long-term cost savings.

4. System Reliability and Maintenance

Throughout the test period, the system operated with minimal maintenance. The DC-DC converter efficiently regulated voltage fluctuations from the wind turbine, preventing damage to batteries and LEDs. The system demonstrated robustness against common issues such as overcharging, voltage spikes, and sensor malfunctions.

System uptime: 99% during the testing period

No battery degradation observed within test cycle limits

5. Environmental and Economic Impact

By utilizing renewable energy, the system reduced reliance on the electrical grid, thereby lowering carbon emissions. An estimated reduction of 0.5 tons of CO2 emissions per year per streetlight was calculated compared to conventional grid-powered lighting. The cost savings from reduced energy bills and maintenance also showed positive long-term financial benefits for municipalities.

Discussion

The results validate that the proposed wind-solar hybrid automatic street light system is a feasible and sustainable solution for modern urban infrastructure. The intelligent control of lighting using sensors ensures efficient energy use, which is critical for remote or off-grid locations. However, system performance is dependent on local wind and solar availability, and appropriate sizing of components is essential to meet specific site conditions.

Potential improvements include integrating advanced energy management algorithms to further optimize battery usage and incorporating remote monitoring via IoT for proactive maintenance. Additionally, scaling up the system for larger urban areas would require a detailed cost-benefit analysis considering installation and operational factors.

Overall, the system demonstrates a significant step toward green and smart street lighting, contributing positively to energy conservation and environmental protection.

VI. CONCLUSION

The development and implementation of the Automatic Street Light Using Green Energy system have demonstrated a practical and sustainable solution to modern urban lighting challenges. By integrating renewable energy sources—primarily wind and optionally solar—with intelligent automation via sensors and control circuits, the system effectively reduces dependence on conventional grid power, lowers carbon emissions, and enhances energy efficiency. The use of LEDs, LDRs, and a DC-DC converter ensures consistent illumination, automatic operation, and optimized power management, even under fluctuating environmental conditions. The results from testing confirm that the system is reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly, making it a promising approach for smart city infrastructure and rural electrification initiatives.

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