

Wind Energy

By Wilhemina Agbemakplido and Janice Tsang

Do you remember the last time you felt the wind or a light breeze? When you feel moving air you are being touched by **wind energy**! And when you see a fluttering **sail** on a boat, the sail is being used to harness wind energy. The earliest sails, which were made of woven mats, were tied up on the mast of a boat to push the boat forward. This energy helped move the boat through the water and replaced the energy and effort usually used by people when they row a boat. Some sports also use the same sail method, such as hang gliding.

In the olden days, wind was also used to power **windmills** that ground corn and pumped water. Nowadays wind energy is produced by modern windmills called **turbines**. This energy is converted to **electricity**. For many countries in the world, especially in places closer to the coasts of oceans, like Denmark, wind power is a valuable and useful resource.

Wind energy is most useful in places where there is a lot of wind. Without a decent amount of wind, wind power is not a good energy option. Some places that we use wind power here in the United States are along the East Coast, the Appalachian Mountains, the Great Plains and the Pacific Northwest. Here in Massachusetts there is a big **wind farm** that may be put on the very windy Cape Cod!

