

## [Optiwind Accelerating Wind Turbine Taps New Energy Fields](#)

by [Ariel Schwartz](#) , 05/06/09



Traditional [three-blade turbines](#) are great if you have lots of space to play with, but the [Optiwind Compact Wind Accelerating Turbine](#) is ideal for [high-density](#), low-wind areas. The turbine's series of small, five bladed fans funnel in [wind](#) and accelerate it, thereby cranking up wind speeds to generate more [power](#).

At six meters in diameter, the Optiwind's blades are also significantly shorter than traditional [turbine](#) blades, which often extend to 80 meters. That means the turbine can be used in areas that don't have much space to spare, like [schools](#), hospitals, and [hotels](#). Still, potential sites should have 3.5 acres of open land available to comply with local zoning laws

The Optiwind's design reminds us of the [Jellyfish](#) vertical axis wind turbine, but while the 36-inch tall Jellyfish is suited for households, the 200-foot tall Optiwind is meant for bigger structures. Optiwind's 150 kilowatt model is meant for buildings that use \$35,000 of [electricity](#) each year, and the 300 kilowatt model works for operations that require \$75,000 of energy or more.

NIMBYs may protest that the Optiwind is unsightly and doesn't belong in high-density areas, but at least the turbine [isn't very noisy](#)—unlike most other [wind](#) turbine models.