

Wind Turbine performance compared to the Beaufort Scale

(Note: Wind speed numbers at hub height are approximations)

Beaufort number	Description	Wind speed at ground level	Approx. Wind Speed at Hub Height	Wind Turbine State	Wave height	Sea conditions	Land conditions	Sea state photo	Associated Warning Flag
0	Calm	<1 km/h <1 mph <1 kn <0.3 m/s			0 m	Flat.	Calm. Smoke rises vertically.	+ 1	
1	Light air	1.1–5.5 km/h 1–3 mph 1–2 kn 0.3–1.5 m/s	0.6-3 m/s		0–0.2 m 0–1 ft	Ripples without crests.	Smoke drift indicates wind direction and wind vanes cease moving.		
2	Light breeze	5.6–11 km/h 4–7 mph 3–6 kn 1.6–3.4 m/s	3.2- 7 m/s	4m/s	0.2–0.5 m 1–2 ft	Small wavelets. Crests of glassy appearance, not breaking	Wind felt on exposed skin. Leaves rustle and wind vanes begin to move.		
3	Gentle breeze	12–19 km/h 8–12 mph 7–10 kn	7 – 11 m/s	m/s for Tas wind	0.5–1 m 2–3.5 ft	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break; scattered whitecaps	Leaves and small twigs constantly moving, light flags extended.		
4	Moderate breeze	20–28 km/h 13–17 mph 11–15 kn 5.5–7.9 m/s	11 -16 m/s	Wind Turbine generates at maximum rating of 3 MW at 13 m/s	1–2 m 3.5–6 ft	Small waves with breaking crests. Fairly frequent whitecaps.	Dust and loose paper raised. Small branches begin to move.		
5	Fresh breeze	29–38 km/h 18–24 mph 16–20 kn 8.0–10.7 m/s			2–3 m 6–9 ft	Moderate waves of some length. Many whitecaps. Small amounts of spray.	Branches of a moderate size move. Small trees in leaf begin to sway.		
6	Strong breeze	39–49 km/h 25–30 mph 21–26 kn 10.8–13.8 m/s			3–4 m 9–13 ft	Long waves begin to form. White foam crests are very frequent. Some airborne spray is present.	Large branches in motion. Whistling heard in overhead wires. Umbrella use becomes difficult. Empty plastic garbage cans tip over.		

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number		ground level	at Hub Height						riag
7	High wind, moderate gale, near gale	50-61 km/h 31-38 mph			4–5.5 m	I INTO CTRADES DIONG WIND	Whole trees in motion. Effort needed to walk against the wind.	400	
		27–33 kn 13.9–17.1 m/s			13–19 ft			1	
8	Gale fresh gale	62-74 km/h 39-46 mph			5.5–7.5 m	Moderately high waves with breaking crests forming spindrift. Well-marked streaks of foam are blown along wind direction. Considerable airborne spray.	Some twigs broken from trees. Cars veer on road. Progress on foot is seriously impeded.		
		34–40 kn 17.2–20.7 m/s	·	Turbine will shut down at 25m/s (Turbine restarts at 20 m/s)	18–25 ft				
9	Strong gale	75–88 km/h 47–54 mph		Z	7–10 m		Some branches break off trees, and some small trees blow over. Construction/temporary signs and barricades blow over.		
		41–47 kn 20.8–24.4 m/s			23–32 ft				
10	Storm whole gale	89–102 km/h 55–63 mph			9–12.5 m		Trees are broken off or uprooted, saplings bent and deformed. Poorly attached asphalt shingles and shingles in poor condition peel off roofs.		
		48–55 kn 24.5–28.4 m/s			29–41 ft				
11		103–117 km/h 64–72 mph			11.5–16 m		Widespread damage to vegetation. Many roofing surfaces are damaged; asphalt tiles that have curled up and/or fractured due to age may break away completely.		
		56–63 kn 28.5–32.6 m/s			37–52 ft	Exceptionally high waves. Very large patches of foam, driven before the wind, cover much of the sea surface. Very large amounts of airborne spray severely reduce visibility.			
12	Hurricane force	≥ 118 km/h	1	Turbines designed to withstand winds of 250 km/h	≥ 14 m	is filled with driving spray. Air	Very widespread damage to vegetation. Some windows may break; mobile homes and poorly constructed sheds and barns are damaged. Debris may be hurled about.		