

Taking wind power for a spin

It looks more like a piece of art than a wind turbine, but either way it is set to bring about a revolution in wind power – silently. The vertical turbine is five metres high and 3.1 metres in diameter. It's called the 'quiet revolution' by its manufacturers, XCO2, because it makes virtually no noise as it spins. It has been specifically designed for use in urban environments and can make use of wind flowing in from any direction to generate electricity. The first examples are being installed this summer in Bristol, Swindon and London. XCO2 plan to hang paid advertising from the towers. They have applied to put one on Buckingham Palace, claiming that a union flag can be hung from it.

