Northampton County Landfill, VA

Project Summary
As part of Virginia's State-Based Anemometer Loan Program, an anemometer was placed in the Northampton county landfill in Northampton, Virginia to assess the area's wind energy potential. Wind speed and direction were recorded from June 1, 2002 through May 31, 2003. Annual average wind speed during the monitoring period (66 ft. [20m] above ground level) was recorded to be 11.92 mph (5.33 m/s). Wind power density is calculated to be 158.25 W/m^2.

Project Location
The monitoring equipment was installed on a landfill in Northampton, Virginia at an elevation of 30 feet. The site is located at N 37° 17.93', W 75° 55.61'.

Monitoring Equipment
The 20-meter NRG-NOW Systems – Wind Explorer kit includes one tower, one Wind Explorer data logger with shelter box, one #40 Maximum anemometer, one #200P wind direction vane, sensor cabling, one lightning rod with copper ground, and two data plugs.

Results

Average annual wind speed	11.92 mph (5.33 m/s)
Average annual wind power density	158.25 W/m^2
Month with greatest wind resource	April
Average wind speed during month with greatest resource	14.6 mph
Month with least wind resource	July
Average wind speed during month with least resource	9.9 mph

Monthly Variation

Figure E.6.1 below shows the average monthly wind speed for each month throughout the recorded year. Above average months occur during late fall, winter, and early spring, while below average months occur during summer. The highest speeds occurring in April is slightly out of the ordinary.

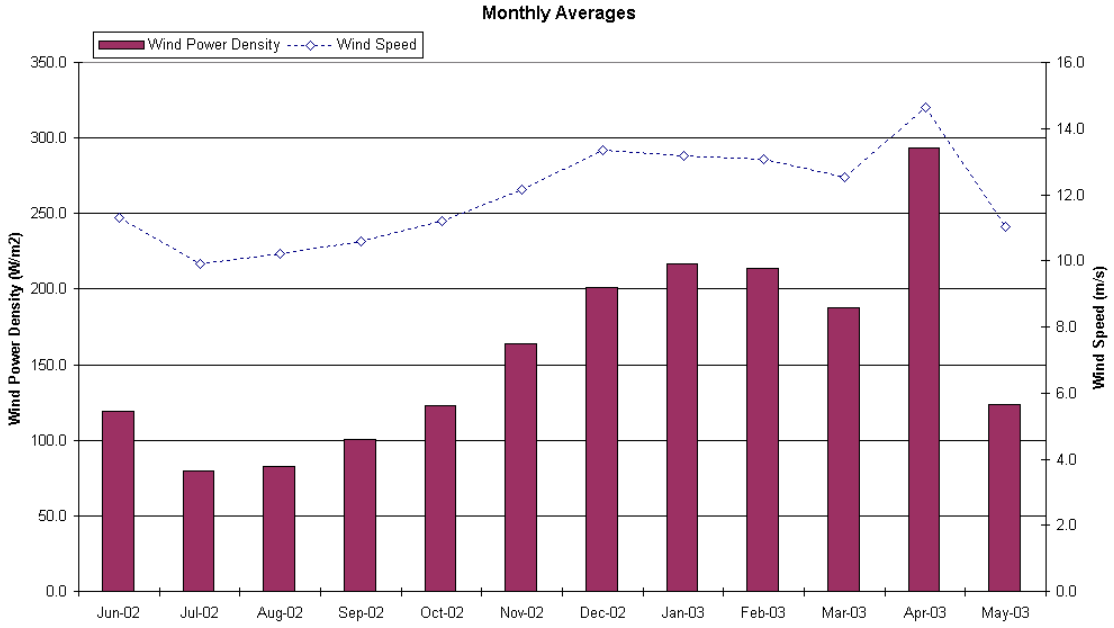

Figure E.6.1. Monthly average wind speeds and power densities throughout the year.

Diurnal Variation

Figure E.6.2 shows how wind speeds vary on an hourly basis. Stronger winds are more prevalent during afternoon and early evening hours. Slower winds more often exist after midnight and during sunrise.

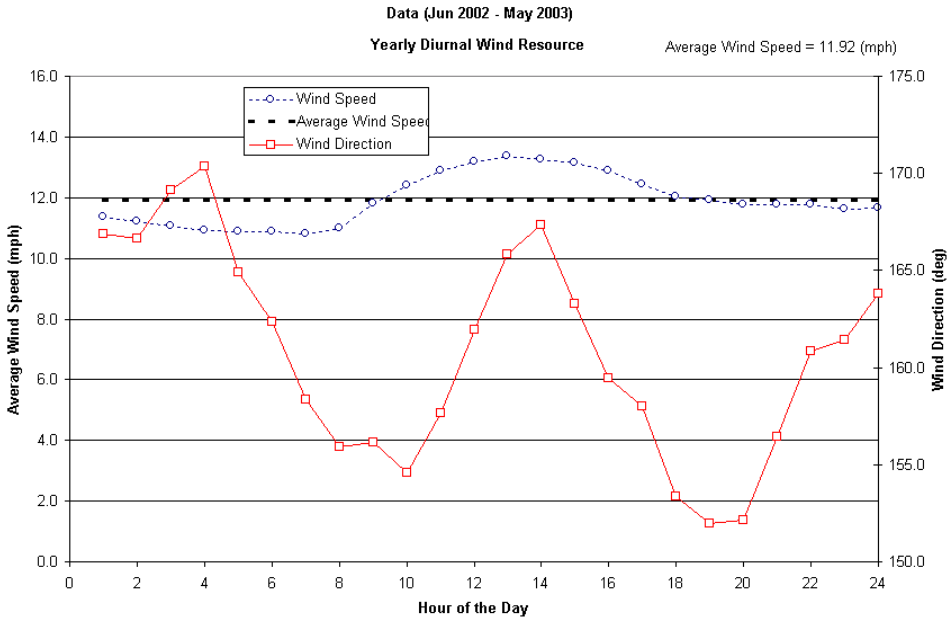

Figure E.6.2. Average hourly wind speeds and directions throughout the year.

Monthly Diurnal Variations

Figure E.6.3 shows the diurnal (hourly) variations of the wind speed over each month. The trends of each month follow one another.

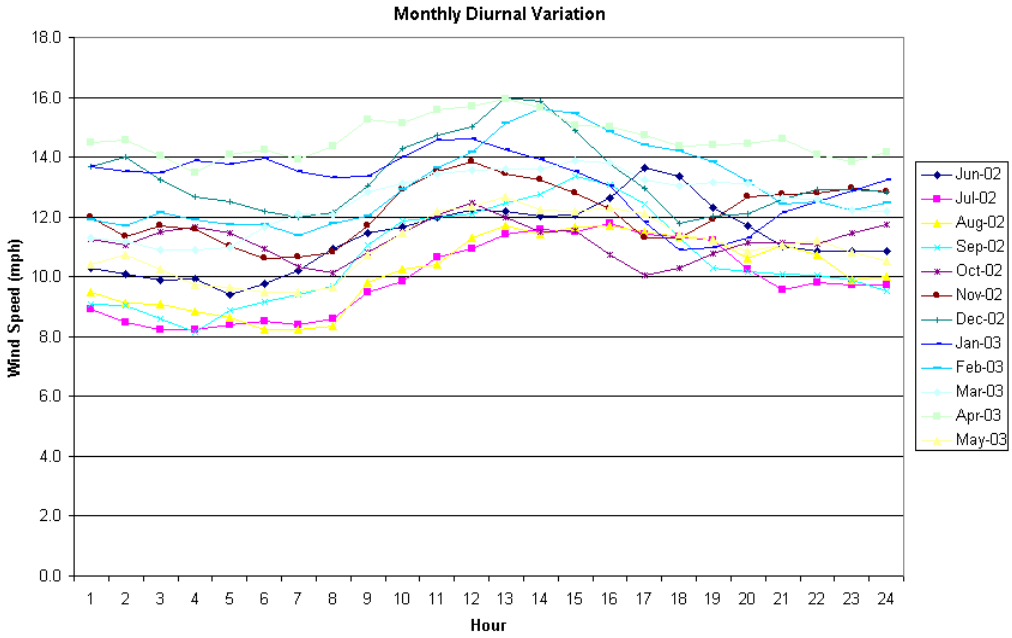

Figure E.6.3. Average hourly wind speeds for each month.

Wind Speed Histogram

Figure E.6.4 shows the occurrence in number of hours that each wind speed occurs. Typically this falls under what is called the Weibull distribution, with a high peak early, and a tailing off at higher wind speeds.

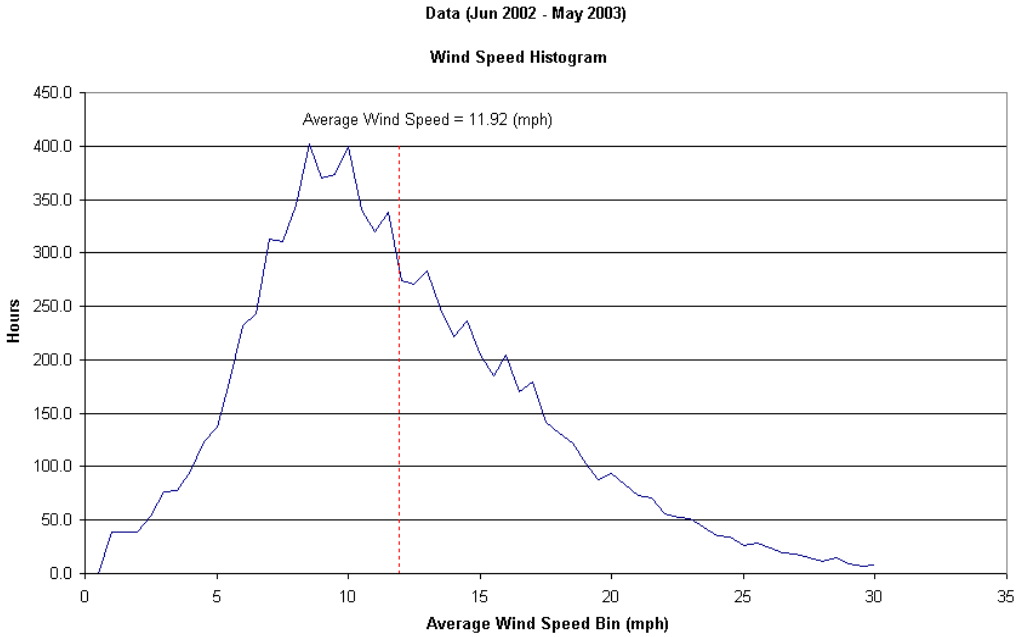

Figure E.6.4. Wind speed frequency over the year by # of hours.

Wind Speed and Direction Trace

Figure E.6.5 shows the wind speed and wind direction reading for every ten-minute average over the course of the data. The wind speed data is the blue line, and the directional data are the red lines.

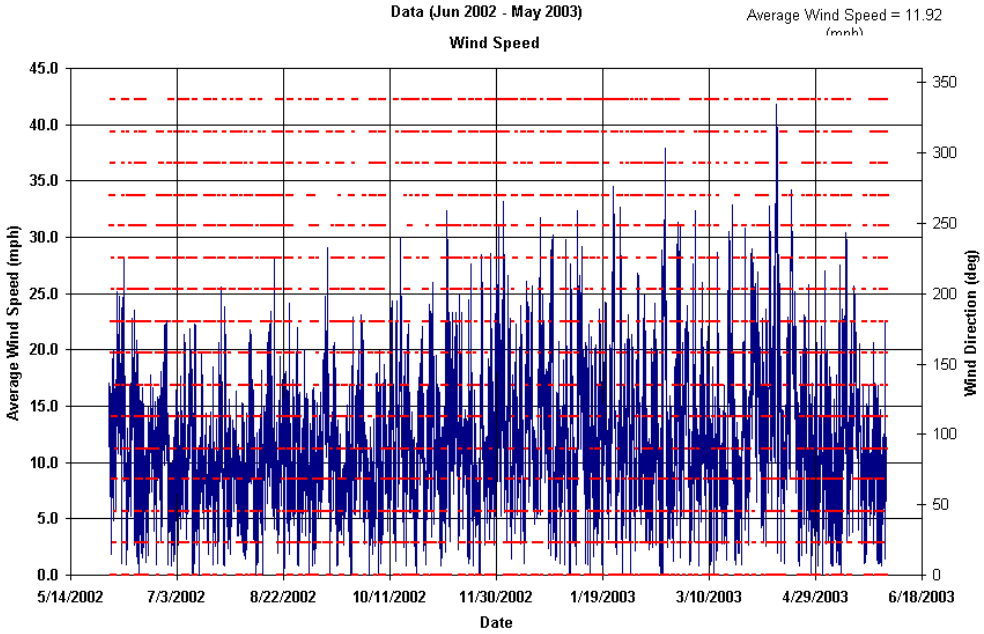

Figure E.6.5. Wind speed and direction readings throughout the year.

Wind Daily Averages

Figure E.6.6 shows the average wind speed and direction by day of the month. Notice there is no particular trend here.

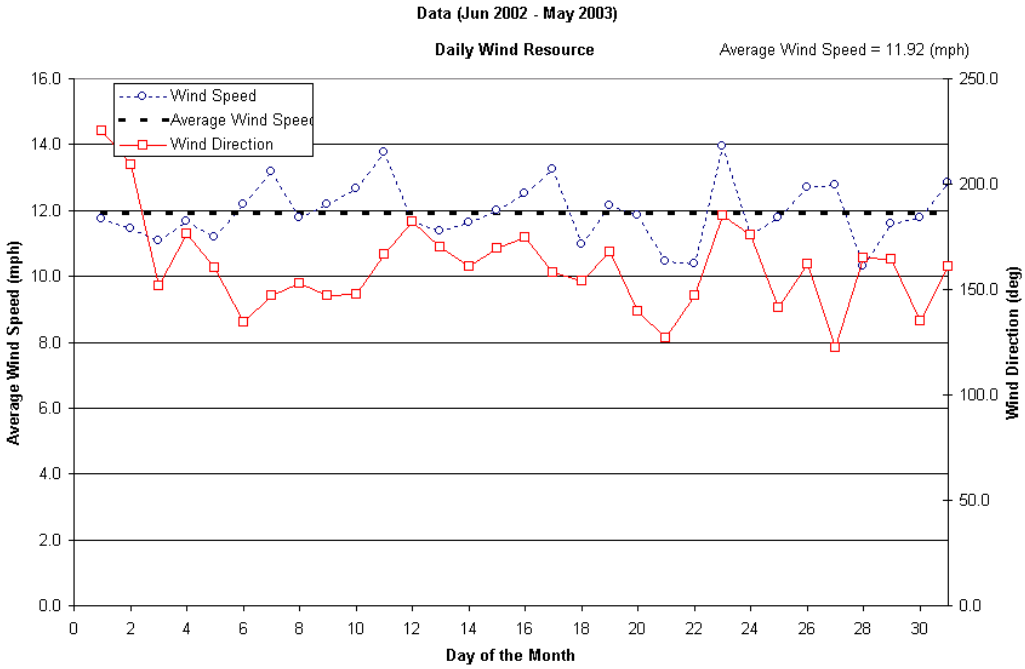

Figure E.6.6. Wind speed and direction averages by day of the month.

Wind Speed Occurrence by Direction

Figure E.6.7 displays the average wind speed for each direction the wind comes from. It also shows the percent of time in that direction bin. There is not a large discrepancy in wind speed by direction from this site; however, the highest wind speeds come from the east-northeast and the north-northwest.

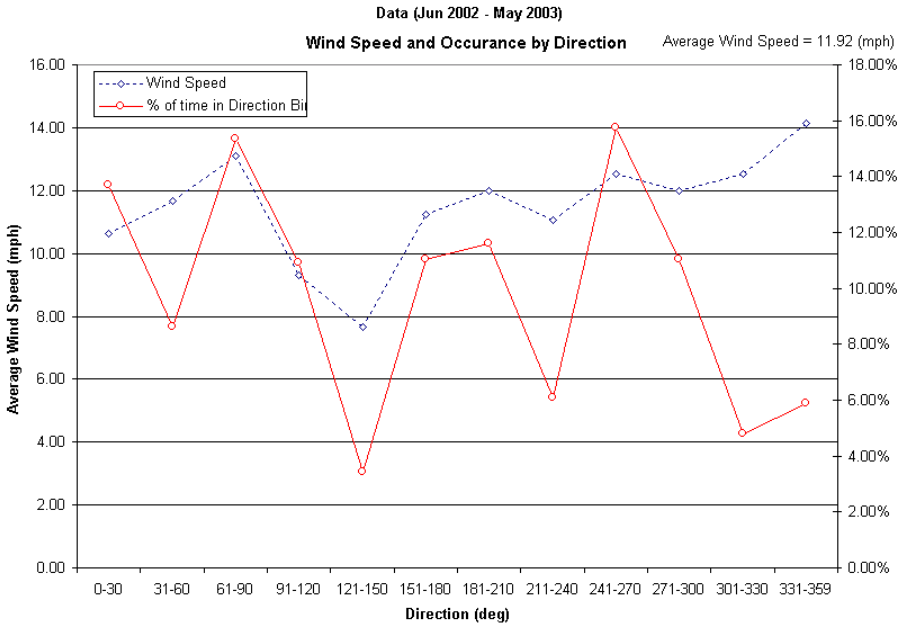

Figure E.6.7. Average wind speed for each direction bin and % time in that bin.

Frequency Wind Rose

Figure E.6.8 displays a frequency wind rose. It can be seen that the majority of the wind does not come from any one direction; rather a portion comes from the east-northeast and a portion from the west-southwest.

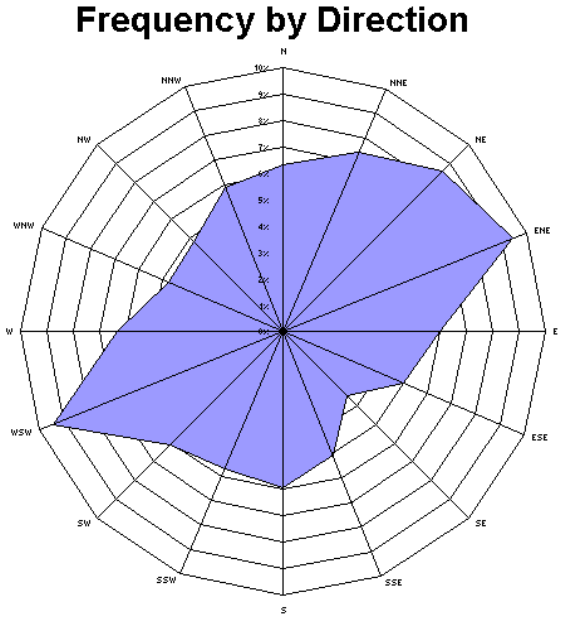

Figure E.6.8. Wind rose displaying wind direction frequency.

Energy Rose

Figure E.6.9 is an energy wind rose, showing the number of kWh/m^2 available from 16 compass-point directions. The largest portion of energy comes from the east-northeast. This is due to the combination of a high frequency of occurrence of these winds along with high wind speeds.

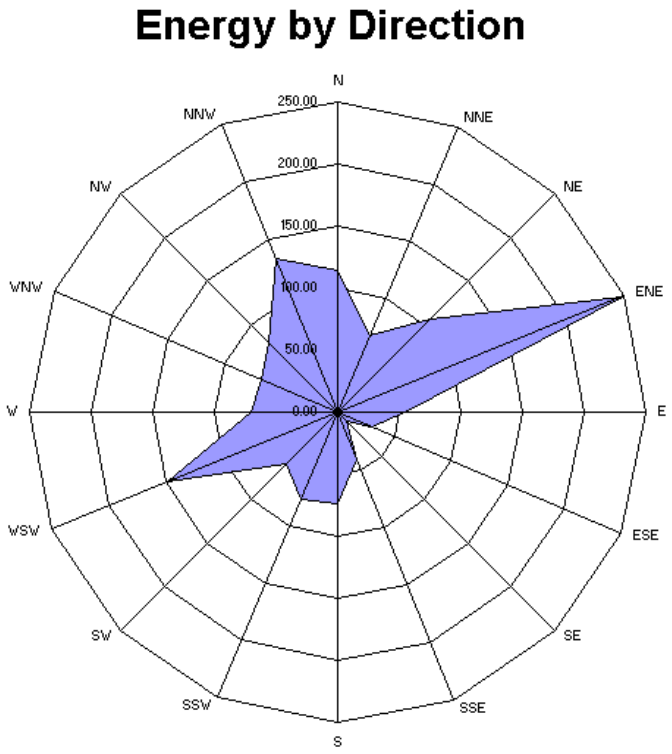

Figure E.6.9. Energy wind rose with units in kWh/m^2.