

Can Wind Turbines Be Recycled?

Yes. Wind turbines are approaching 100% recyclability.

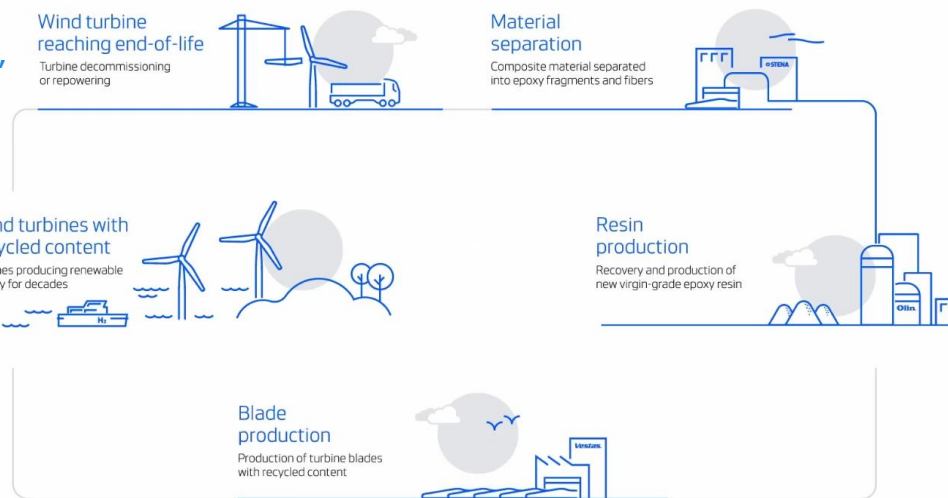
For a long time, **90% of a turbine's mass** has been reusable or recyclable. With a recent breakthrough, this number **is now approaching 100%**.

Today's wind turbines are built to last 30+ years

Turbine metals, plastics, and mechanical components have always been easy to reuse or recycle. However, recycling turbine blades has traditionally been more challenging due to their fibreglass compositions.

This has recently changed. Wind turbine manufacturer Vestas has discovered a breakthrough chemical process capable of breaking down epoxy resins, allowing turbine blade fibres to be reused in new blades.

Even turbine blades previously placed in landfill can now be recycled.



Waste Generated by Fossil Fuels

It's good that people question turbine recyclability. Recyclability is always an important thing to consider.

However, people often don't cast the same critical eye on the current primary energy production methods.

- **Coal Ash** accounts for **18% of Australia's entire waste stream**.
- Per capita, that's **500 kilograms a year for every Australian**.
- This does not even account for fossil fuel carbon emissions.

The waste produced by wind farms is comparatively marginal.



Sources:

<https://www.vestas.com/en/media/company-news/2023/vestas-unveils-circularity-solution-to-end-landfill-for-c3710818>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-10/coal-ash-has-become-one-of-australias-biggest-waste-problems/10886866>



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