

## State of the Art Compendium of Macro and Micro Energies

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### ABSTRACT

In the span of past few decades, population, urbanization and industrialization have transformed the mankind living standard and dynamics of the nature. Certainly, energy is the basic need for all living organisms. Energy is the route towards the economic growth. The evidence shows that the countries faced with energy crises are left behind in the economic activities; as a result, people are deprived. This study reviewed the available renewable energy resources and potential with positive and negative aspects. This study comprehensively discusses the renewable macro and micro energy resources studied in the past two decades reported in various studies. The paper is divided into two sections; the first section discusses the energy produced in the macro level and the second section discusses the energy produced using different strategies and techniques in the micro level. The potential and positive outcomes of the energy resources were identified. New paradigm of micro energies and importance of reusing the available resource of micro energy using different resources like energy harvesting on the road surface, vibration, airflow, radio frequency and thermal energy etc. were discussed. Lastly, the study focus does not only review but also finds the potential and opportunities for the researchers in the future to utilize the renewable energy resources.

**Keywords:** macro and micro energy resources, renewable energy, renewable energies potential.

### INTRODUCTION

In order to satisfy our requirement for power (electricity) “We are drilling holes miles deep under the surface of oceans, fracturing stones in the crust of the earth, transporting fuel in a huge ships and pipelines from one side of the earth to the other to operate machinery to produce electricity” [1]. The bitter truth about rapid changes of anthropogenic origin is undeniable [2–4]. In the span of past three decades, population, urbanization and industrialization have transformed the living standards of mankind and dynamics of the nature. Certainly, energy is the basic need for all living organisms and a route towards the economic growth [5, 6]. In the span of quinquennium, a large part of population has migrated to cities and 3.0 billion is forecast to follow in 2050 [7]. The growing energy demand gap was bridged with the energy produced from fossil fuels. As

a result, fossil fuels were found to be the key contributor to the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG), especially the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) released to the environment. Over the past 15 years, unprecedented changes in the consumption of energy resources caused a drastic impact on the environment. The trend towards investment and utilization of green and renewable energy has increased worldwide [8]. The purpose of this research was to gather information on the macro and micro level energy produced and development by different countries. The up-to-date data and materials published by the world energy councils, renewable energy resources, renewable energy review reports and other research papers were reviewed. This paper will help the researchers to identify the area and potentials of renewable energies like new areas in the micro level energy generation and storage, which are hot topics among engineers and scientists.

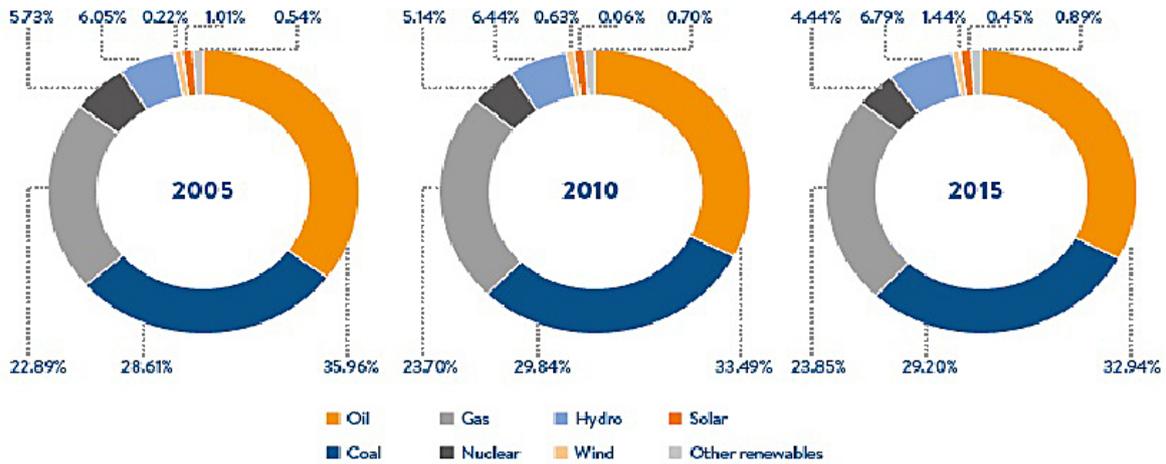


Fig. 1. Comparison of the energy resources and consumption [8]

### POTENTIALS RENEWABLE ENERGIES RESOURCES

The comparison of available energy resources and its consumption for over past 15 years have been reported by world energy council [8] and British Petroleum BP [9], as shown in Figure 1. Oil remained the world’s leading fuel consumption in 2015, which accounted for 32.95% of the worldwide energy consumption.

The depletion and negative impact on the environment are the greatest obstacles to the utilization of non-renewable energy resources. Thus, to address the issue of insistent pressure on the utilization of non-renewable resources, a series of studies have been carried out to use the renewable and sustainable resource to produce energy. Scientists and engineers are always keen on renewable energy resources to eliminate the dependency of mankind on the non-renewable energy resources. Furthermore, reducing the greenhouse

gases (GHG) effect on Earth and protecting the global environment for the future generation is the top priority. Extensive technologies have been established to produce safe, green and renewable energy but they are far too slow compared to the non-renewable energy consumption [9].

The World Energy resources [8] statistics shows that the input of total renewable energy to the global energy grew significantly in 2015. Figure 2 shows the global renewable energy accounted for 23.5% of the total energy consumption in 2015 [10]. However, the contribution of renewable energy is far slower than the non-renewable energy consumption by resources [10] where the potential to generate renewable energy is large [11].

The access to the sustainable energy is one of the greatest challenges facing the world. Nature can inspire innovative solutions for future energy systems and technology design; some renewable energy technologies have been found available in nature. However, more can be learnt to help

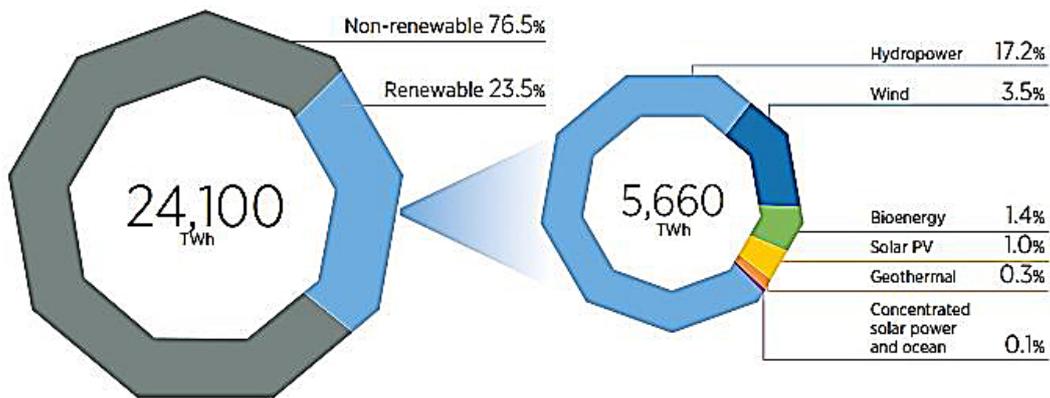


Fig. 2. Global energy produced by sources 2015 [10]

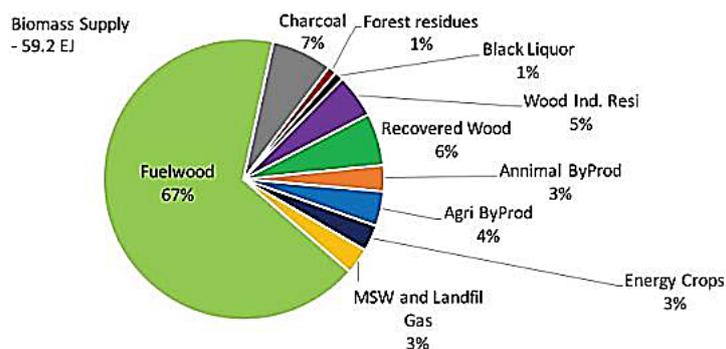


Fig. 3. Primary sources of Bioenergy [16]

us successfully address our future energy needs. Major developments in the renewable energy resources are overlooked in the current scenario. Figure 2 shows the macro and micro renewable energy resources and each is briefly discussed to understand the potential and gap.

## MACRO ENERGY

### Hydropower Energy

Most of the renewable energy sources originate from the natural movement of air and water/fluid [12] and the hydro energy is derived from the energy of moving water.

Blowing air and flowing water create energy which can be stored and utilized. The hydropower energy is generated from the flowing water and by using mechanical technology such as turbines to convert the energy and further increase the supply. Hydropower generates energy on a macro scale and which is supplied over large distance but, unfortunately, not all countries have the hydropower potential [13]. According to the world Energy Resources [8], amongst the renewable energy resources, the hydro-energy is leading and globally supplied 71% at the end of 2015. In addition, the globally underdeveloped potential is estimated at 10,000 TWh/y; between 2007 and 2015 the total capacity has increased by 30%. Approximately 10,000 TWh/year of unutilized hydropower potential exists worldwide and offers many opportunities for hydropower development. According to IRENA, [10] the countries producing more than half of the global hydropower energy are China (1126 TWh), USA (250 TWh), Brazil (382 TWh), Canada (376 TWh), India (120 TWh) and Russia (160 TWh).

### Bioenergy

Bioenergy is a versatile source of renewable energy and biomass can be converted into solid, liquid and gaseous states of energy. The use of bioenergy can significantly reduce the greenhouse gas emission [14]. In developed countries, bioenergy is promoted as an alternative or more sustainable source for hydrocarbons, especially for transportation fuels like bioethanol and biodiesel. There are multiple challenges and opportunities for bioenergy as a potential driver of sustainable development given enough economic and technological support. According to the World Bioenergy Association [15], bioenergy has the largest contribution of 14% from the total 18% renewable energy and global supplies amount to 10% of all renewable energies. The bioenergy sources exist in many forms and the biomass energy comes from different sources like wood, forestry residues, charcoal, pellets, agriculture crops and residues, municipal and industrial waste, biogas, biofuels etc. The key suppliers of the biomass energies are categorized into forestry, waste and agriculture. Biomass annual growth rate is 2.3%, whereas biogas – 11.2% and liquid biofuels– 15.6%, experience highest increase. Forestry is the main contributor with 87%, followed by agriculture – 10%, and municipal solid waste with landfills gas contribute 3% of the biomass key energy generators.

Electricity produced from the bioenergy is the third largest renewable source. Bioelectricity generated in 2014 was 493 TWh and solid biomass majorly contributed to this value [15]. The impact on climate using bioenergy is significant by reducing greenhouse gases. However, in the development process, transportation, conversion bioenergy might have some carbon inputs but the overall life cycle and supply chain has the greatest benefit to the climate [10].

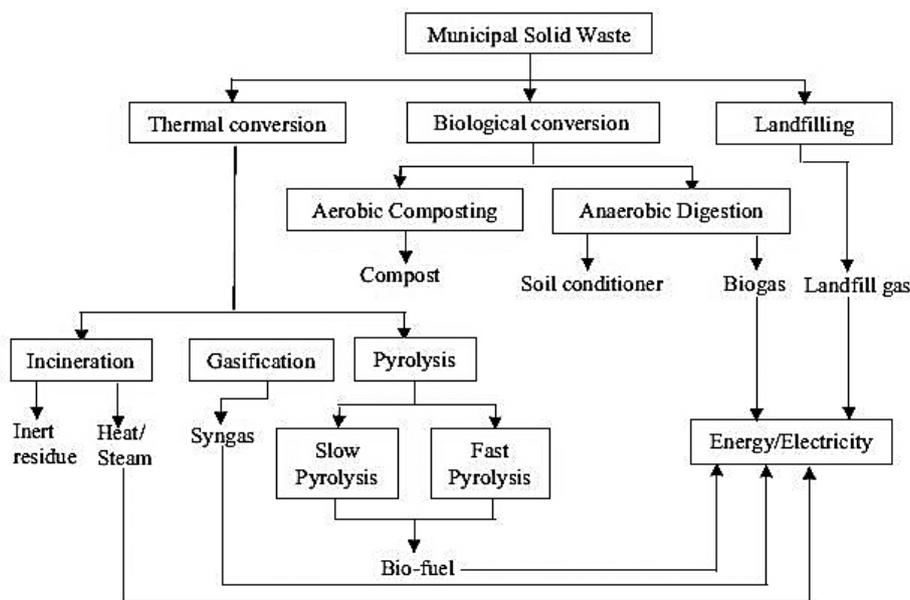


Fig. 4. Municipal solid waste treatment techniques and their products [19]

### Waste to Energy

Waste to Energy (WTE) is the sustainable approach to generate energy (electricity) by utilizing municipal solid waste. Reuse of waste products to recover energy in the form of electricity or heat is the most appropriate method to solve the waste problem [17]. Waste to energy is the source of renewable energy which is economical, feasible and eco-friendly [18, 19]. Comparatively, the waste to energy production is lower than fossil fuel but since the aim is to reduce the municipal solid waste, the best way to recycle is to generate electricity. Different technologies can be used to obtain energy from the waste products [20]. Figure 4 shows the clear picture of technologies use in the energy conversion process.

Globally, an average waste generate per person per day amounts to 1-2kg [21] but the potential of WTE operation strongly depends on the country economic, social, political conditions [20]. In the high income countries, the implementation of waste to energy is easier by using various technologies than in the low income countries [20, 22]. Thus, the adoption of waste to energy has been more advanced in the developed countries [19]. In some studies, the impact of implementation of WtE constitutes a risk to the climate, as WtE is the big contributor of the methane gas to the environment [23, 24]. In contrast, a study of [25] stated that reusing of waste product will bring the positive influence

on the climate change. Waste plastic products, followed by papers, textile and other waste organic materials have high potential for the reuse of waste and energy production. Three types of technologies are mainly used to convert solid waste into the useful energy, i.e. biochemical extraction, thermochemical extraction and mechanical extraction [26].

### Solar Energy

The infinite and free source of energy existing in our planet is the Sun. The sun radiates massive heat energy every day [1, 27]. The Sun energy radiation is greater than the energy consumed annually by the world population [8, 27]. Sunlight has the highest potential of producing renewable energy [28]. The sun is composed of hydrogen and helium atoms and generates its own energy from the process of nuclear fusion [27]. The estimated average solar energy hit at earth surface is 342 W/m<sup>2</sup>. The Earth surface received a small portion of solar heat energy, where 30% was reflected back into the space from the 70% and major part absorbed by the land and oceans. The effective yearly available solar irradiance in different parts of the world is 60-250 W/m<sup>2</sup>, the geographical location is an essential part of solar irradiance [1, 8, 27-31]. The solar energy has wide application in the daily life [28]. Solar energy powers the water cycles which move the water and energy can be harvested from the moving water [12].

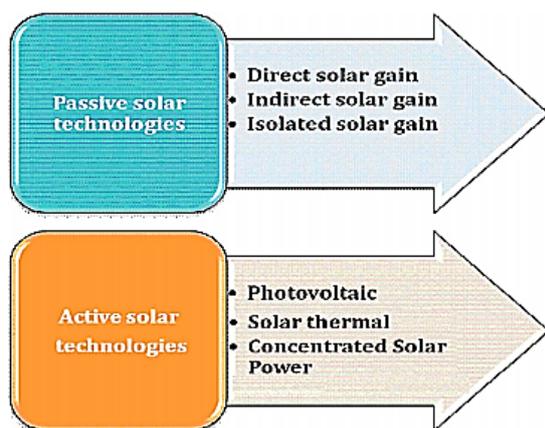


Fig. 5. Solar energy classification [28]

Solar energy drives the wind which allows running the turbines and producing electrical energy from the kinetic energy. Plants use the solar energy in the process of photosynthesis. Biomass can trace its energy source back to the sun. Even fossil fuels originally received their energy from the sun and solar energy can also be harvest in the macro level by embedding different energy storage and conversation instruments. Solar energy has been used for centuries as in the ancient time people used magnifying glass to focus sunlight and make a fire [1]. With the advancement of technologies, solar energy has been used for water heating and solar energy gas been collected to make steam and run an engine [28]. Harvesting and utilization of solar energy is the key concept by using active and passive technologies to obtain the advantages of producing solar electricity [32]. Solar energy collection, storage and distribution in the form of heat without transforming into the electrical energy are categorized as passive solar energy. In contrast, solar energy collection and using mechanical or electrical technologies to convert heat energy into power energy or other meaningful energy is categorized as active solar energy, as shown in Figure 5.

Massively available source of solar energy, with the highest potential to produce energy at minimum cost and high efficiency compared to other renewable sources of energy, is highly recommended in many countries [33, 34]. Extensive research has been published on the potential, economic and environmental aspects value of the solar energy where scientists successfully launched several active and passive technologies to collect, store and convert solar energies from one form to another. Recently, governments in many coun-

tries have taken initiative to produce solar/clean energy on a large scale but the developing countries are still far from the usage of technologies. Figure 2 shows the global contribution of solar energy to the renewable amounts to 1.0% [10].

Different regions on Earth receive more or less solar irradiance. Some regions on Earth may be more suitable for collection and generation of solar energy [35]. Rapid growth and high demand for solar energy occur across the world. There are few barriers in the acceptance and implementation of solar energy on large scale such the high cost [33]. The potential and performance efficiency of the solar energy is highly dependent on the geographical location, sunshine intensity, wind speed, cloudiness [35, 36]. The awareness and acceptance among rural populated area was found as a barrier which should be overcome and people should be educated with the potential benefits of solar energy [33]. Globally, solar powered electricity generation reached 227 GWe at the end of 2015 and total estimated capacity of solar energy is 406 GWe. Photovoltaic energy is the mainstream solar power energy which drastically increased in the last few years. China is leading in terms of solar PV panel installation 23% followed by the USA – 14%, Japan – 14%, Germany – 13%, and – Italy 6%; 30% PV installation corresponds to the rest of countries on Earth [8, 9, 30].

### Geothermal Energy

Earth’s interior contains a massive amount of heat energy also known Geothermal Energy [37-39]. Over the past few decades, the global capacity of geothermal energy has increased at the rate of 3-4% annually [37]. Geothermal energy is a clean renewable energy source with the highest capacity factor up to 90% [37-41].

Although geothermal energy emits some level of greenhouse gases to the environment, the continuously restoring heat energy in the Earth’s crust make it renewable energy. Among the primary energy resources referred to in Figure 2, the geothermal energy contribution is the least to

Table 1. Capacity factor comparison [41]

Technology	Capacity Factor (%)
Geothermal	89-97
Biomass	80
Wind	26-40
Solar	22.5-32.5

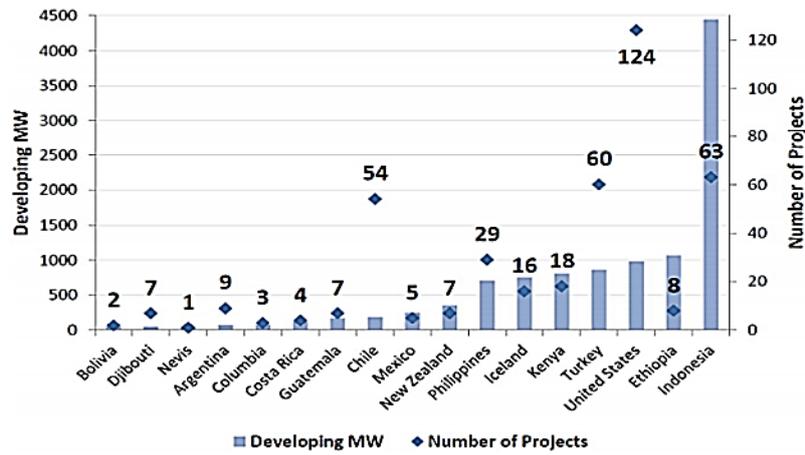


Fig. 6. Countries with over 50MW geothermal energy capacity [41]

the world energy consumption and production, as less than 1.0% electricity is produced from geothermal energy [8÷10]. Within 3 km of the continental crust, the roughly estimated geothermal energy is 43 x106 EJ [8] and the available geothermal energy reserve can supply energy for approximately 217 million years [37].

Since 1950s, geothermal energy has attracted many countries [41]. About 315MW new geothermal plants were installed and raised the global total capacity from 11GW in 2010 to 13.5GW in 2015 [8, 10, 37, 41]. Indonesia and Turkey are the leading countries in geothermal energy followed by United States, Mexico, Kenya, Japan and Germany [8, 41]. Among other countries, Malaysia is also very concerned and actively seeking renewable energy resources. Tawau geothermal plant is the first geothermal plant in Malaysia expected to start operation in June 2018 with maximum capac-

ity of electricity generation 30MW [42]. Generally, two methods are used to produce electricity from the geothermal field. The steam extracted from the geothermal field runs a turbine directly or using hot pressurized fluid to create steam from the low boiling point liquid to operate the turbine [41].

The Earth’s natural heat reserves are immense and geothermal energy has the highest capacity factor over other renewable energy technologies. Geothermal energy can play an important role in the countries that have the potential. In the developing economies like Pakistan, Kenya and Indonesia, the geothermal potential can play a key role to produce electricity and overcome the energy crises.

### Wind Energy

Globally, wind energy is the fastest growing resource of renewable energy and well-proven in

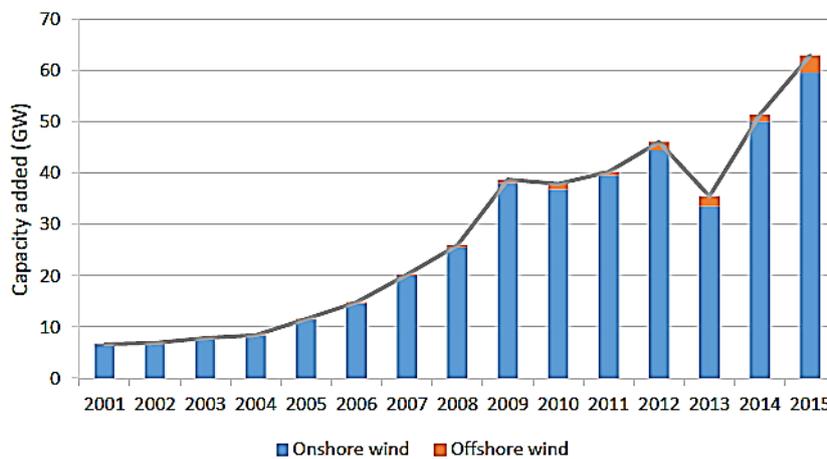


Fig. 7. Global addition of wind capacity [10]

terms of cost-effectiveness [43]. In 2015, wind global growth rate was 17.2% and wind power generation capacity reached 435 GW [8]. According to World Energy Resources [8] estimated the wind power generation is 950TWh which is 4% of the global renewable energy shown in Figure 3. Denmark produces the highest 42% wind power, whereas in Germany the wind power contribution reached to 13% in 2015. Wind power can be generated from onshore and offshore. Figure 7 shows the global addition of wind power.

Wind power output is highly dependent on the wind speed [44÷45]. The output increases with wind speed and remains constant above the design wind speed. Wind turbines do not produce wind energy on low or very high wind speed, and stop working as a result. The wind power management is an important issue for the large scale wind power grid. The wind power capacity factor changes and depends on the wind speed. Site to site capacity factor for wind power is different. In the UK it reached 26-35% onshore and the offshore wind capacity in Denmark reached to 41-50% [44, 46]. Wind power generation typically depends on three factors: the turbine type (vertical/horizontal axis), installation of wind power (onshore/offshore) and grid connectivity (connected or standby). Horizontal wind turbine is most commonly used with possibly two or three



Fig. 8. Vortex Bladeless, Altaeros Energies [8]

blades [44÷45]. In order to overcome the environmental and other wind speed limitation issues, an alternative design called Vortex without rotor blades has been introduced by Spanish to harvest wind energy, as shown in Figure 8. The turbine is run through the vortices phenomena [8].

Airborne is the latest wind generation technology among Google's Makani Project which is a kite type device tied to the ground and rotated in orbit producing electricity. Buoyant airborne turbine (BAT) by Altaeros Energies consists of a conventional HAWT suspended and held afloat in a helium filled shell. Airborne wind solutions are emerging designs yet to reach commercial viability due to the challenges related to cable loading, the impact of lightning and storms and the interferences with aircrafts and radars [8]. Wind power generation is an old technology but a recent trend in terms of searching for new sources of renewable and clean energy to reduce dependency on fuel energy, which has enabled to review wind energy in the recent era [45]. In the past few decades, major and advanced development occurred in the wind power, especially in the developed countries.

### Marine Energy

Marine is more viable and represents an immense source of renewable energy [8, 47]. Marine energy can play a significant role in the energy production to solve the current energy crisis as well reduce the climate change effect [47÷50]. To date, the globally installed marine energy is over 530MW and if the undergoing proposed projects of marine energy are implemented, estimated 750 GW by 2050 will be produced globally [8÷10]. This part examines the overview of sub-categories of marine energy technology which is divided into seven groups: ocean wave, tidal range, tidal current, ocean current, ocean thermal energy, salinity gradient and ocean thermal energy conversion [47, 51÷53]. The collective estimated oceans energy is 20,000 TWh to 80,000 TWh/yr which is 400% more than the present global energy demand [10]. Most of the technologies to produce electricity from marine energy are at the early stage of development except tidal range [51]. Under this section, some short compressive review of the off shore technologies is reviewed.

### Waves Energy

Oceanic waves are the most advance and developed category. Wave energy contributes

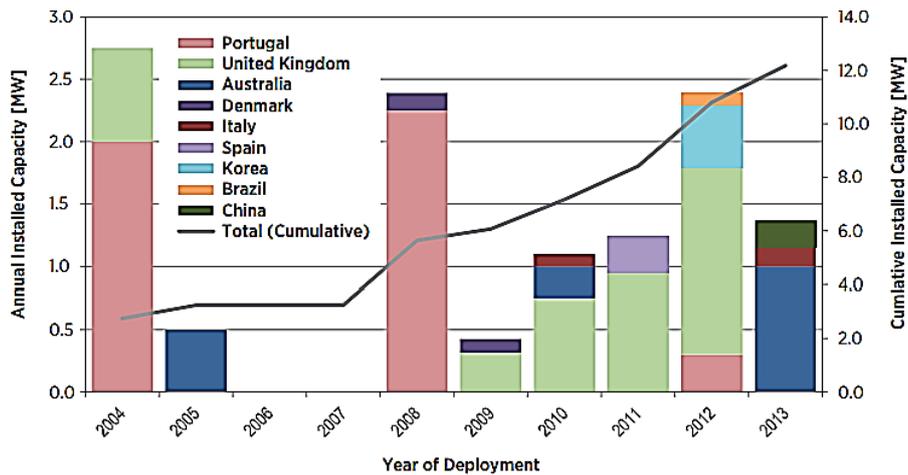


Fig. 9. Large scale wave energy deployment [10]

significantly to the power generation [51÷54]. Strong wind blows over the ocean surface due to the temperature and pressure variation; waves are produced as a result. The waves carry kinetic and gravitational energies. According to Antonio, [55] more than 50 types of different technologies are under development to harvest the energy from the waves such as oscillating buoys, floating ducks, snakes, flaps and enclosed chambers. Scientists are striving for the better improvement and enhancement of the efficiency characterizing the developed wave’s technology. A study conducted by Mork, [56] presented that the total theoretical wave energy potential is 32 Pwh/yr which is double the total global energy 17Pwh/yr supplied in 2008 [8]. Regional distribution of the global yearly wave energy potential is shown in the Table 2. Some of the-

oretical predicated waves energy has been tested practically and validated at laboratory scale [57].

### Tidal Range, Current and Stream

Tides current is defined as vertical rise and fall of ocean water. In the marine science, tidal stream is caused due to the gravity forces between the Earth, the Sun, the Moon and other plants [58÷59]. Globally, most often oceanic tidal stream occurred twice a day [10, 59]. Tidal range is the difference in sea level height between high and low tide at a given location. Tidal range depends on the geographical location and position of the Sun and Moon. In contrast, temperature and pressure variation on the oceans create strong winds; as a result, the oceanic’s water circulation produces tidal current. The velocity of tidal and oceans current is often more than 1m/s which may produce energy [57]. Generally, two methods to produce energy from the tidal or convert tidal energy into electrical energy were adopted. Tidal range has potential to produce energy between high and low tides. The second commonly adopted method is hydrokinetic energy production from the horizontal flow of tidal current [10]. Tidal current energy potential depends on the tidal range; the greater tidal range the higher energy can be captured from the tidal current [58]. Global total tidal (stream and range) potential is estimated at about 3 TW where 1 TW is located relatively shallow water [59÷60]. There are several factors and hurdles in harnessing tidal energy like geographical location of the site and environmental constraints. Most of the coastline across the sea has potential to produce tidal energy [59].

Table 2. Wave Energy regional potential [56]

Region	Wave energy potential (TWh/Year)
Western and Northern Europe	2800
Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Archipelagos (Azores, Cape Verde, Canaries)	1300
North America and Greenland	4000
Central America and South America,	1500 and 4600
Africa	3500
Asia	6200
Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands	5600
Total estimated regional wave energy potential	29,500

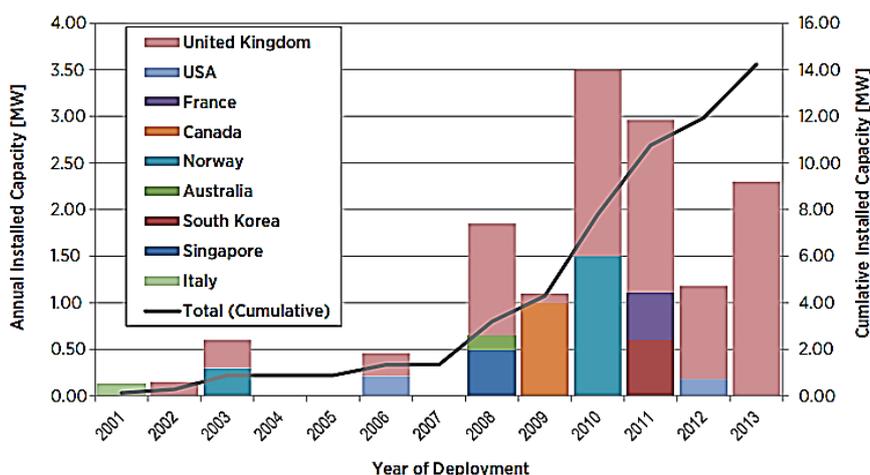


Fig. 10. Large scale Tidal stream deployment [10]

### Ocean Thermal Energy Conversation (OTEC)

Oceans receive a substantial amount of solar energy, approximately 15% of the total incident on Earth [8, 10, 47, 52, 57, 61]. The incident solar energy is stored in the upper layers of the oceans. Temperature gradient difference can exceed more than 25°C between the ocean’s surface water at 20 meter depth to the depth of 1000 m [52, 60÷62]. Ocean’s thermal energy conversation (OTEC) is the process converting the temperature gradient present between ocean’s surface water to deeper cold water using various conversation technologies. The OTEC technologies effectively work if the temperature gradient is 20°C [54]. However, seasonal effect – summer to winter – changes the

temperature gradient but it is considered as continuously available. The estimated total OTEC potential is 30-90 PWh [47, 63]. OTEC has proven high cost although open cycle and closed cycle as well as hybrid OTEC technologies have been developed and tested in the USA, India and Japan [8, 57]. Open cycle and closed cycle technology of OTEC generates desalinated water which can be used for drinking and irrigation, while cold water can be used air conditioning. The benefit of OTEC is that the cold water extracted from the deep sea is rich with some natural minerals can be used for agriculture and in the medicine[64]. OTEC has a high capacity factor of 90-95% but very low efficiency of 7% [65].

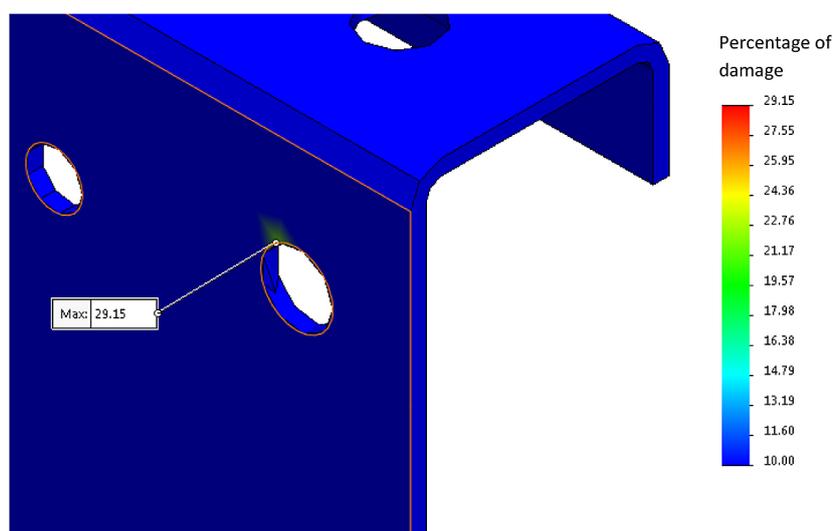


Fig. 11. Pressure retarded Osmosis [72]

## Salinity Gradient

Salinity gradient energy (SGE), also known as blue energy [66], was discovered in 1950s [67÷68]. Natural mixing of fresh and salt water produces large amounts of energy gradient [69]. The global potential of SGE is determined based on Gibbs free energy equation and presumed to equal 1.4-2.6 TW.h [70]. Pressure retarded osmosis (PRO) and reversed electro-dialysis (RED) are the methods used in SGE. Pressure retarded osmosis (PRO) technology of salinity gradient energy was introduced by Norwegian energy company [71]. Under the chemical process water of dilute solution flows toward higher concentrated solution, the movement of two different solutions produces gradient; as a result, turbines rotate and transform the mechanical energy into the electrical energy [66÷69]. First pressure retarded osmosis (PRO) plant energy producing capacity of 5kw was opened in 2009 at Tofte, Norway but closed operation due to a technical fault [57, 72]. Reversed electro dialysis (RED) plant was open in 2014 at Afsluitdijk the Netherland but due to membranes damaging, impurities in sea water and difficulties in filtration, the plant was closed. The developed technologies are underpinning to some serious issues addressed by engineers and future studies are recommended to overcome the challenges mentioned by the recent studies of [66÷68].

## MICRO ENERGY

The contribution of renewable energy is far slower than the non-renewable energy consumption [73÷74] where the potential to generate renewable energy is large [8, 10, 73, 75]. In the era of technological war of rapid growth, especially mobile electronics consuming micro level energies increase in the quantities and may consume large amount of energy. Micro level renewable energy constitutes an alternative to the macro energy resources, which needs heavy investment and long planning [75÷76]. Self-powered technique is used to harvest the energy from the surrounding environment such as thermal variations within the body create light, thermal gradient, pressure gradient, air flow, vibration, motion radiofrequency or electromagnetic radiation are the example of micro scale energy harvesting. Self-powered energy harvesting is a growing interest to the research community facing many chal-

lenges and limitations in the design. The energy generated from the solar radiant is found the best among all others and is clean, eco-friendly and infinite source of energy [1, 8, 73, 76÷83].

## Vibration

Likewise other sources of energy waste vibration create energy which can be usefully converted to electrical energy and can replace small batteries use for sensors or wireless communication devices [84÷85]. Three main causes of vibration are seismic vibration, acoustic vibration and vibration caused by the application of load [84]. Seismic vibration is caused by the human walking, vehicle traffic and wind blowing, etc.. Human motion and others sources of vibrations have the potential to produce energy and can be harvested. The magnitude of the vibration energy depends on the frequency and amplitude of the vibration [84÷89]. The mechanism of energy harvesting from the vibration using electrostatic, piezoelectric and electromagnetic transduction was recognized [84, 90]. Beeby, [91] developed a electromagnetic energy harvester which consists of a coil and a silicon wafer cantilever beam, with four pole magnets as its proof mass. Roundy, [92] developed piezoelectric to harvest micro scale energy from the vibration sources. Using the vibration energy harvesting concept Minazara, [93] developed a piezoelectric generator and installed it in the handlebar of bicycle to convert the available mechanical energy and power the LED lamp of the bicycle. Human body, especially while walking, has a potential to produce energy [84, 88, 89, 90, 94]. The kinetic energy from human walking can be harvested and converted to electrical energy [85÷94]. The benefit of energy harvesting from vibration is not only useful for batteries recharge or replacement but also reduces the cost of the batteries and maintenance. Moreover, it minimizes the power consumption also has a positive influence on the environment. Many studies conducted on vibration and motion energy and have attracted the researchers' attention in the area of micro scale vibration and motion energy. Wei, [84] listed and compared the maximum potential output among piezoelectric, electromagnetic and electrostatic vibration energy harvesting techniques with the maximum output energy  $2.45 \times 10^{-5} \mu\text{W}$  to  $2.7 \times 10^4 \mu\text{W}$ . It was concluded that vibration and motion have potential to harvest and convert mechanical/kinetic energy into electrical energy on a micro scale.

## Radio Frequency

The environment is filled with radio frequencies (RF) generated from various wireless devices such as mobile tower, radio, television, satellite orbiting earth and mobile phone [95÷96]. Radio frequency (RF) energy transmitting from the wireless medium can be harvested or recycled from the ambient [97÷98]. A large amount of RF energy involves transmitting but only small amount can be harvested in real time, while the rest absorbed by the other materials or dissipates in heat energy [97]. Like in the case of other sources available in the environment and helpful for the production of free energy, RF energy is also available in large quantities and has potential to generate electrical energy [99÷100]. The mechanism of radio frequency energy harvesting consists of a receiving antenna, matching circuit, frequency detector and electric voltage. The function of antenna is to receive electromagnetic waves using a matching circuit to amplified voltage and the system capable of converting radio frequency into direct current. The maximum theoretical power of RF energy harvesting is  $7.0\mu\text{W}$  and  $1.0\mu\text{W}$  for 2.4GHz and 900MHz frequency, respectively, for free space distance of 40 meters [97, 101]. According to Le, [102] signals path loss will be different depending on the capturing environment, in contrast to free space environment. Antenna plays a significant role in the RF energy harvesting. The output or the efficiency of RF energy harvesting highly depends on antenna size, mass and design [96÷102]. In the urban populated regions, different types of radio waves are freely available. These waves carry abundant energy which can be harvested using the RF energy harvesting techniques [95]. Literature showed sufficient data on the RF energy harvesting potential. The RF energy harvesting has opened new research opportunities for wireless and networking communication to harvest energy and use for the devices that need micro energy in the range of  $(10^{-3}-10^{-6})$ [97÷99].

## Air Flow

At present, world is full of well-developed microelectronic technologies [95] and micro energy harvesting has successfully attracted attention [103÷104]. The airflow from the air conditioning equipment in the buildings can be harvested and wind turbine technology is one approach to harvest the airflow [105÷107]. Re-

searchers were able to draw the output of micro wind turbine as Federspiel, [108] has designed 10.2 cm diameter fan rotor at air velocity 2.5 m/s output 8mW energy produces increasing air velocity 5.1 m/s, respectively, which has increased the energy to 28mW. Study of Rancourt, [109] reduced the size of rotor fan to 4.2 cm diameter output obtaining 2.4mW at 5.5 m/s air velocity and 130mW at 11.8m/s. Howey, [110] designed a rotor fan of 1.5 cm<sup>2</sup> and 4.3mW energy was produce at airflow velocity of 10 m/s as a result. Generally, the power harvested from the airflow mechanism depends on the air/wind velocity, wind density and fans curve area of interaction with air [106, 107, 110, 111].

The power generated using airflow technique is measured as:

$$P_{out} = \frac{1}{2} \rho A V^3 \eta_g C_p \quad (1)$$

Where:  $P_{out}$  is the converted electrical energy (W),  $A$  is the area of wind turbine (cm<sup>2</sup>),  $\rho$  air density kg.m<sup>-3</sup>,  $\eta_g$  is the efficiency of generator,  $C_p$  is the theoretical limit and  $C_p$  is less than 0.59 as in 1919, Albert Betz determined that a wind turbine cannot convert more than 59% of the kinetic energy of the wind [112÷114]. Hence, its micro level airflow energy is expected to have lesser  $C_p$  value. Literature studies indicated that the maximum efficacy achieved using micro wind turbine is 10% [110÷115]. In order to increase the air generator performance efficiency Carli, [116] established a buck-boost converter. As a result, the result generator efficiency has increased. A study found that the airflow micro energy can be harvest using the wind turbine technique [117]. In majority, future studies focus on increasing the efficiency of airflow energy.

## Thermal Energy/ Thermoelectric Energy

Our surroundings are full of many sources which generate natural temperature gradient between 10°C to 100°C like vehicle exhausts, fossil fuelled power generation, petrochemical plants, metals melting, glass and paper manufacturing, etc. The generated temperature gradient can be harvested to convert electrical energy conditionally [118÷121]. Electric/energy potential present due to the temperature gradient between two bodies is known as thermoelectricity [122]. Thermoelectricity is available into two forms temperature gradi-

ent or temperature time-variation. Thermoelectric effect and pyro-electric effect are two methods to generate electrical energy from the thermal energy [122÷124]. In the method of thermoelectric energy harvesting, temperature is maintained through temperature gradient in the material and electrical energy is produced [125]. Thermoelectric energy produces via three different effects: the seebeck effect, the Peltier effect and the Thomson effect which is reversible in the thermodynamics [124÷127]. Seebeck is among the most common and interesting effects of thermal electric effect which produce the electrical energy due to the difference of temperature in the body. Thermoelectric generator or Seebeck effect was introduced by Thomas Johann Seebeck in 1821 to convert direct temperature gradient into electrical energy [126÷128]. A study quoted by Chalasani and Conrad [122] stated that Seebeck heat pump was designed by Sodano [129] to convert the temperature gradient available in the electrical power. Rowe, [130] developed large thermoelectric generator with the capacity of 100 watts and produced electrical energy from the hot waste water. Numerous studies were conducted to improve the efficiency of thermoelectric generator, as the current efficiency of TEG is less than 10% [123, 131÷132]. Pyroelectric energy harvesting is dependent on temperature time variation. In the contrast to thermoelectric energy, the pyroelectric energy does not need temperature gradient to convert thermal energy into electrical energy [123, 133, 134].

The phenomenon of pyroelectric energy is described when some materials generate electrical charge when heated. As a result of heating, the atoms of the material slightly change the position within the structure and polarization occurs. The polarization change of the material produces voltage in the material. Thus, the generated voltage can be converted to electrical energy within the temperature change variation [123, 135]. Early theoretical studies on the pyroelectric energy were conducted by Clingman, [136] and Hoh, [137]. A study of Gonzalo, [138] suggested that the pyroelectric material efficiency can increase up to 4.0% by selecting proper material [139]. Ferro-electric transitions were found best for pyroelectric energy harvesting over small temperature variation, also increasing the efficiency [140÷142]. In conclusion, thermoelectric and pyroelectric methods have potential to produce and harvest micro energy by means of temperature gradient and real time temperature variation in the materials.

### Solar Energy Harvesting on Road Pavement

The energy generated from the solar radiant was found the best among all others and is clean, eco-friendly as well as constitutes an infinite source of energy [1, 8, 27, 28, 30, 32 33, 77, 78, 82]. There are various methods to produce solar energy, such as photo thermal, photovoltaic, photochemical and photo- biological con-

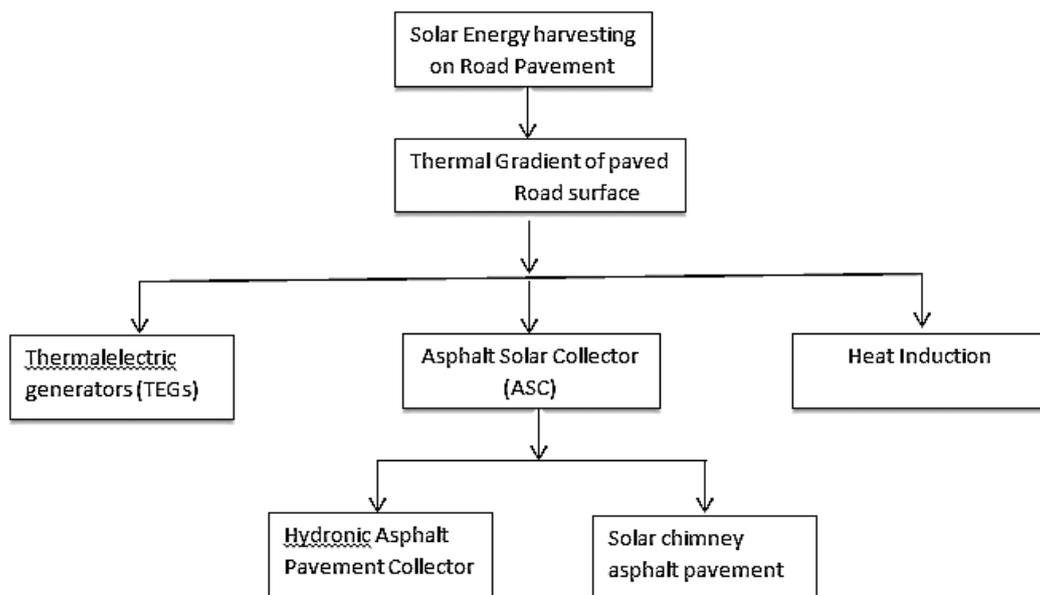


Fig. 12. Asphalt pavement energy harvesting technologies

versions [33, 78, 143]. A new paradigm of the utilization of asphalt pavement as a solar collector includes the addition to self-powered energy harvesting and is categorized into two types solar radiation and vehicle load [73, 77, 144]. Daily, asphalt pavement received enormous amount of sun heat which get dissipates into the environment. Past studies found that bitumen asphalted surface may heat up to 70°C in summer by the direct solar radiation [73, 77, 83, 144÷150, 168]. High temperature accelerates the thermal oxidation of asphalt pavement; hence, structural failure occurs and pavement performance is reduced [77, 151, 152].

Numerous studies focused on the asphalt solar collector (ASC) where the first and most important part covered is variation in the temperature of the outer and inner surface of the asphalt pavement at various depths followed by the embedded pipe material and arrangement. Formerly, metallic pipes made of steel; copper and iron were used due to high conductivity. However, high cost, corrosion and rigidity of the metallic pipes caused structural damages. Beside high potential of solar radiation collection asphalt pavement has high albedo rates at night and day time. Water is the most abundantly available fluid and best used in embedded pipes [77, 146÷160].

However, the solidification temperature of the circulating liquid should be lower than the expected lowest temperature of fluid as in some cases temperature drop below the freezing point and water can freeze in the embedded pipes and cause damage [153]. The arrangement of pipes is also an important parameter in asphalt solar collector (ASC) and the ongoing research studies also focus on the arrangement of the pipes, but literature shows that the parallel and serpentine arrangements have followed. Up to some extent, the serpentine arrangement was found more efficient than the parallel [147÷148, 158÷159].

### Thermoelectric generators (TEGs)

In order to avoid the waste of micro thermal energy created within body, the thermoelectric generators (TEGs) technology has been introduced. TEGs implant between two heat exchangers which directly convert the heat energy into electrical energy due to the Seebeck effect [156, 161÷162]. Utilization of thermoelectric generators (TEGs) in the road surface to collect waste heat energy through Seebeck effect is a new con-

cept but lower efficiency is the main drawback [163÷164]. Experimental study conducted by Mallick,[161] implanting the TEGs into the asphalt pavement obtained the maximum power output of 5W but did not calculate the efficiency. Wu and Yu, [165] implanted TEGs in the asphalt pavement surface. The maximum output efficiency was calculated as 4% using Quantum Well structured (QW) materials. The efficiency of the TEGs is associated with the temperature gradient, the higher is the thermal gradient the more energy is generated and TEGs shows higher efficiency [135, 162, 163, 166, 167].

### Induction Heat

Asphalt itself is not an electrically conductive material but in the cooperation with other electrically conductive material that can be added to mixture, heating may be induced [168÷169]. The conductive material produces heat based on the Joule effect equation:

$$P = R.I^2.t \quad (2)$$

Where:  $P$  is the heat generated,  $R$  is the material resistance,  $I$  the current and  $t$  the time of exposure to the magnetic field [170]. Self-healing of the asphalt pavement against permanent deformation and minor or major cracks appearing in the asphalt pavement can occur if no more is applied to the surface that has been cracked [171÷173]. The electrically conductive material incorporation with pavement material can induce heat energy by solar irradiation and this energy can be harvest. The energy is induced using a conductive material in asphalt pavement to cope with the problem of cracks appearing in asphalt pavement to encourage self-healing techniques [155, 168÷173].

### Asphalt Solar Collector (ASC)

Asphalt solar collector can be traced back to the year 1979 when it was patented by Wendal in the United States [174]. The purpose was de-icing and melting snow during the winter snowing period. Moreover, to ensure road safety and smooth traffic flow especially on the bridges, ramps and road bends. Asphalt solar collector (ASC) was expended into hydronic asphalt pavement and solar air chimney method has been developed recently.

## Hydronic Asphalt Solar Collector (HASC)

Hydronic asphalt solar collector heat collection occurred in the pipes embedded underneath the wearing course which contains liquid (water or any other liquid). In the day light, the road surface temperature increases and temperature gradient between the fluid circulating in the pipes below the pavement surface is produced. The convection occurred where heat is transferred from the solid surface to the flowing liquid in the pipes and paved surface temperature decreases in the result of temperature stored in the flowing water. The store heat energy can be converted into thermal energy [77, 161, 170, 175]. The Solar Energy Recuperation from the Road Pavement (SERSO) installed a hydronic asphalt solar collector (HASC) in Switzerland for the purpose of de-icing the snow from the bridge [73, 77, 175]. HASC was commercially applied by Road Energy System in Netherland to melt snow and harvest energy [176]. The use of hydronic asphalt solar collector (HASC) for snow melting was the subject of many studies and recently some companies have commercialized it, such as Dutch Ooms international holding with Road Energy System® (RES), WinnerWay, ICAX™ and Woecester Polytechnic Institute has a developed solar asphalt collector cited by [77, 150]. Studies focus on increasing the potential of hydronic asphalt solar collector by using different conductive materials. The major concern or drawback is the cracking appearing in the asphalt or the asphalt strength which can be improved using a polymer-modified bitumen as the previous result indicated that polymer-modified asphalt increases the strength of the asphalt pavement [177÷178].

## Solar wind Turbine

Recently, convection-powered air flow technique has been introduced by Garcia & Partl [155] to manage the asphalt pavement temperature. The system of solar updraft towers and solar chimney consist of pipes embedded in paved surface. The air heated on the paved surface during day time creates an updraft air through the chimney [155, 178]. Air convection occurring in the chimney allows wind turbine to produce electrical energy. In addition Garcia & Partl, [155] concluded that the air flowing through the embedded pipes in asphalt pavement can heat up and cool down up to  $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and a significant reduction on the road surface temperature has been observed.

Additionally, the efficiency of solar wind turbine was studied versus the height of the chimney. The optimum height depended on the pipe material the chimney is made of but for the PVC chimney, 1m to 1.5m gives the maximum efficiency. The longer the height of chimney, the greater heat loss may be, in the contrast to the shorter chimney in which the air flow is very slow [155]. The subject of solar wind turbine in asphalt road has wide opportunity for study in the future; till now, only one study has conducted.

## CONCLUSION

Energy is the key contributor to human basic needs; importantly, the economic growth of the country is highly dependent on the energy. Yet, fossil fuels are among the top sources of energy. In the past two decades, unprecedented changes in the consumption of fossil fuel energies had a drastic impact on the environment. As a result, the trend of investment in the renewable clean eco-friendly energies has grown worldwide. Nature can inspire innovative solutions for future energy systems and technology design. This paper confirmed the global resource of macro and micro energies potential in the current scenario.

Amongst the renewable energy resources, hydro energy is dominant with 71% global supply in 2015. Approximately 10,000 TWh/Year of unutilized hydropower energy potential exists worldwide. Bioenergy plays a significant role in reducing the greenhouses gases and corresponded to 10% global renewable energy resources supplies. The electricity produced from the bioenergy constitutes the third largest renewable energy resource. Recently, waste disposal has become the greatest challenge worldwide. Scientists confirmed that recovery of heat energy or electricity from the waste was found among the most appropriate methods to solve the waste issues. Waste plastic products followed by papers, textiles and other waste organic materials have a high potential for reuse and produce energy. The review concluded that our planet has an infinite source of solar energy which radiates more energy than the consumed annually by the world population and has the highest potential to produce renewable energy. Recent development shows that the global contribution of solar energy to the renewable energy accounted for 1.0%. The Earth's natural heat reserves are immense and geothermal energy

has the highest capacity factor of 90% over other renewable energy technologies. Geothermal energy can play an important role in the countries that have potential like Indonesia and Turkey and USA, i.e. the leading countries producing geothermal energy. Wind power generation is an old technology but recently has attracted significant attention in terms of renewable energy production. Advanced development has occurred in the wind power harvesting technologies to overcome the wind speed and environmental challenges. An alternative design without rotor blades and the new Google Makani project to produce electricity from the wind were discussed. Denmark produces the highest amount, i.e. 42% of wind power, followed by Germany with 13%. Marine energy is an immense source of renewable energy and has a potential to play significant a role in the production of clean energy. Marine energy is categorized into seven sources including ocean wave, tidal range, tidal current, ocean current, ocean thermal energy, salinity gradient and ocean thermal energy conversion. Each source of marine energy plays a significant role and has potential but most of them are at the early stage of development.

The contribution of renewable energy resources is far slower than the energy produced from fossil fuels. Rapid development of technology and acceptance among the people, especially mobile devices consume micro energies. Self-powered techniques used to harvest energy from the surrounding environment such as thermal variations within the body create light, thermal gradient, pressure gradient, air flow, vibration, radiofrequency or electromagnetic radiation. Each source of micro energy is well explained in the section above. Micro energy can be harvested from the waste vibration or thermal gradient present between two bodies. The study recommended the utilization of macro and micro energy resources which have huge potential to reduce the dependency on the fossil fuel will also help to reduce the environmental pollution.

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