

Have you ever heard of a solar and wind powered vehicle? Cwmgors villager, Mr. Bartlett, is the first to have a turbine/PV wheelchair! Awel Aman Tawe organised for Mr. Bartlett's electric wheelchair battery to be charged by alternative energy ? with 2 x 64W photovoltaic (solar electric) panels and a small turbine which are installed in his back garden. Mr. Mel Bartlett says: ?Nobody notices that the wind turbine is in situ. Japan is more enlightened since small wind turbines like this are common. There should be more grants available to encourage installations. I'd like to see it develop even further, so that not only one house, but groups of houses can be connected to such a system.?

While national grid power cuts affect the rest of us, come wind or shine Mr. Bartlett can rest assured that nature will supply his energy needs. The system is also connected to his electric chair lift and indoor lighting. The wheelchair battery can be charged on cloudy days or with a mere 6m/s of wind. He previously needed to recharge his electric wheelchair from mains electricity. Now, an energy combination, which is available to us all, is used, preventing carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere which result from fossil fuel use.

This is one of the latest of Awel Aman Tawe's renewable energy projects in the Amman and Upper Swansea Valley area. It was funded by the Welsh Assembly's Local Regeneration Fund, The Energy Saving Trust and installed by Sundance Renewables.

### **Mr Bartlett - Cwmgors**

**May 2004**

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Have you ever heard of a solar and wind powered vehicle? Cwmgors villager, Mr. Bartlett, is the first to have a turbine/PV wheelchair! Through the management of community energy organisation, Awel Aman Tawe, Mr. Bartlett's electric wheelchair battery is charged by alternative energy with 2 x 64W photovoltaic (solar electric) panels and a small turbine which are installed in his back garden. Mr. Mel Bartlett says: 'Nobody notices that the wind turbine is in situ. Japan is more enlightened since small wind turbines like this are common. There should be more grants available to encourage installations. I'd like to see it develop even further, so that not only one house, but groups of houses can be connected to such a system.'

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