

5. The blades of a windmill sweep out a circle of area  $A$ .
- If the wind flows at a velocity  $v$  perpendicular to the circle, what is the mass of the air passing through it in time  $t$ ?
  - What is the kinetic energy of the air?
  - Assume that the windmill converts 25% of the wind's energy into electrical energy, and that  $A = 30 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $v = 36 \text{ km/h}$  and the density of air is  $1.2 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ . What is the electrical power produced?

**Sol.** According to the question Area of the circle swept by the windmill =  $A$

Velocity of the wind =  $v$

Density of air =  $\rho$

a. Volume of the wind flowing through the windmill per sec =  $Av$

Mass of the wind flowing through the windmill per sec =  $\rho Av$

Mass  $m$ , of the wind flowing through the windmill in time  $t = \rho Avt$

b. Kinetic energy of air =  $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}(\rho Avt)v^2 = \frac{1}{2}\rho Av^3t$$

According to the question, area of the circle swept by the windmill,  $A = 30 \text{ m}^2$

Velocity of the wind =  $v = 36 \text{ km/h} = 10 \text{ m/s}$

Density of air,  $\rho = 1.2 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$

As per the question,  $E_{electric} = E_{wind}$

$$E_{electric} = \frac{25}{100} \times \frac{1}{2}\rho Av^3t = \frac{1}{8}\rho Av^3t$$

Electrical power,  $P_{electric} = \frac{E_{electric}}{t}$

$$P_{electric} = \frac{1}{8} \frac{\rho Av^3t}{t} = \frac{1}{8}\rho Av^3$$

$$P_{electric} = \frac{1}{8} \times 1.2 \times 30 \times (10)^3$$

$$P_{electric} = 4.5 \times 10^3 \text{ W} = 4.5 \text{ kW}$$