

*"I have always been interested in building things, but more recently I have been fascinated with 'green' energy sources. I have seen people accomplish things like this and I wanted to experiment myself."*

### The Project

I wanted to find a way to capture the wind's energy and convert it to a more usable form, so I built a free-standing windmill. The windmill charges a car battery, which can then be used to power other objects.

### The Challenges

After I had measured and cut all the windmill fins, I realized they were too weak for what we needed. I had to rethink my materials and design, and completely start over. It was very frustrating.



### Benefit to Others

It helped my friends and I understand wind power better and has given us the knowledge we need to build more of these machines.

I hope we'll be able to find a way for this windmill to help others utilize green energy and save on their electricity bills.



### Benefit to Myself

This project has improved my mechanical skills, helped me understand wind power and other green energy sources better, and has helped reduce my power bill.

A couple of my buddies helped me with the build, and the best part of this project was spending time with them, getting our hands dirty and creating something together.