WATERWHEELS

Upto 20Kw installed capacity

Waterwheels are a viable proposition for producing electriciy for domestic purposes. They are simple to control and aesthetically pleasing. Although they run realtively slowly and require a high ratio gearbox to drive a generator, for low powers – say below 20kW – and heads below 8m, they are worth considering.

Waterwheels are often overlooked for generating electricity but can be successfully employed at many low-head micro-hydro sites and have a number of advantages over conventional approaches with turbines:

- Output reduction due to screen blockages is avoided since fine intake screens are not required.
- Part-flow performance of waterwheels can be very good without requiring complex control systems.
- Often minimal building work is required, particularly at former watermills if there is a vacant wheel pit.
- Waterwheels have obvious aesthetic benefits over turbmes and provide an excellent attraction at sites where visitors are encouraged.

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