

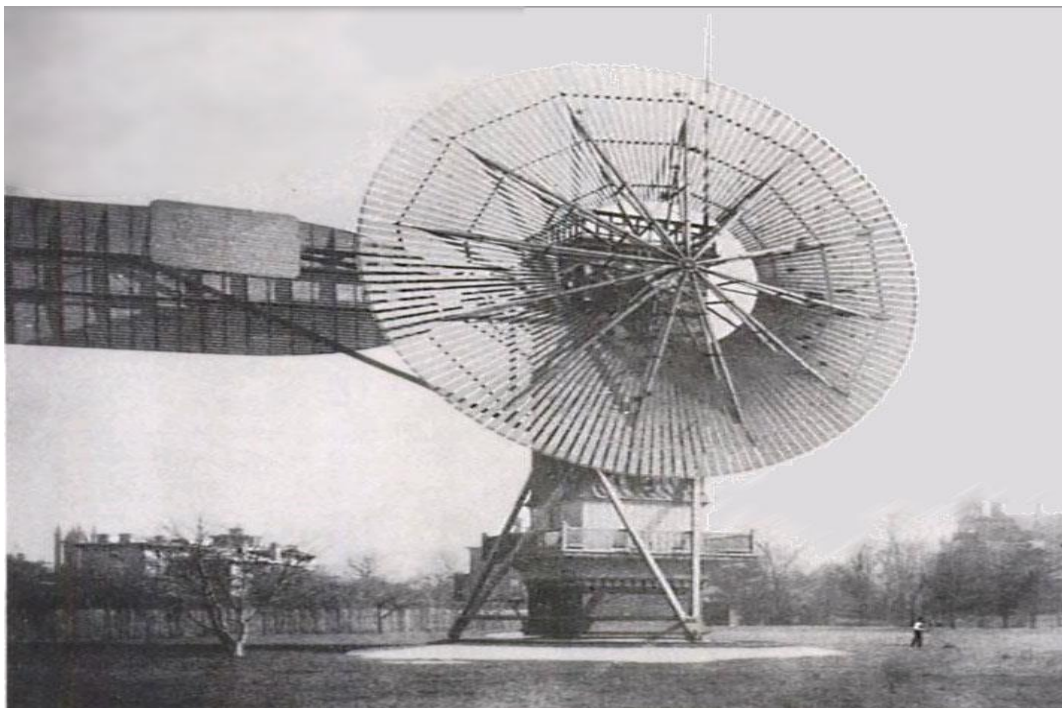
Renewable Energy History

Renewable energy is a buzzing term in energy sector these days, however many of us will be surprised to know that use of renewable energy dates back to ancient times. The use of biomass for cooking and heating was one of the earliest renewable energy technologies. Our ancestors also used wind energy to drive ships, and even used grain crushing windmills in traditional farming. It was in the mid 19th century that with advent of coal and oil technologies such renewable sources began losing their importance. Rampant use of coal for power generation and oil for transportation sector burgeoned the industrialization but simultaneously these technologies led to excessive deterioration of environment and depletion. In less than 100 years environmentalists started denouncing the use of fossil fuel based energy sources, Max Weber who was an economist and politician from Germany concluded in one of his books that use of fossil fuels must end. A leading science magazine of USA, Scientific American in one of its articles cited that solar power will be only hope of human race in future, this article was published in 1911.

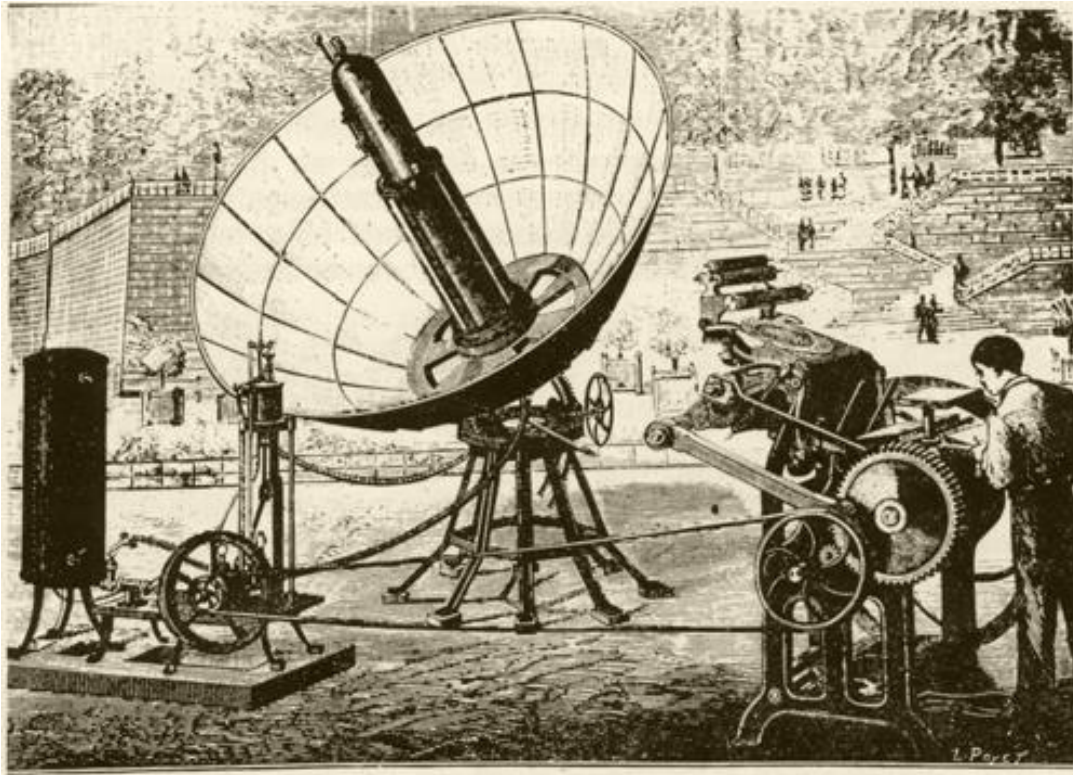
In one of the inventions that was ahead of its time, Charles Brush in 1888 created a wind mill for generation of electricity. The use of solar power for heating started in 1767 in Switzerland, however it was only in 1839 that Alexander Becquerel discovered photoelectric effect which paved the way for modern PV systems. It was Auguste Mouchout in 1860, who created the first solar power generator and also forecasted that coal will eventually finished.

Hence, the importance of renewable energy has never really been belittled, it was sidelined for some time to make way for luring fossil fuel energy, now again with Governments and people backing it renewable energy is again prominence in most of the developed and developing countries.

Charles Brush's Windmill



Auguste Muchout's Solar Generator



References

1. <http://landartgenerator.org/blagi/archives/2004>
2. <http://www.energymatters.com.au/panels-modules/>

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