



GENERATING ENERGY THROUGH TIDAL ENERGY IN THE OCEAN: A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Ahmedov Alim Babaniyazovich

Teacher of Termez state university

Eshkoraev Javokhir Zayniddinovich

Student of Termez state university of engineering and agro-technology

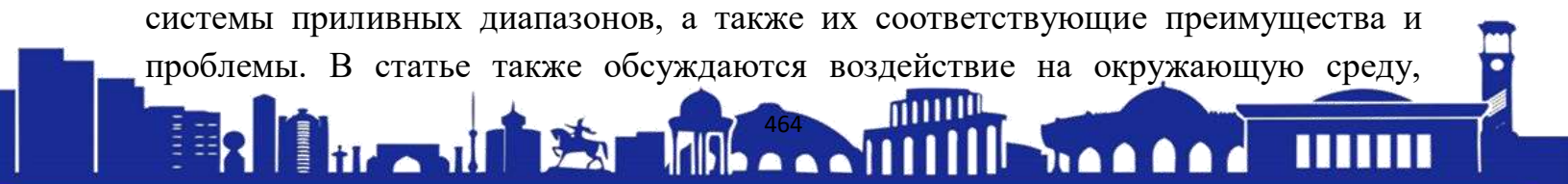
Abstract

Tidal energy harnesses the movement of ocean tides to generate electricity, offering a renewable and predictable energy source. Unlike other renewable sources like solar and wind, tidal energy benefits from its predictability, as tides occur at regular intervals due to the gravitational pull of the moon and sun. This paper explores the potential of tidal energy as a sustainable solution to global energy needs, highlighting the technologies involved, such as tidal stream systems and tidal range systems, and their respective benefits and challenges. The article also discusses the environmental impact, technological advancements, and the geographic limitations that influence the widespread adoption of tidal energy. As nations around the world seek alternatives to fossil fuels, tidal energy presents a promising solution for diversifying the energy mix and reducing carbon emissions.

Keywords: Tidal energy, renewable energy, tidal stream systems, tidal range systems, sustainable energy, ocean energy, environmental impact, clean energy, energy technology, tidal power generation.

Аннотация

Приливная энергия использует движение океанских приливов для выработки электроэнергии, предлагая возобновляемый и предсказуемый источник энергии. В отличие от других возобновляемых источников, таких как солнечная и ветровая энергия, приливная энергия выигрывает от своей предсказуемости, поскольку приливы происходят с регулярными интервалами из-за гравитационного притяжения Луны и Солнца. В этой статье исследуется потенциал приливной энергии как устойчивого решения для глобальных энергетических потребностей, выделяя задействованные технологии, такие как системы приливных течений и системы приливных диапазонов, а также их соответствующие преимущества и проблемы. В статье также обсуждаются воздействие на окружающую среду,



технологические достижения и географические ограничения, которые влияют на широкое внедрение приливной энергии. Поскольку страны по всему миру ищут альтернативы ископаемому топливу, приливная энергия представляет собой многообещающее решение для диверсификации энергетического баланса и сокращения выбросов углерода.

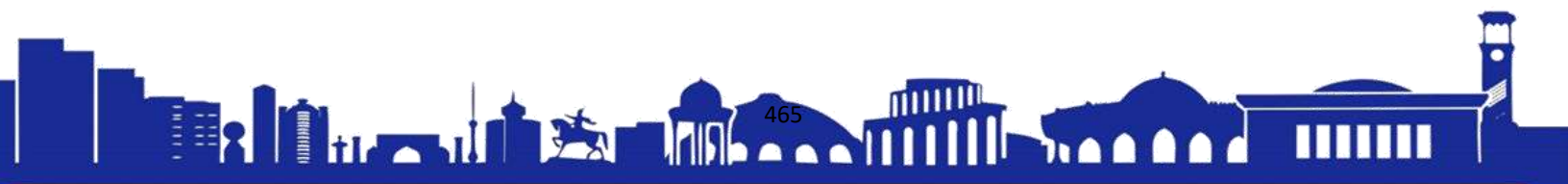
Ключевые слова: приливная энергия, возобновляемая энергия, системы приливных течений, системы приливных диапазонов, устойчивая энергетика, энергия океана, воздействие на окружающую среду, чистая энергия, энергетические технологии, приливная генерация энергии.

Introduction

The world is facing a growing demand for clean, renewable energy sources to combat the challenges posed by climate change and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Among the most promising renewable resources is tidal energy, which harnesses the predictable rise and fall of ocean tides to generate electricity. Unlike other renewable sources such as wind and solar, tidal energy offers a significant advantage in its predictability and reliability. This is due to the consistent and foreseeable nature of tides driven by the gravitational forces of the moon and the sun.

Tidal energy can be harnessed through two primary technologies: tidal stream systems and tidal range systems. Tidal stream systems capture the kinetic energy of moving water, much like underwater wind turbines, while tidal range systems make use of the potential energy created by the difference in water height between high and low tides. As the world looks for sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels, tidal energy presents a viable solution for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy security, and diversifying the global energy mix.

However, the widespread adoption of tidal energy comes with its own set of challenges, including high upfront costs, potential environmental impacts, and geographic limitations. Despite these hurdles, advancements in technology, along with growing investments in renewable energy, are making tidal energy an increasingly viable option. This article explores the technologies behind tidal energy, the benefits it offers, and the challenges it faces, while also providing insight into the future potential of tidal power generation.





Main body.

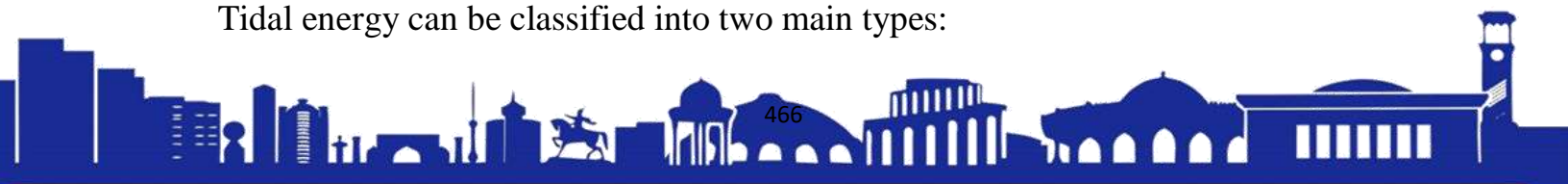
As the world seeks cleaner and more sustainable sources of energy, renewable options like solar, wind, and hydropower have emerged as crucial alternatives to fossil fuels. Among these, tidal energy, a form of hydropower harnessing the movement of tides, has gained significant attention in recent years. This form of energy generation is considered highly promising due to the vast potential it holds in terms of energy output, predictability, and environmental sustainability. Tidal energy systems use the movement of water, primarily driven by the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun, to generate electricity.

What is Tidal Energy?



Tidal energy is generated from the natural rise and fall of sea levels known as tides. This movement is predictable, with two high tides and two low tides occurring each day, making it a reliable source of energy compared to other renewable sources like solar or wind, which are intermittent and subject to weather conditions. The technology behind tidal energy has evolved over time, ranging from tidal stream systems that capture the kinetic energy of moving water to tidal range systems that harness the potential energy created by the difference in height between high and low tides.

Tidal energy can be classified into two main types:





Tidal Stream Systems: These use the kinetic energy from flowing water to generate power, similar to underwater wind turbines. The turbines are placed in areas with strong tidal flows, where the moving water turns blades that generate electricity.

Tidal Range Systems: These systems make use of the potential energy from the rise and fall of tides. They operate by building a dam or barrier across an estuary, where water is trapped during high tide and released through turbines during low tide to generate power.

How Does Tidal Energy Work?

The process of generating energy from tidal movement involves two key principles: kinetic and potential energy. In a tidal stream system, turbines are placed in regions with strong tidal currents. As the water moves, it turns the turbine blades, which are connected to a generator that converts the mechanical energy into electrical energy. On the other hand, in tidal range systems, a dam is constructed in an area where the difference between high and low tide is substantial. When the tide comes in, the water is trapped behind the dam. When the tide goes out, the water is released through turbines, generating electricity from the movement of the water.

The Benefits of Tidal Energy

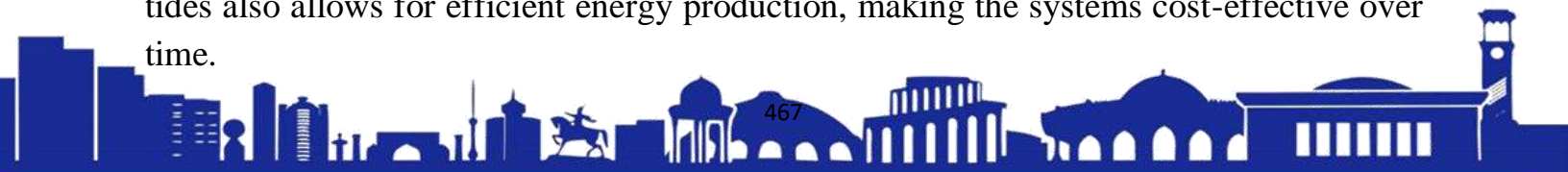
Tidal energy offers several significant benefits, making it a highly attractive alternative energy source. These include:

Predictability and Reliability: Tidal movements are highly predictable, with accurate forecasts available decades in advance. This gives tidal energy an edge over other renewable sources like wind and solar, which depend on variable environmental conditions.

Environmental Sustainability: Tidal energy is considered one of the cleanest forms of energy generation. It produces no greenhouse gas emissions or air pollution and has a minimal environmental footprint compared to traditional power plants.

Long-Term Potential: Oceans cover over 70% of the Earth's surface, providing vast opportunities for tidal energy generation. The potential for expansion is enormous, particularly in regions with strong tidal currents, such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and parts of Southeast Asia.

Low Operating Costs: After the initial investment in infrastructure, tidal energy systems have relatively low maintenance and operating costs. The predictable nature of tides also allows for efficient energy production, making the systems cost-effective over time.





Energy Security: Tidal energy can contribute to energy security by diversifying the energy mix. It offers a reliable and consistent energy source that is independent of weather fluctuations or geopolitical concerns associated with fossil fuels.

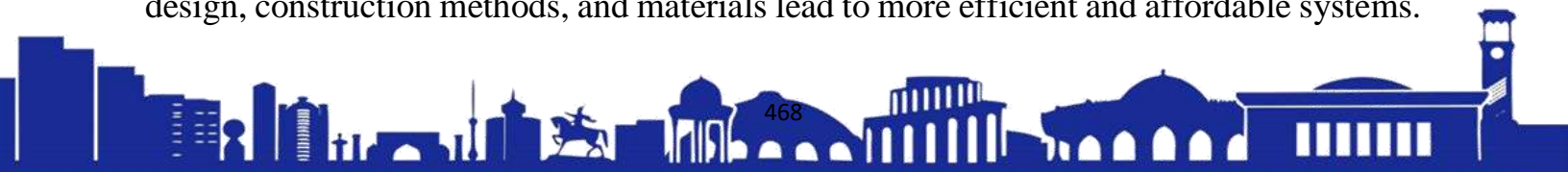
Results

The potential for tidal energy generation is significant, but it is still in the early stages of development compared to other renewable energy sources. As of 2021, the global tidal energy potential is estimated to range between **3 to 10 gigawatts (GW)**, which could provide a substantial contribution to global electricity generation (European Commission, 2019). The largest operational tidal power station, the **Rance Tidal Power Station** in France, has been generating electricity since 1966 and currently produces around **240 MW** of power. This station demonstrates the scalability of tidal range technology, with the capacity to provide electricity to approximately **130,000 homes** annually.

Tidal stream systems, which use the kinetic energy of moving water, have seen notable advancements in recent years. The **United Kingdom** and **South Korea** are leading the way in tidal stream energy development, with over **500 MW** of capacity in various stages of development or testing. For example, the **Paimpol-Bréhat tidal stream array** in France and the **SeaGen tidal stream turbine** in Northern Ireland have made substantial progress in demonstrating the feasibility of these technologies.

In terms of environmental impact, tidal energy is considered one of the cleanest forms of power generation. It produces no greenhouse gas emissions or air pollution. However, there are localized effects, such as potential disruption to marine ecosystems, fish migration, and sediment movement. These impacts are often mitigated through careful planning and monitoring during the installation of tidal energy systems. Compared to other marine renewable energy technologies, tidal energy is less likely to result in long-term environmental damage due to its relatively low impact on the surrounding marine environment.

The cost of tidal energy is still a barrier to large-scale deployment. The current levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for tidal energy projects ranges between **\$200-300 per megawatt-hour (MWh)**, making it more expensive than traditional energy sources like coal or natural gas. However, it is expected that the cost will decrease as the technology matures, much like wind and solar energy did over the past few decades. In fact, it is projected that tidal energy will become more cost-competitive as innovations in turbine design, construction methods, and materials lead to more efficient and affordable systems.



As for future potential, the global tidal energy sector is poised for growth. Several countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States, have ambitious plans to develop tidal energy as part of their renewable energy strategies. The European Union aims to develop a combined offshore renewable energy capacity (including tidal and wave energy) of **100 GW by 2050**, which could significantly contribute to the region's clean energy goals.

Challenges of Tidal Energy

Despite its many advantages, tidal energy faces several challenges that must be addressed before it can be widely adopted:

High Initial Costs: The construction of tidal energy infrastructure, particularly tidal range systems, requires significant upfront investment. The cost of building dams or underwater turbines can be prohibitively expensive, making it difficult for many countries to invest in large-scale projects.

Environmental Impact: While tidal energy is considered environmentally friendly, it can still have localized impacts on marine ecosystems. For example, the construction of tidal barrages or turbines may affect local fish populations, sedimentation, and the natural flow of water.

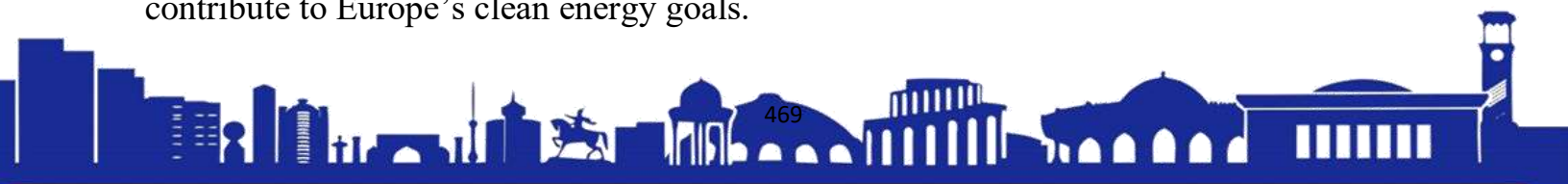
Geographic Limitations: Tidal energy is most effective in areas with high tidal movements, such as narrow bays or estuaries. Not all coastlines are suitable for tidal energy generation, which limits its widespread adoption to specific regions.

Technological Development: Tidal energy technology is still in the developmental phase, and there is a need for continued research and innovation to improve the efficiency and reduce the costs of tidal turbines and infrastructure.

The Future of Tidal Energy

Despite the challenges, the future of tidal energy looks promising, with ongoing research and development in the field. Innovations in turbine design, materials, and construction techniques are making tidal energy systems more efficient and cost-effective. Several pilot projects are already operational in places like the United Kingdom and South Korea, and more are in the planning stages worldwide.

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Furthermore, as global demand for clean energy increases, tidal energy's reliability and sustainability make it an appealing choice. Countries with access to strong tidal currents, like the UK, the US, and China, have the potential to become leaders in tidal energy development, contributing significantly to the global transition to renewable energy.

Conclusion

Tidal energy represents an exciting and promising solution to the world's energy needs, offering a renewable and reliable source of electricity that can help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change. Although there are challenges to overcome in terms of cost, technology, and environmental concerns, ongoing advancements and growing investments in this field are paving the way for a more sustainable energy future. With further research and development, tidal energy could soon play a crucial role in the global energy mix, making a significant contribution to achieving cleaner and more sustainable energy for future generations.

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