

Solar air purifier

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Abstract- This research paper is about designing and fabricating an air purifier system which is powered by solar energy and testing the effectiveness of the system to curb the air pollution. The focus is on extracting the suspended particulate matter from the air which are the major contributors in the pollution of air in many urban cities. It works on a non-conventional method and intends to achieve the best possible air purification results using an eco-friendly and economical method. It works on the basic principle of adhesion of the suspended particles in the air with the liquid and settles down due to being heavier than air and gets separated from the air helping us to achieve a better air quality index. The fans and the pump in the system are operated with the help of solar energy, produced by solar panels, which convert the solar radiations into electricity.

Key Words: Air Quality index, particulate matter, Atomization, precipitation, moisture content.

Introduction:

As we know that air pollution level in cities is very high. Most of the pollution comes as by-product from vehicle and construction of buildings, these are in the form of particulate matter which are like methane, carbon dioxide, dust, particulate etc. Problems like respiratory illness, decreased lung functions, development of diseases like asthma etc. Larger dust particles are a major particulate among these and if its air quality value is down to minimum then the air has very improved quality in which all types of living things can breathe easily.

Although there are many types of air purifiers that are available in the market but none of them are sufficient enough to deliver its working efficiency in public places like bus stand, near hospitals, traffic signals etc. Many institutes are also not able to afford these because of high cost and installation cost. Government organizations have a very low budget for air purifiers like extra expenditure. So, it is advisable to develop such an air purifier which can be costless and is highly efficient.

So, we are making a solar powered air purifier, which runs on solar energy without use of filters and also works for longer duration than others. It uses components like solar panel, fan, converter, pump, etc.

[1] National Air Quality Index

[2] Literature Survey

[3] Awareness of daily levels of air pollution is important to the citizens, especially for those who suffer from illnesses caused by exposure to air pollution. Further, success of a nation to improve air quality depends on the support of its citizens who are well-informed about local and national air pollution problems and about the progress of mitigation efforts. Thus, a simple yet effective communication of air quality is important. The concept of an air quality index (AQI) that transforms weighted values of individual air pollution related parameters (e.g. SO₂, CO, visibility, etc.) into a single number or set of numbers is widely used for air quality communication and decision making in many countries.

[1] Identification and Characterization of Particulate Matter Concentrations at Construction Jobsites:

The identification and characterization of particulate matter (PM) concentrations from construction site activities pose major challenges due to the diverse characteristics related to different aspects, such as concentration, particle size and particle composition. Moreover, the characterization of particulate matter is influenced by meteorological conditions, including temperature, humidity, rainfall and wind speed. This paper is part of a broader investigation that aims to develop a methodology for assessing the environmental impacts caused by the PM emissions that arise from construction activities. The objective of this paper is to identify and characterize the PM emissions on a construction site with different aerodynamic diameters (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, total suspended particulates (TSP)), based on an exploratory study. Initially, a protocol was developed to standardize the construction site selection criteria, laboratory procedures, field sample collection and laboratory analysis.

Atomization concept and theory:

Atomization refers to the process of breaking up bulk liquids into droplets. Common home atomizers you may be familiar with include showerheads, perfume sprays, garden hoses, and deodorant or hair sprays. A spray is a collection of moving droplets that usually are the result of atomization; they are moving in a controlled fashion. Naturally occurring sprays are rain and ocean sprays. A droplet is a small particle of liquid having a more or less spherical shape. Droplets are also known as particles.

The reason particles are round is due to the liquid's surface tension. Recall that surface tension is the property of a liquid that causes droplets and soap bubbles to pull together in a spherical form and resists spreading out. This property causes sheets or thin ligaments of liquid to be unstable; that is, they break up into droplets, or atomize.

Understanding drop size:

In order to accurately assess and understand drop size data, all of the key variables such as nozzle type, pressure, capacity, liquid properties and spray angle have to be taken into consideration. The drop size testing method should also be fully understood. The measurement techniques, type of drop size analyzer and data analysis and reporting methods all have a strong influence on the results.

Different components of project:

1 CHAMBER:

The chamber is the main part of the air purifier. The polluted air from the environment is sucked into the chamber using a fan. It is designed in rectangular cross-section. In the chamber the rack arrangement is close fitted containing the atomizers and the baffle arrangement. It is designed to provide adequate space for atomization by atomizers and efficient adhering of particles with water droplets. The outlet side of the chamber is elevated from the base to reduce the air flow speed and amount of moisture in the clean air. A clearance is provided at the bottom in the chamber for easy flow of water containing particulate matter.



Solar panel

FAN:

A 750RPM fan is installed at the vent of the device. This fan has two implications that are to suck polluted air from the inlet environment into the chamber and also to flow away the clean air into the outlet environment.



1 SOLAR PANEL

There is an installation of a 100-watt solar panel. This panel is used to produce electricity from radiation of sunrays. The panel consists of a grid of interconnected photovoltaic cells.



1.

SOLAR PANEL

DC-DC CONVERTER

A buck converter (step-down converter) is a DC-to-DC power converter which steps down voltage (while drawing less average current) from its input (supply) to its output (load).

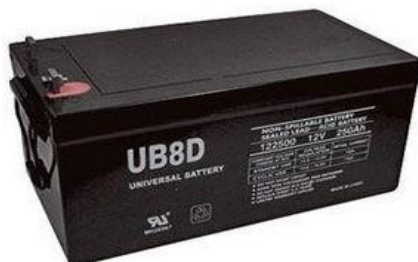
A buck converter steps a voltage down, producing a voltage lower than the input voltage. A buck converter could be used to charge a lithium ion battery to 4.2 V, from a 5 V USB source. A boost converter steps a voltage up, producing a voltage higher than the input voltage.



ELECTRICAL CONVERTER

BATTERY:

A battery with a high capacity and a low power rating is installed which delivers a low amount of electricity (enough to run a fan and pump) for a long time.





STRAINER:

A strainer is installed in the chamber which prevents residue moisture from entering the fan. It is made of fine fabric.

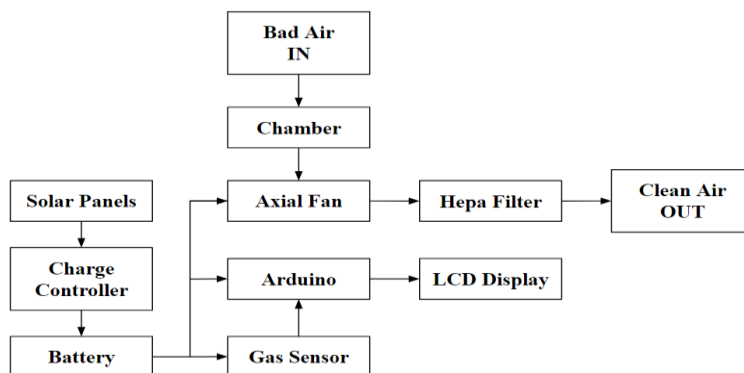
SPECIFICATION:

Item	Specifications
Pump	Open flow: 1.1 L/Min SEI Suction height: 2 m Amps: 1.0A Max. Inlet pressure: 60psi Max. Outlet pressure: 140psi Voltage: 12Vdc
Fan	Type: Axial fan Voltage: 12V
Chamber	Material: plywood, Size: 18"X12"X12"

WORKING: Sunlight is incident on the Solar panel during the day time. The voltage output from the panel is measured with the help of a multimeter. Usually a voltage output from the solar panel varies throughout the day according to the sun position in the sky. However, a constant rated voltage and current is needed for charging the battery. This rated voltage is achieved with the help of a charge controller, which controls the voltage input to the battery. The battery is then used to store the power and operate the air purifier system as and when required. There is a chamber in which air is sucked in by the fan, while the air is entering it passes through the strainer.

Simultaneously water is pumped from the reservoir to the atomizer, which converts water into small water droplets and these droplets are suspended into the chamber along with air. These water droplets have an adhesive property due to which the particulate matter and dust particles get absorbed on them. This way air is cleaned and is flown out from the chamber by exhaust fan. The water with dust and particulate matter is collected in an evaporation tank, where water undergoes a natural evaporation process, leaving behind the dust and particulate matter; these are periodically cleaned and water is used again in the air cleaning process.

In this way, purified clean air is circulated in the atmosphere by filtering out the harmful contaminants in the air using solar power. Thus saving in electricity consumption cost.





SCHEMATIC DIGRAM:

CALCULATIONS:

There is 1 power generating component as the solar panel and 2 power consuming component as the pump and fan in the system.
The following data is considered for the calculation: Diameter at inlet of nozzle, **d=0.0002 m**

5) Pump

Area at inlet of nozzle, **a=3.14*10⁻⁸m²**

The main work of the pump is to get the low-pressure water flow through the nozzle so that the water gets atomized.

Diameter of pipe, **D=0.004m**

Area of pipe, **A = 50.24*10⁻⁶m²** Coefficient of friction of pipe, **f=0.006** Length of the pipe, **L=1.5m**

Net head of water at inlet of nozzle, **H=0.26m**

From the formula,

$$v = \sqrt{[2gH / (1 + (4fL/D) * (a/A)^2)]}$$

After calculation,

$$v = 3.408 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

From the formula, **p = ρ * g * H_p = 2548 N s⁻¹**

6) 2. Fan

The air flow rate would determine the power consumption of the fan.

The following data is known to us:

The fan rpm of fan, **N=1750 rpm**

The diameter of duct, **D=0.1125m**

The area of duct, **A=9.93515625*10⁻³m²**

The following data is to be calculated:

Velocity of air flowing through fan, **V=?** Rate of discharge of air through fan, **Q=?** From the formula,

$$V = (2 * \pi * N) / 60 * (D/2) \quad V = 3.281 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

From the formula,

$$Q = A * V$$

$$Q = 0.0326 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Total power = **100 watt**

So, we need to install a **100-watt** solar panel.

4. Battery

For making our air purifier any time usable we can install a battery of **500 watts**.

EXPERIMENTAL READINGS CONSIDERATIONS

Considering the following points:

- The testing is done in open.
- The AQI of the incense stick is 999+.

APPARATUS USED	PARTICULATE MATTER	MAXIMUM VALUE	MINIMUM VALUE	CONSTANT VALUE
AMBIENT ENVIRONMENT	PM2.5	71	55	62
	PM10	95	73	83
FAN	PM2.5	83	62	67
	PM10	111	83	89
FAN + PUMP	PM2.5	195	170	177
	PM10	260	226	236
FAN + INCENSE STICK	PM2.5	167	118	132
	PM10	222	157	176
FAN + PUMP + INCENSE STICK	PM2.5	257	205	222
	PM10	343	273	296

Calculation based on PM2.5 reading

The deviated results of the above table is due to the measuring device limitation of detecting fine droplets as particulate matter and therefore the contribution due to water droplets must be eliminated, which can be done by

$$\text{Moisture content} = (\text{AQI of fan + pump + incense stick}) - (\text{AQI of fan + pump})$$

$$= 222 - 117 = \mathbf{105}$$

$$\text{Amount of purification} = \text{AQI of incense stick} - \text{Moisture content}$$

$$= 999 - 105 = \mathbf{894}$$

$$\text{Purification percentage} = [(\text{reduction of AQI} / \text{AQI of incense stick}) * 100] = \mathbf{89.4\%}$$

Conclusion:

Now we have seen that how efficient is SOLAR POWERED AIR PURIFIER than other type of device available in market. It is also very economical and do not have to replace any component quickly. It reduces particulate level to satisfactory



A pure and clean air is right of a human being and all other living creatures on this earth and this project is a small effort from our side to give them all their right.

Also in future, modifications can be made to improve working efficiency without effecting setup.

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Now we have seen that how efficient is SOLAR POWERED AIR PURIFIER than other type of device available in market. It is also very economical and do not have to replace any component quickly. It reduces particulate level to satisfactory position where a person does not need to worry about pollution related problems.

A pure and clean air is right of a human being and all other living creatures on this earth and this project is a small effort from our side to give them all their right.

Also in future, modifications can be made to improve working efficiency without effecting setup.







Calculation:



Figure 10 Final project photo

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