

Designing wind resilient solar trackers

Harnessing the power of wind tunnel testing to advance tracker designs



Understanding wind challenges and the impact of wind effects on solar trackers

Safety hazards:



Strong winds can loosen hardware and cause structural components to be blown away, posing a hazard to surrounding structures and people. In addition, there could be environmental hazards from damaged solar panels or components.

Increased remedial costs:



Excessive wind forces can cause bending, buckling, or even collapse of the racking structure. Damage to solar panels and electronics are also a risk. Repairs are expensive and significantly add to your overall operation and maintenance costs.

Increased downtime:



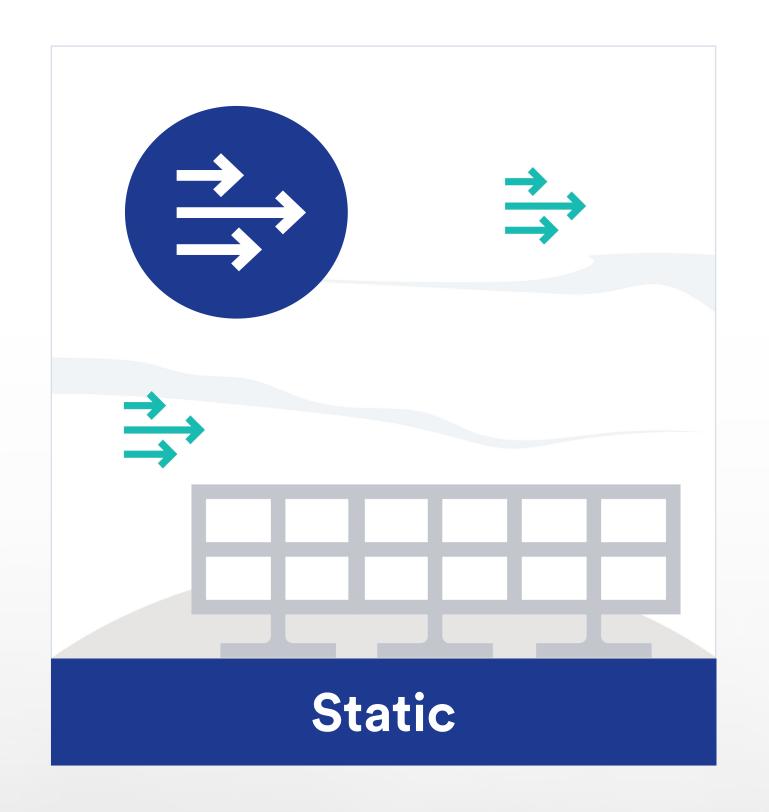
Damaged trackers can render entire sections of the plant inoperable, resulting in production and revenue losses.

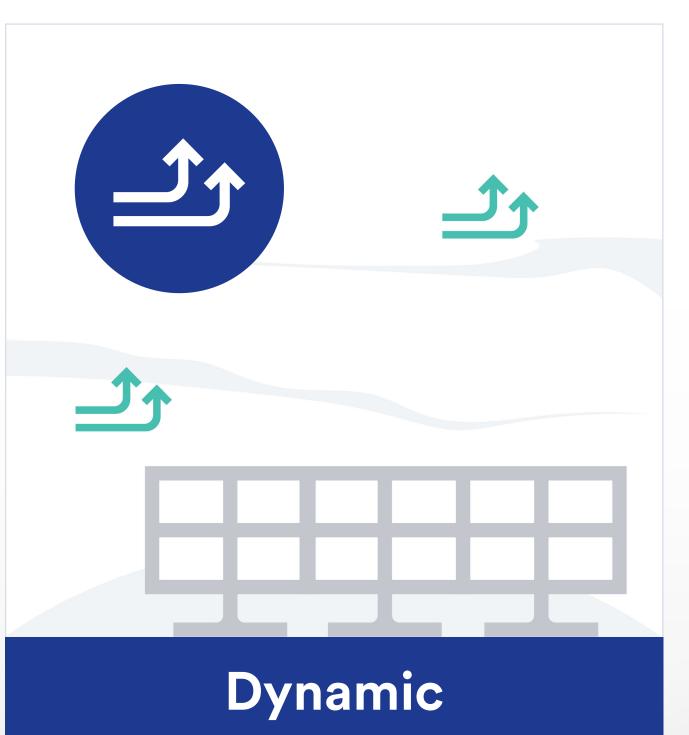
Decreased returns:



Damage to the structure, solar panels, and electronics require significant investment to get the site operating again. Less energy yield equals lower IRR—and potential failure to meet financial targets.

Types of wind effects







Types of aeroelastic effects



Resonant vibration

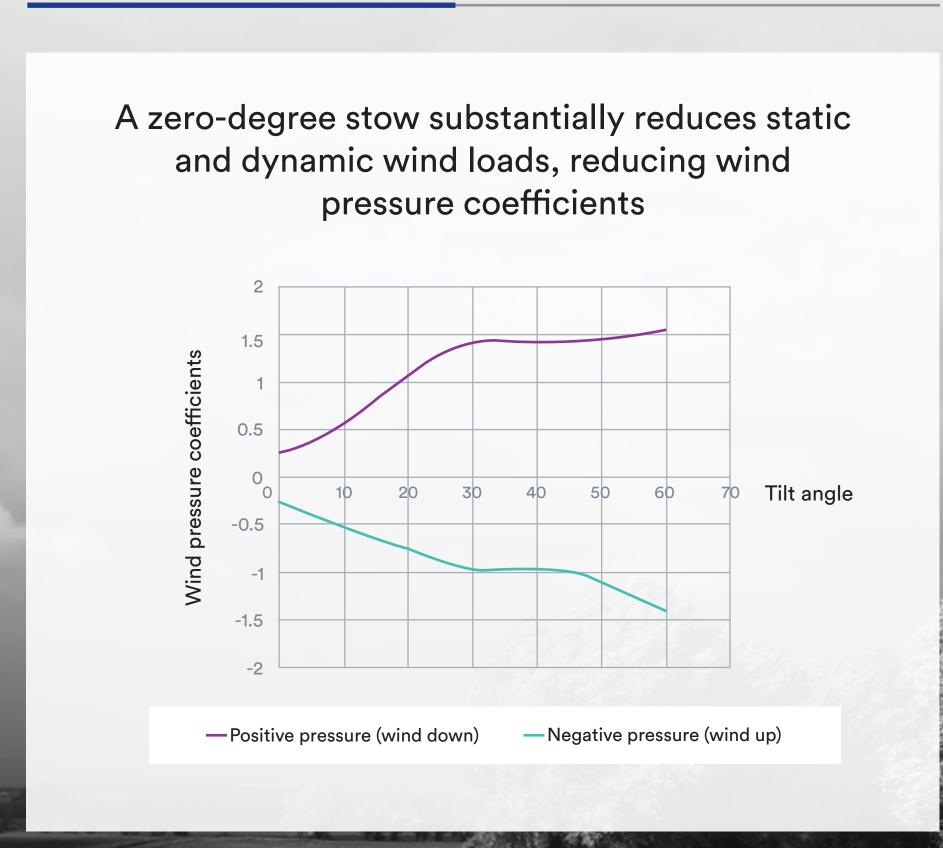


Torsional flutter



Torsional galloping

How to reduce wind loads



Achieving aerodynamic stability



The result

A zero-degree stow with the right amount of stiffness, damping, and weight results in



Reduced static & dynamic wind loads



Fewer foundations per MW



A stable and reliable tracker

