

Biomimicry is the design and production of materials, structures, and systems that are based on solutions adopted by nature.

Many living organisms use wind power for flying or gliding, to disperse seeds or to keep cool. Here are some images that might help in the design of a wind turbine to generate electricity but there are many more ideas in nature that could provide inspiration.

Flying squirrels use their large flaps of skin to glide from tree to tree. They don't flap their wings and fly but air resistance keeps the squirrels in the air for longer.



Sycamore seeds use air resistance to catch the wind. The seeds are dropped, start to rotate and are dispersed by a breeze to grow in space with no competition from the parent tree.



Birds evolved lightweight hollow feathers in order to fly. They overlap to ensure air resistance is high but their softness means that flight is also near silent - making it easier to hunt or to avoid being hunted.



Dandelion seeds also use air resistance to catch the wind. The seeds act like small parachutes to be dispersed by a breeze. They are numerous, lightweight and fluffy.

