



Title: Windy.com Brings You the Global Lightning Forecast

Windy.com is the 1st weather app to deliver global lightning density forecast in combination with rain forecast! Windy integrates flash lightning forecast data by ECMWF into the 'Rain, snow' 10-day forecast by ECMWF [1], including all the visualizations and interactions that Windy can do. Also, for better clarification the lightning density has been added as a separate Thunderstorm layer [2]. With this unprecedented innovation, no storm will hit you unprepared!

At any given moment, approximately 2,000 thunderstorms occur on the Earth's surface, triggering 100 lightning strikes in every single second. No doubt, lightning is one of the most spectacular meteorological phenomena. Lightning can affect the environment, and our everyday life. According to estimates, lightning kills over 20,000 people and injures another 240,000 every year. Lightning is responsible for many wildfires around the world each year, killing livestock caught out in the open, disrupting air traffic, damaging buildings, or causing power supply outages.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) has recently developed global predictions of lightning flash density with great accuracy when compared to existing measurements. Moreover, unlike other lightning forecasting projects, this one is run globally – which makes it the first of its kind. There are several local projects that predict severe weather (ESTOFEX in Europe, or Convective Outlook by NOAA in the United States). Windy.com is proud to be the first to visualize lightning forecasts to the wider public for free.

Director of Forecasts at ECMWF Florian Pappenberger said: “We are delighted that Windy.com is making this innovative product available to its users through its impressive visualisations. Although it is not possible to predict individual lightning strikes, forecasts for average lightning activity can have useful skill up to several days ahead. This is because the atmospheric conditions that cause lightning are routinely predicted by today’s powerful numerical weather prediction models.”

Information for editors:

Windy (also known as Windyty) is an extraordinary tool for weather forecast visualization. It brings you a powerful, smooth and fluid presentation of 35 different atmospheric phenomena that are demonstrated directly on the map. For you to see the weather forecast, Windy processes and displays data obtained from the world's leading weather forecast models: global ECMWF and GFS, plus local NEMS and ICON (for Europe) and NAM (for the USA).

This fast, intuitive, detailed and most accurate weather app is trusted by professional pilots, paragliders, boaters, fishermen, sportsmen, storm chasers and all types of weather enthusiasts;

but even governments, army staffs, rescue teams and media use this tool as their source of information. Windy is used by 300,000 people every day and during hurricane seasons, Windy served up to six million unique users in a single day!

The uniqueness of Windy lies in the fact that it offers better quality information than the other weather apps' pro-features, while Windy is absolutely free and without ads.

ECMWF is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 34 states. It is both a research institute and a 24/7 operational service, producing and disseminating numerical weather predictions to its Member States. [3]

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[1] <https://www.windy.com/?rain.38.583,-97.075.4.p:off>

[2] <https://www.windy.com/?thunder.38.651,-89.956.4.p:off>

[3] <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/who-we-are>