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ULTRA-TINY WINDMILLS COULD BE FUTURE OF CELLPHONE CHARGING



Image source: uta.edu

WRITTEN BY DEREK MARKHAM

POSTED IN GADGETS, TECHNOLOGY

TAGS: CELLPHONES, WIND POWER, WIND

TURBINE

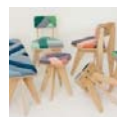
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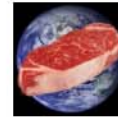
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In addition to being ultra-small, the tiny windmills are also unique in the fact that they are said to be self-assembling, and could be mass-produced inexpensively.

According to UT Arlington, the design blends "origami concepts into conventional wafer-scale semiconductor device layouts so complex 3-D moveable mechanical structures can be self-assembled from two-dimensional metal pieces utilizing planar multilayer electroplating techniques".

"Imagine that they can be cheaply made on the surfaces of portable electronics. o you can place them on a sleeve for your smart phone. When the phone is out of battery power, all you need to do is to put on the sleeve, wave the phone in the air for a few minutes and you can use the phone again." – J.-C. Chiao, electrical engineering professor

While we might want something like these micro-windmills to power our own gadgets, they could probably be better utilized on big panels with thousands of them, in order to power lights, security sensors, or wireless transmitters, especially in places off the grid.

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