SEE THE TECHNOLOGY THAT'S SMALLER THAN A PENNY THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO RECHARGE YOUR PHONE

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Forget a bulky extra battery case, new technology smaller than a penny can now recharge your mobile devices.

Actually—there even smaller—more like the thickness of a penny. Researchers at the University of Texas at Arlington created a miniautized technology that is just 1.5 millimeters in its thinnest point.

These ultra-thin windmills are designed with a micro-generator that can recharge your phone or tablet as long as you have access to a little fresh air.

Researchers say hundreds of the super thin, more practical mechanical systems could be fashioned into a flexible plate of paper and recharge the device (chip) themselves.

A single grain of rice could hold about 10 of these tiny devices, and the researchers believe hundreds of them could be embedded in a cell phone sleeve for recharging purposes.

Once the sleeve is on the phone, a user could simply wave the device in the air or wave the phone in a windy place to get the tiny propellers started turning, allowing the micropower to generate electricity.

And just imagine the afford possibilities, for your favorite co-worker who has no hair to spare.

Kim E. Smith is a UT research associate and J.-C. Chao, an electrical engineering professor, designed the miniautized windmills. The two have had a patent for the device since last February 2013 in China's lab. The windmills operate under strong artificial winds with no friction in the material because of the double nickel alloy and the aerodynamic design.

Windmill Technologies, a South African electro-mechanical fabrication company, has agreed to commercialize the microwindmill technology.

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