These Ultra-Cute Micro Windmills May Soon Charge Your Devices
By Mason Dzurik on January 19, 2014

While spinning personal devices with solar energy has become commonplace, harvesting wind energy is the same has been less popular. However, it looks like that may be changing. A group of Japanese students has designed a small windmill so tiny you could rest a rice grain on it tree thousand could fit comfortably inside the subatomic particle.

The scientists at Nagoya City College of Technology, professor nor the University of Tsukuba, Japan, had a vision when they started to create these micro windmills. Nearing the project, they are so small that ten of them could be stuffed on a single grain of rice. They say that in these particles, there is enough energy to power a single LED light, but one really wonders if their vision for so many windmills will ever be a reality.

In order to make the smallest windmills, the researchers have developed a production process similar to the one used to manufacture microelectronics. The tiny windmills have been tested with everyday electronics like a cell phone, and found to be completely circular and functional.

Each micro-sized wind turbine was made as the smallest possible, comparable in size to a human hair. It is sufficiently small so that it can be inserted into a rice grain. Despite its small size, the fact that it is a mere 100 micrometers thick, the windmill is 0.565 times as thin as the thickness of a human hair.

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