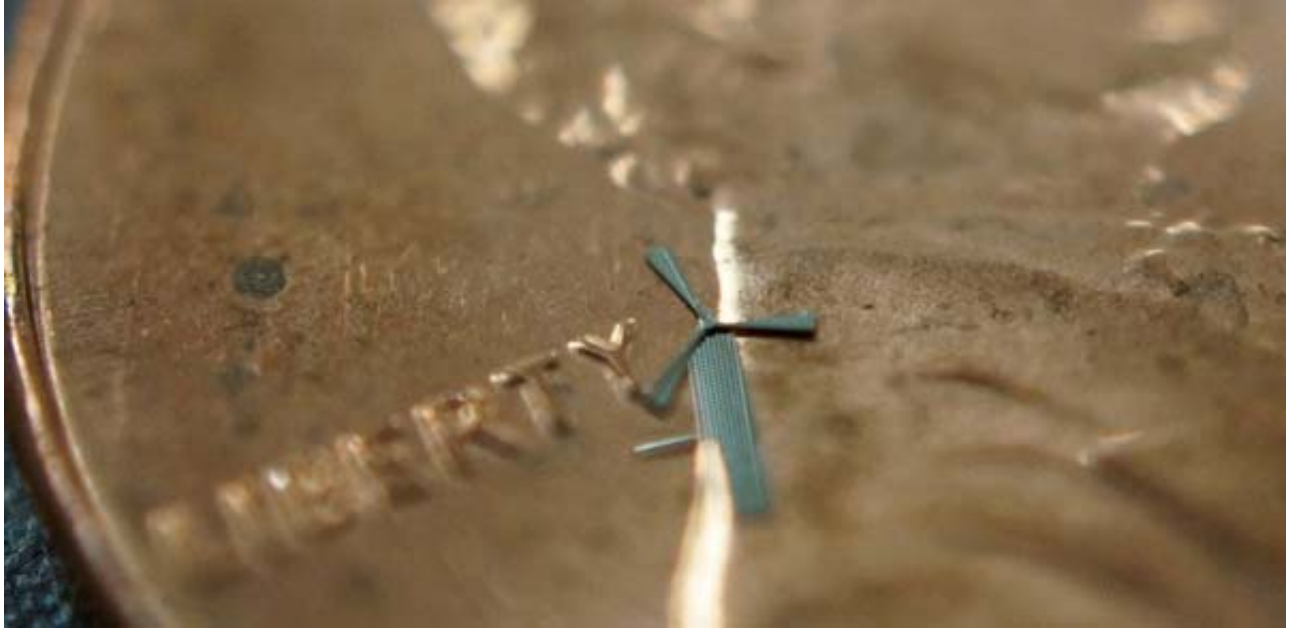


## Micro-windmills could someday power your phone

David Pescovitz at 9:03 am Thu, Jan 30, 2014



Above is a micro-windmill that [University of Texas Arlington researchers suggest](#) could someday be used to charge mobile electronics if they were embedded en masse on the device's case. The MEMS (micro-electromechanical systems) are fabricated using recesses similar to the way integrated circuits are manufactured combined with origami-like self-assembly techniques.

"Imagine that they can be cheaply made on the surfaces of portable electronics," says researcher Smitha Rao. "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." She adds that eventually, flat panels coated with the windmills could be mounted to buildings to harvest energy for sensor networks, wireless communications, lighting or other purposes.

Check out the video below of the windmills in action! (via [Wired](#))



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David Pescovitz is Boing Boing's co-editor/managing partner. He's also a research director at Institute for the Future. On Instagram, he's [@pesco](#).

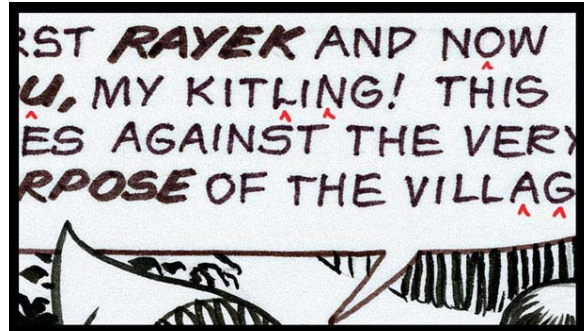
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