

Ecogadgetz

5 great eco inventions for 2008

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1. Biomechanical Energy Harvester

Have you ever felt like walking is a waste of time? How many times have you wished you could somehow get something out of walking other than just exercise and a healthy body...such as 5 watts of power? That's right. We all think about these things everyday, and now, there's a solution. It's called the Biomechanical Energy Harvester. This little 3.5-lb puppy wraps around your knee and recycles energy using the same method that hybrid cars use when they recycle created energy from braking. Wearing this device on both knees can generate about 5 watts of power, which is enough to power 10 cell phones. Max Donelan, a kinesiologist at Simon Fraser University is the genius behind the idea. Harvesting energy like this is going to be a huge concept especially since people are living in such an iPod and Blackberry saturated culture.

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1852747_1854195_1854172,00.html

2. Made-in-Transit Packaging

This one's for all of you grocery shopping moms out there. We all know how annoying it is when you look into your fridge and the broccoli you were expecting to last at least half a year turns out to have only lasted...well not so long (at least this seems to happen to me in my dorm quite often). Anyway....here's a revolutionary idea by Polish, then Canadian, now Dutch designer Agata Jaworska: Made-In-Transit and Gropak. The idea behind this is that food should continue to grow long after it's been pulled from the earth. This packaging allows the food to be separated from the growth source, put into boxes, and continue to grow on the way to the store, and even afterwards. This means no expiration! You harvest the food right at your dinner table. How sustainable!

3. Airborne Wind Power

Now we all know that the greatest winds are higher in the atmosphere...or at least San Diego-based company Sky Windpower does. They are building flying wind turbines which will harvest the power of high-altitude winds. With just 1% of these winds, enough power could be generated to provide for everyone on Mother Earth.

4. Smog-Eating Cement



The Italians have been making cool stuff for a couple of years now...I mean you've got Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Monica Belucci...the list goes on. Their latest creation is something called TX Active. It's basically regular cement mixed with a photo catalyzer (titanium dioxide), which is supposed to increase the rate at which smog is naturally

broken down. In Segrate, Italy, near Milan, an entire street has been paved with this cement, and the results are staggering: they say 60% of the nitric oxide has been reduced in the area!

5. Sunscreen for Plants

Sunburn sucks. To be entirely truthful, I've never in my self-absorbed life considered the way that plants feel when they have such an experience. Honestly, they are probably the most susceptible creatures on the planet to sunburn, since they stand in the sun all day most of the time. That's why they invented Purshade. At SPF 45, it forms a thin film of microscopic prisms which reflect harmful UV light and infrared rays, while allowing the "good" rays to pass through and help crops grown in a healthy, fruitful manner. The result: efficiency and a better harvest...Pa Joad would be proud.