

are you a member yet?



I can run it for 1p per mile

Advertisement

Sign up for SmartPlanet's email newsletter!

- In SmartPlanet News
- Beauty News
- Business News
- Fashion News
- Finance News
- Food News
- Household News
- Leisure News
- People
- News
- Tech News
- Transport News
- News RSS

You are here: SmartPlanet.com > News > Tech

## 5 small wind turbines with big potential

5 Photos

1 2 3 4 5



Channels: Tech News Tags: wind power, renewable energy, microgeneration

To bastardise Mark Twain, reports of the death of small wind turbines have been greatly exaggerated. A recent Carbon Trust study was spun by some as showing the Trust slamming mini turbines. In fact, it painted a positive picture for ones sited in suitably windy spots in the sticks.

Sure, the Trust says some models will actually produce more carbon during their manufacture than they'll ever save through generating electricity. In other words, they're anti-green.

But small wind is still very early in its development. Designers are working to overcome problems such as turbulence in urban areas and low energy yields. So while acknowledging today's generation of small turbines is far from perfect, let's look at five that point to a more promising future -- both through innovative designs and clever marketing.

### 1. Philip Starck's Eolienne ('Democratic Ecology')

The designer who put his name to everything from a mouse to a chair has now designed a turbine (pictured). Starck describes the cube-shaped turbine as a "sexy object", which he claims will be sold in six sizes capable of providing between 10-60 per cent of a home's electricity needs.

It's a vertical axis design that spins on its base (unlike the horizontal axis design used by typical large scale turbines). There's no mention yet of how many kilowatts it'll produce, and Starck has suggested a price of 300-400 Euros, which sounds way too low, even without installation.

I think the interesting thing here isn't the design. It's Starck's celeb involvement and the elevation of small turbines to the level of a desirable gadget. Let's just hope the real world version is truly green too.

The Starck turbine is being developed in conjunction with Italian firm Paramac.

[Philip Starck's site](#)

[Continue to next photo...](#)

Posted: 12 September 2008, 05:18pm by Adam Vaughan

Share this article: [Digg this story](#) [Stumble this story](#)

#### Related Links

- Live blog: BWEA30 wind and marine power conference
- Epson offers to recycle your printer cartridges by Freepost
- Top 10 eco gadgets for executives

Comments

Sign up for SmartPlanet's email newsletter!

Get SmartPlanet in your inbox

Step this way to get your daily fix of green news, eco product launches and videos delivered by email.

What do you think?



Click here to post your comment

Advertisement

#### New on SmartPlanet



Meet Anklelite, solar trouser clips for cyclists



Video review: Advert Eco PC



Why Sony Ericsson's GreenHeart eco phone sucks



Review: Eco Media Player Revolution

[See All New Stories](#)

#### Most Popular News

- Photos: LG's solar Bluetooth hands-free car kit
- Photos: inflatable solar panels!
- Photos: massive solar power plants
- 10 stylish recycled products
- Photo: Dynamo, the kinetic-powered keyboard
- Green or not? Buying energy-efficient PCs
- Massive ice shelf collapsing off Antarctica
- Five brilliant eco April Fools
- Ireland eyes the power of its rough seas
- Google Earth shows effects of climate change



Anonymous User 12 September 2008 06:51pm

I'm not sure why Urban Green Energy doesn't get more press with their 2nd Generation VAWT which looks pretty flashy.

Reply



Adam Vaughan 17 September 2008 04:13pm

Anon -- thanks for heads-up re UGE. To be honest, that was a new one to me. I'm based in London, so this list has a UK slant.

Reply



Anonymous User To post with your own avatar and username, please log in or register

Add your comment here

Text input field for adding a comment.

Email Address

Email address input field.

Please note: Your email address must be entered but will not be displayed

Confirm Email Address

Confirm email address input field.

Please note: All submitted content becomes the sole property of CBS Interactive Ltd and may be used, edited or rejected at CBS Interactive's sole discretion. You acknowledge that you, not CBS Interactive, are responsible for the contents of your submission -- see Terms of Use

Submit

Sponsored Links

(About)

Wind Capital Group

Wind Farm Developer & Operator Bringing Wind Energy Home www.windcapitalgroup.com

Build A Wind Generator

Build Wind Generator For < \$100 Never Pay For Electricity Again www-renewableenergy.com

Make Own Wind Turbine?

Slash your electric bill & run on wind. Top 3 guides show you how! homemade-energy.com

Latest Reviews

Most Popular Reviews



Pinnacle Journey 1.0 2008

Cheap and cheerful -- the Journey hits the value bullseye. And doesn't end up a horrible compromise in doing so.



Mezzo d-10

Too costly, particularly compared to its d-9 sibling. But despite that, this is the state-of-the-art for folding bikes -- fast, light, practical.



Puma Glow Rider

The emperor's new bicycle -- all marketing and no trousers. Over-expensive, handles and folds poorly, doesn't glow well enough, and is stealable despite the weird cable-cum-downtube.



Weleda Edelweiss Sun Lotion SPF 15

It's a very good, honest sun lotion and we appreciate that -- we're excited about Weleda as a company, but not overly so about this particular product



LG 32LG5000

Stylish and with good performance, this is a nice TV, especially at just over £400 -- but the high energy use is a turn off

Reviews homepage

SmartPlanet

Home

Search

About Us

- Contact Us
Meet the Team
Editorial Board
Commercial Contacts
Find Us
Site Map
New on SmartPlanet
Index of Stories
Index of Authors
RSS Feeds

Reviews

- Beauty reviews
Fashion reviews
Finance reviews
Food reviews
Household reviews
Leisure reviews
Tech reviews
Transport reviews
Latest Reviews
Round-ups
The Green List
Add a New Review
Search Reviews

News

- Beauty news
Business news
Fashion news
Finance news
Food news
Household news
Leisure news
People news
Tech news
Transport news

My Planet

- Join SmartPlanet
Competitions
Privacy Policy
Terms of Use