

# EXTRA EXTRA!

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

### Could 'wind trees' be a green energy solution?

This is an edited version of a story from  
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From community solar farms to co-owned wind turbines, eco-inventors are coming up with new ways to bring renewable power into our homes.

Now, micro wind turbines designed to look like trees are addressing some of the challenges of green energy.

"As it is biomorphic, people cannot see at the first look that it is a renewable system," says Luc Eric Krief, owner of New World Wind, the French company behind the "Aeroleaf" technology.

The metal "trees" have branches tipped with micro wind turbines resembling leaves. But the turbines' looks aren't their only appeal.

At between five and 10 metres tall, the trees are compact, making them easy to install - even in urban environments - without major engineering work. Once a turbine is in place, a single bracket and three bolts are all that's needed to complete the construction.

Their size also eliminates some of the other problems faced by giant turbines, such as bird collisions. Plus, they operate in silence.

While it's unlikely that wind conditions would remain steadily high around



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the clock, in regular conditions of 8 m/s, one WindTree could produce almost 18,000 kWh per year, enough to power a four-person household. This could reduce a home's annual CO2 emissions by over 12 tonnes.

For comparison, a 4 kW solar power system on an average-sized house can produce up to around 3,000 kWh of electricity per year, according to Project Solar UK.

The secret to the micro turbines' power output is their ability to work around the clock.

"Solar panels can work between 10am and 4pm... with our technology, we can provide energy seven days a week, 24 hours a day," says Krief.

A hybrid version of the tree offers even greater stability. With solar petals fixed beneath the turbines, it harnesses the power of both the wind and the sun.

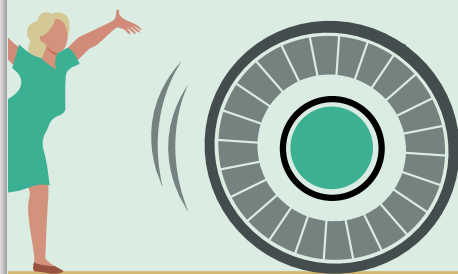
So far, the company has installed 130 devices around the globe, from Europe to the US to South Korea.

As New World Wind grows, wind trees could become a more familiar sight on streets and in gardens around the world.

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