

Solar-Powered LED Lamp Tracks Your Home's Energy Use

September 11 2008, by Lisa Zyga



The Spark Lamp was designed in response to the Swedish government's plan to install smart meters in new homes to track energy consumption.

Designer Beverly Ng created the solar-powered LED Spark Lamp as a decorative way to reduce energy consumption - but, perhaps more importantly, to let homeowners know of their daily energy use.

In Sweden, the government is responding to the energy crisis by installing smart meters in future homes, which will provide real-time feedback of energy use on the Internet. Homeowners are encouraged to set monthly energy goals in terms of money and/or watts. They can log into their online accounts to view their home's data and find tips on energy conservation.

But realizing that visiting a Web site isn't the most engaging way to view

this data, Ng developed the Spark Lamp to enhance the experience by extending the feedback beyond the computer screen and into everyday objects in the home.

The lamp concept itself is engaging and simple: during the day, you turn the lamp upside down on a windowsill to recharge the solar panels. When turned over, the lamp looks a bit like a small potted plant. At night, when you turn the lamp upright and switch it on, the lamp (equipped with Wi-Fi) flickers in different colors to signal your home's power consumption level for the month compared to your goal.

The lamp pulses for about three seconds, displaying green if you're doing better than your goal, yellow if you're on target, and red if you're using too much power. Then the lamp returns to a regular white light lamp.

The Spark Lamp is not yet available for purchase.

via: [Design Zen](#)

Citation: Solar-Powered LED Lamp Tracks Your Home's Energy Use (2008, September 11) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2008-09-solar-powered-lamp-tracks-home-energy.html>

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