

free energy giving form to local choices in energy use

'Free Energy' consists of conceptual design examples based on experimental user methods to expose alternative expressions and choices with respect to energy use in everyday life. As a way of exposing patterns of energy use in public spaces, a series of concepts or 'energy interventions' are placed into local structures or personal surroundings with the intention to raise questions to designers, users and stakeholders about energy in design.



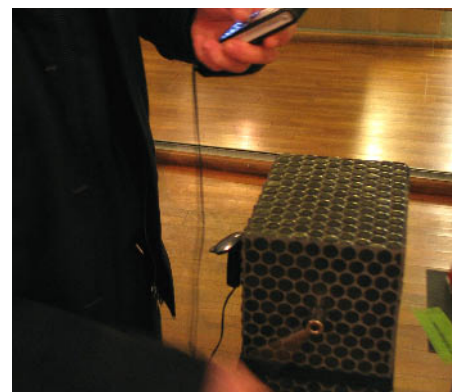
design for free energy

Free Energy strives to make energy more visible, tangible and accessible in everyday surroundings, and through this stimulate reflection and awareness about personal energy use. A series of concepts has been created around 'energy interventions' and placed into the community or inserted into personal surroundings. The ideas have evolved through the design process in relation to inspiration from the user workshops and probes, exploring the placement and perceptions of energy. As design examples, the Free Energy concepts act to stimulate reflection and reaction - rather than product designs, they use design as a method for rethinking basic notions of 'materials' and 'use'.



community power

Early in the STATIC! project, we studied people's existing interaction with energy in mundane life. One inspiration for Free Energy was people's constant attention to certain forms of energy. Energy was a constant focus of attention throughout the day and across multiple contexts, though availability of energy sources varied widely. To explore this personal and pervasive notion of energy awareness, Free Energy concepts evolved into exploring alternative energy interventions throughout the course of ones' day. Two prototypes - the 'Energy Tap' and 'Kinetic Door' was developed to explore relations of design to energy perceptions with regards to public energy use.



energy for open use

The 'Energy Tap' is a self-sustaining energy outlet for open use - it may be inserted into any space, and cranked to generate energy to power an electric or electronic appliance to facilitate any sort of activity. The 'Kinetic Door' intervenes into a common energy choice in Sweden, augmenting existing revolving doors in order to reward door-pushers for making an extra energy friendly effort.

Our goal with these first concepts is to elicit hands-on participation through simple prototypes to convey how physical interaction and everyday activity can relate to more conscious or sustainable energy behaviors.

STATIC! www.tii.se/static

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