

HUMAN POWER

INFORMATION

Human power can be used for transportation and to do work, but did you know that human power could also be used to generate electricity on a small scale?

Small hand crank electrical generators can be used to convert our mechanical energy into electricity that can be used to power radios and other small electrical appliances. Bicycles can be hooked up to larger electrical generators; the mechanical energy of our pedaling can be used to produce electricity that can either be used immediately or stored in batteries for later use.

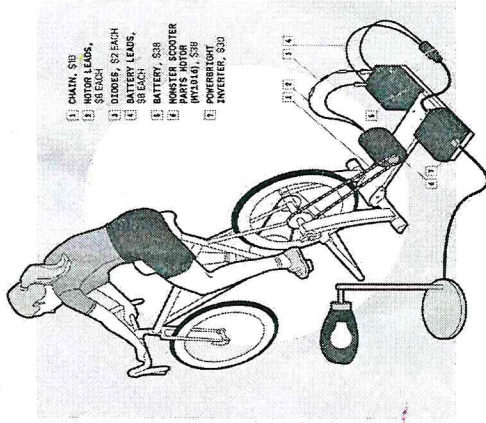


Photo Credit: Popular Mechanics

ADVANTAGES/USES

- Readily available.
- There is no pollution (except from producing extra food eaten to perform work).
- It can be good exercise
- Can be used to generate electricity to run small devices.
- Can be stored in a battery for later use

DISADVANTAGES/LIMITS

- It can be tiring
- Elderly or disabled may have difficulty producing electricity
- Difficult for long distance transportation.
- Can only be part of the energy solution not feasible to power an entire household.

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