



**Location**

United States

**Users**

Any pedestrian: Power Call has traveled around the neighborhood to the library, transit hubs, cafes and small businesses.

**Maintained by**

Philanthropic contributions and the initiators

**Duration**

2015 - ongoing

**Category**

environment, social

**Nr. and Title**

U 264

**Power Call**

**Initiator(s)**

marksearch team - Sue Mark, Bruce Douglas

**Description**

Power Call is a nomadic, interactive energy commons in San Francisco to the Bay Area. Using low-tech systems, Power Call harnesses, stores and dispenses energy for recharging a variety of cell phones. Anyone can contribute to the energy commons by spending a few minutes pumping the machine, creating a charge for yourself or a future person in need. The amount of energy generated will be relatively small, enough to make a meaningful last phone call or text message. In exchange for participation, the initiators ask that users share their story on a rotating public message board, which answer these questions: who would you call if you had only this one last call? What would you say?

**Goals**

Power Call relies on good will to generate energy while simultaneously diffusing the anonymity of people in public spaces. In order for the energy commons to function, passers-by engage in an unusual and collaborative experience.

**Beneficial outcomes**

The project creatively brings together contemporary issues around hand held technology and social spaces, environmental concerns about a need for alternative energy sources, and anxiety over natural disasters and a potential state of emergency, where figuring out ways to work together to share resources is going to be necessary.

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