



Sign in



ADCHOICES



The Independent

Follow

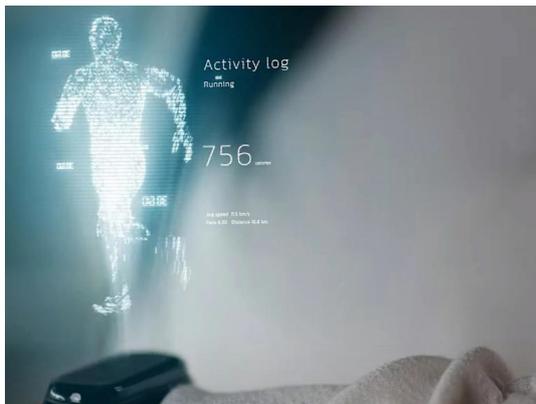
View Profile

## Fabric embedded with 'miracle material' harvests electricity from body movements

Anthony Cuthbertson - Yesterday 6:08 pm

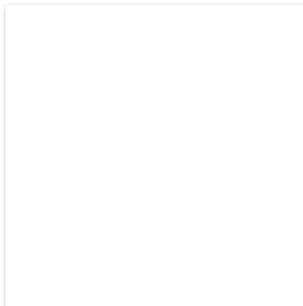
React Comments

Researchers have developed a fabric embedded with the "miracle material" perovskite, capable of harvesting electricity from the body's movements.



© NTU Singapore  
smart clothes fabric electricity harvest.jpg

The fabric is able to turn vibrations and frictions "produced from the smallest body movements in everyday life" into enough electricity to power electronic devices, according to the research team from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore.



One of biggest breakthroughs of the technology, described in a study published in the latest issue of the scientific journal *Advanced Materials*, is that the electricity-generating fabric is durable enough to be used for everyday clothing.

"There have been many attempts to develop fabric

or garments that can harvest energy from movement, but a big challenge has been to develop something that does not degrade in function after being washed, and at the same time retains excellent electrical output," said Professor Lee Pooi See, a materials scientist at NTU who led the research.

"In our study, we demonstrated that our prototype continues to function well after washing and crumpling. We think it could be woven into t-shirts or integrated into soles of shoes to collect energy from the body's smallest movements, piping electricity to mobile devices."

A prototype of the fabric was able to produce 2.34 watts of electricity

methods: through pressing or squeezing, and when it comes into friction with other materials like skin.

It achieves this by combining an electrical charge-producing polymer with a lead-free perovskite – a promising material that has been hailed for its revolutionary potential in [everything from renewable energy production to ultra-high-speed communications](#).

“Embedding perovskites in [the polymer] increases the prototype’s electrical output,” said NTU PhD student Jiang Feng, who was part of the research team.

“We opted for lead-free perovskites as a more environmentally friendly option. While perovskites are brittle by nature, integrating them into the polymer gives the perovskites exceptional mechanical durability and flexibility. The polymer also acts as an extra layer of protection to the perovskites, adding to its mechanical property and stability.”

It is the first time that a perovskite-based energy device has been engineered to achieve such energy-producing capabilities without degradation, according to Professor Lee, and opens up new avenues for energy production.

The team now plans to explore how the fabric could be used to harness energy from other sources, such as wind or raindrops falling onto it.

From news to politics, travel to sport, culture to climate – The Independent has a host of free newsletters to suit your interests. To find the stories you want to read, and more, in your inbox, click [here](#).

---