



County Conservation News

June 2011

Issue 10

In This Issue

- Technology of the Future

Fun Links

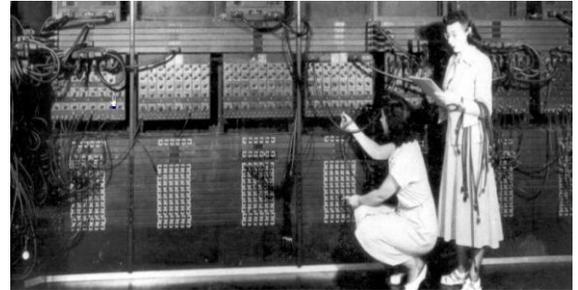
- [Green Design](#)
- [CoolestGadgets.com](#)
- [Green News](#)

Contact Us

GreenTeam@co.lewis-clark.mt.us

Technology of the Future

Technology has come a long way in the past six decades: from the first electronic digital computer introduced in 1946 (the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer, pictured to the right), to commercial internet service introduced around 1990 (this was really the product of about 40 years of work), to the more recent revelation of smart phones. These are just a few of the relatively recent major technology breakthroughs, which begs the question, what will be the next technology breakthrough?



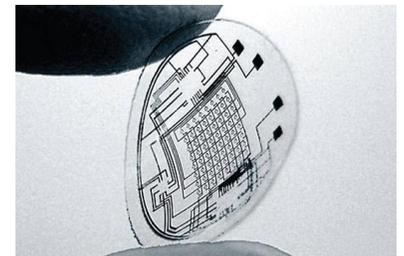
Google: from search engine to cars that drive themselves¹

When this story was first reported in October 2010 by the New York Times, Google's automated vehicles had already traveled 140,000 miles on California roads. Only one accident had been reported, and it was caused by human error (a car was rear-ended at a stop light). Driverless cars have many benefits, chief amongst them is safety. They will also allow commuters to use their time more productively. Also, commute times might be shorter because the automation of these vehicles could better deal with traffic congestion.



Bionic eyesight²

In 2007, University of Washington professor Babak Amir Paviz and students started developing a contact lense embedded with hundreds of semitransparent light emitted diodes (LEDs). The possible applications for such a technology are endless: from health monitoring to internet display to bionic sight.



Tree Lights³

Lighting technology has come a long way over the past decade. From incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs to light emitting diodes, and now, trees. A group of scientists in Taiwan recently stumbled upon the discovery that placing gold nanoparticles within the leaves of trees causes them to give off a luminous reddish glow.



Honorable mention

Cell phones that are charged with sound⁴

Thanks to some electrical engineers in South Korea, you may never have to worry about running out of battery for your cell phone again. "The technology uses tiny strands of zinc oxide sandwiched between two electrodes. A sound absorbing pad on top vibrates when sound waves hit it, causing the tiny zinc oxide wires to compress and release. This movement generates an electrical current that can then be used to charge a battery."

Corky the wireless and batteryless mouse⁵

This portable wireless mouse is made of 100% recycled materials, and does not use batteries. It uses the kinetic energy from moving and clicking as its power-source.



Inkless printer⁶

This printer by PlanOn is the smallest portable printer available, but more impressive, it doesn't use ink. It uses thermal printing technology to produce monochrome prints. It is 1.5 pounds and measures 2x2x11 inches.



¹ <http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/innovation/10/11/google.testing.cars.mashable/index.html>

² <http://inhabitat.com/solar-powered-augmented-contact-lenses-cover-your-eye-with-100s-of-leds/>

³ <http://inhabitat.com/gold-nanoparticles-could-transform-trees-into-street-lights/>

⁴ <http://www.coolest-gadgets.com/20110510/charging-cell-phone-sound/#more-56807>

⁵ <http://inhabitat.com/corky-mouse-generates-kinetic-energy-with-every-click/>

⁶ <http://inhabitat.com/portable-printer-doesnt-use-ink/>