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Newscast: Dutch scientists have created a solar charger that can juice up a cell phone, BlackBerry or MP3 player

Minnesota Public Radio: Marketplace Morning Report

SCOTT JAGOW, anchor:

OK, enough bad energy. How about some good energy? A solar-powered charger for all those fun gadgets you got for Christmas. From the innovations desk at WUNC in Chapel Hill, Janet Babin reports.

JANET BABIN reporting:

Solar power always sounded like a good idea, but bulky panels and clunky usage limited its appeal. Take solar chargers. They used to need an intermediary battery. But Dutch scientists have created a solar charger that juices up your cell phone, BlackBerry or MP3 player directly. Don Doney with [mysoldius](#) distributes the device in the US. He says the charger is small, about the size of a checkbook.

Mr. DON DONEY (mysoldius): It actually is so slim that you can slip it up between the window of a plane and actually charge your BlackBerry as you're flying from one side of the country to the other.

BABIN: About 65,000 of these solar chargers have sold in Europe, but so far only a few thousand here. Next in development for the Dutch team, a solar-powered laptop charger. I'm Janet Babin for MARKETPLACE.