

Innovating creative solutions to efficiently charge phone batteries with the intention to reduce greenhouse gases
By: Callie Cook

The greenhouse gas effect is a serious and rapidly growing problem. Our lack of progress and initiative as a planet is frightening. Unfortunately many people don't realize how serious this issue is or many simply aren't motivated to fix it. While there isn't any country in particular to blame for this effect more developed countries do produce more pollution than underdeveloped countries. In fact Americans make up only 4% of the world's population but still produce 25% of Carbon Dioxide pollution from fossil fuel burning. Fossil fuel burning produces electricity which we use to power many things such as lights, computers, vehicles, and heating or cooling buildings.

A recent increase in technological advances in the past decade negatively adds to the greenhouse gas effect. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency "electricity production generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions. Over 70% of our electricity comes from burning fossil fuels." One inefficient energy use is the battery life and charging process of phones. With new, faster, lighter, and smarter applications more and more energy is being taken from the phones battery making users charge their phones more. According to Juniper Research "The world is generating 6.4 megatons of greenhouse gases from smartphones charging. By 2019, Juniper Research predicts, that amount will be more than 13 megatons. Those 13 megatons are equivalent to the current annual emissions of 1.1 million cars." A majority of electricity grids are powered by coal, most commonly found in Asia.

There are many ways to approach this issue. I have come up with an innovative idea to help reduce greenhouse gases. The concept is to create a charger that stops when the phone is fully charged, this will prevent overcharging and decrease useless energy transferred. The charger will be a stationary dock designed for areas such as desks, bedside tables, and counters. The dock will be engineered to detect when the phone is close to fully charged and release energy slower, so it will give out less energy. The charger would run on solar power energy which will cut out any electrical source run on fossil fuels. My idea stands out from the rest because it is extremely feasible, realistic, and cost efficient. I predict that this idea could make an extreme impact and immensely reduce greenhouse gasses resulting in a happier and healthier planet Earth. This issue affects us all and we all must work together to fix the problem and preserve our wonderful planet.