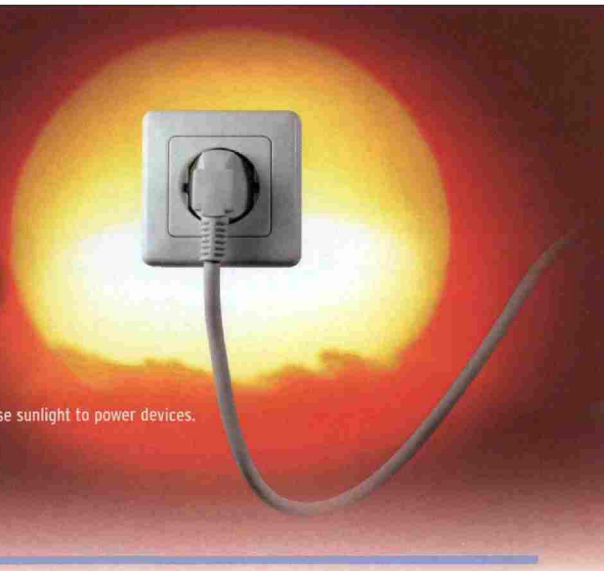


ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS

Portable Solar Chargers: Conducting Business Using the Power of the Sun



Green-on-the-go: pocket-sized gadgets use sunlight to power devices.

By CHRISTINA HANSEN
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FOR THOSE ALWAYS ON-THE-GO, KEEPING electronic devices such as cell phones, PDAs, iPods, gaming systems, cameras and even laptops charged can be a challenge. Although car and other portable charging solutions abound, many people often find themselves away from an electricity source, unable to power their devices.

There are many budget-friendly, portable charging devices on the market that harness the power of the sun—a free and totally clean energy source. These mobile, solar chargers also reduce the need for multiple chargers or adapters for each piece of equipment requiring power.

Here are a few representative portable, solar charging devices that will help business executives on the “go” to go green.



JuiceBar Solar Charger

The JuiceBar Solar Charger (\$40.21) enables you to charge several different devices using light, without having to tote around a variety of AC adapters and cords. This compact device is equipped with solar cells that begin to charge immediately upon contact with light. It also includes 12 of the most commonly used adapters for cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, portable gaming systems and more.



PowerMonkey-eXplorer AC/Solar Charger

Recharge your iPod player, GPS unit, cell phone or PDA any of three ways with the PowerMonkey-eXplorer (\$149.21). It includes a solar cell that can completely charge a cell phone with only six hours of sunlight, or it can be plugged into the

wall in any of 150 countries, thanks to the four AC adapter tips it comes with. It can also be charged from your computer with the included USB adapter. The PowerMonkey holds enough juice for 40 hours of iPod time or 96 hours of cell phone talk time. It includes 10 device adapter tips, AC adapter, 4 AC adapter tips and carry pouch.



Universal Solar Battery Charger

You already use rechargeable batteries to help reduce battery waste in landfills. Now go even greener by recharging your batteries with the sun using the Universal Solar Battery Charger (\$22.43), which accepts D, C, AA and AAA-size batteries in pairs. Its needle meter displays the strength of the sunlight hitting the solar cell and gives you an estimate of the charging time for different battery types, based on that measurement. The Universal Solar Battery Charger also accepts Gum (Prismatic) batteries. Batteries not included.



XPower™ Solar Portable PowerPack

Perfect for camping trips, road trips, tailgating or power-outage emergencies, this XPower Solar Portable Power Pack (\$193.49) is lighter, quieter and, most importantly, greener than any generator out there. A removable solar panel soaks up the sun’s energy, providing up to 400 watts of power for everything from laptops and cell phone chargers to blenders and small TVs. ■

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