

## **Harnessing Evaporation through Minuscule Bacterial Spores**

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Scientists at Columbia University developed a unique method for harnessing natural sources of energy.

The researchers used tiny bacterial spores to kick-start an energy transfer process that, “on a grand scale, is a hugely important factor in the planet’s climate and weather—namely, evaporation,” according to [The New York Times’ Science Take series](#). [1]

Here’s how the process works: To control evaporation, the team manipulated the bacteria to expand and contract in a manner similar to muscles. Ultimately, they were able to string these microns together and power devices like a toy car.

You can watch the video below to learn how this project got started and what its future looks like.

**Source URL (retrieved on 09/19/2015 - 3:41pm):**

<http://www.biosciencetechnology.com/videos/2015/07/harnessing-evaporation-through-minuscule-bacterial-spores>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/29/science/evaporation-gives-spores-energy-generating-muscle.html?>