



# marksearch team – Sue Mark, Bruce Douglas

## – Power Call –

Arte Útil archive nr:  
560

**Initiator:**  
marksearch team – Sue Mark,  
Bruce Douglas

**Location:**  
United States

**Category:**  
environment, social

**Users:**  
Any pedestrian: Power Call has  
traveled around the neighborhood  
to the library, transit hubs, cafes  
and small businesses.

**Maintained by:**  
Philanthropic contributions and  
the initiators

**Duration:**  
2015 – ongoing

**Description:**  
Power Call is a nomadic, interactive energy commons in San Francisco to the Bay Area. Using low-tech systems, Power Call harnesses, stores and dispenses energy for recharging a variety of cell phones. Anyone can contribute to the energy commons by spending a few minutes pumping the machine, creating a charge for yourself or a future person in need. The amount of energy generated will be relatively small, enough to make a meaningful last phone call or text message. In exchange for participation, the initiators ask that users share their story on a rotating public message board, which answer these questions: who would you call if you had only this one last call? What would you say?

**Goals:**  
Power Call relies on good will to generate energy while simultaneously diffusing the anonymity of people in public spaces. In order for the energy commons to function, passers-by engage in an unusual and collaborative experience.

**Beneficial Outcomes:**  
The project creatively brings together contemporary issues around hand held technology and social spaces, environmental concerns about a need for alternative energy sources, and anxiety over natural disasters and a potential state of emergency, where figuring out ways to work together to share resources is going to be necessary.

**Images:**

