

# Light Up Dog Parks With The Power of Poop

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A dog park in Cambridge, MA is harnessing the power of dog poop to light the park at night. It's a three month project called Park Spark.

deposit it in a tank located in the park to harness methane, which in turn is used to light the park at night. The tank is actually a methane or biogas digester (video below shows how these work). The park may be small, but the "fuel" supply is ample enough to power the lighting.

The creator of the project is not even a dog-owner. Matthew Mazzotta is a MIT graduate visual artist who turned a \$4000 MIT grant and a partnership with the City of Cambridge into a novel and inspiring project that helps us rethink our current waste management.

There is talk that San Francisco might do a similar initiative to collect dog poop throughout the city for conversion into energy. It started with dog-waste collection carts with biodegradable bags set up in Duboce Park, one of city's most popular dog parks.

Cambridge, MA ([RPRN](#)) 10/25/10 — Anyone who has walked by a dog poop can in a dog park at the height of a sunny day during the summer, can tell you that there is something "awfully powerful" lurking under the lid. Now a dog park in Cambridge, MA is harnessing that power to light the park at night. It's a three month project called Park Spark. The concept is simple. Dog owners collect their dog's poop and

Hopefully the Park Spark initiative will inspire similar projects in parks across the country. For those of us dog-owners who are well-trained in collecting the raw materials, I'm sure we'd all feel better if this collection effort went towards reducing land-fill and creating greener energy.

UPDATE: Due to the success of the Park Spark in Cambridge, the project is now being expanded to 6 other cities this spring. Go to the following link [Bring Park Spark to Your City](#) for more info and email instructions on how you can help.

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**About the author:**

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