

Soccer Field Lights Powered by Kids' Pounding Feet

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A new project helps give kids a safe place to play soccer in a Rio de Janeiro favela by using kinetic-energy harvesting tiles to produce electricity for keeping the lights on.

[Pavegen](#), a company who has experience capturing the power of human feet from installing tiles to be run over during the [Paris Marathon](#) to creating a [kinetic-energy powered sidewalk](#) at the London Olympics, built the project through a partnership with Shell.

The field features the tiles underneath a layer of astroturf as well as a few solar PV panels around the perimeter of the field. The two technologies together generate electricity which is stored on site and then used to power the field's floodlights.



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"We have taken this idea from a bedroom in London to a football pitch in Brazil through our partnership with Shell, encouraging young innovators of the future to make a real difference in their community," [said Pavegen's 28 year-old founder](#) and CEO Laurence Kembal-Cook. "In the two weeks on site in the community, children helped complete the installation. It was a real life science experiment that didn't stop when school ended for the day."

The company estimates that the tiles should provide up to 10 hours of illumination from a full battery, meaning neighborhood kids will always have a safe, well-lit place to kick the ball around. The tile system includes a wireless Application Programming Interface (API) that collects real-time data, which can be transmitted to predetermined web addresses for analysis.

Now throw the kids a [Soccket ball](#) -- a soccer ball outfitted with an energy harvester that can be used for powering LED lanterns or charging cell phones -- and then you're really talking about the power of play.

See a video about the project featuring soccer legend Pelé below.

Click here to watch "Shell and Pelé Inspire Future Energy Scientists With Soccer Pitch | Shell":
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ikb682Mk-k&feature=emb_title
