

# PARKING WITH THE WIND

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## Chicago Garage Fires Up Helical Wind Turbines for Attractive, Earth-Friendly Parking

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Chicago was nicknamed the windy City because of its blowhard politicians, not the powerful gusts off Lake Michigan. But a new parking garage took the name to being real regardless and installed this amazing helix shaped wind turbine system inside the building, making turbines not only cool, but functional.

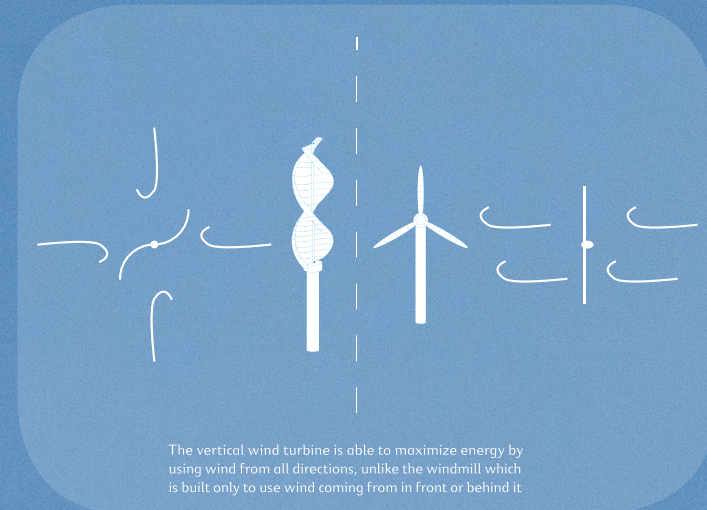
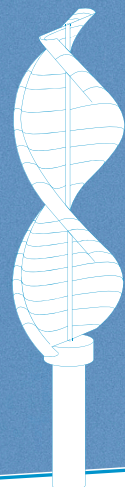
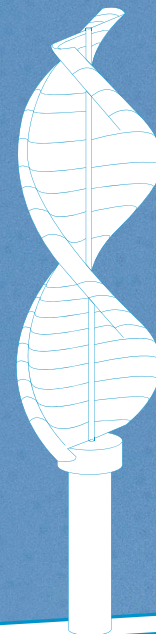
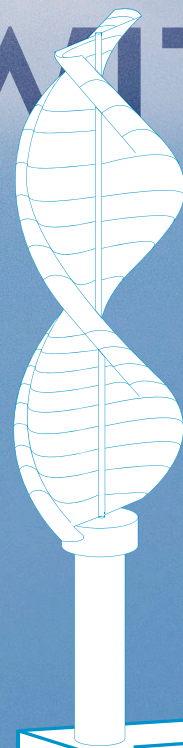
This summer, 12 turbines started spinning at Greenway Self-Park, which bills itself, some what oxymoronically, as Chicago's first Earth friendly parking garage.

Open-screen walls on the 11-story garage provide ventilation and reveal the cars inside, but also let passers by marvel at the turbines. The garage also has a cistern rain-collection system, sustainable building materials, a recycling program and an electric car charging

station. Lobbies on each floor will include information about how to live more sustainably, and the garage has energy-efficient lighting. The garage is pursuing LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. It even has a reversible meter that can measure and return power to Chicago's grid throughout the year.

Architect Todd Halamka, director of design at the Chicago office of HOK, tells Fast Company he wanted to celebrate the building's function, not hide it. One wonders how green a parking garage can really be, but it's not like cars are vas well aim to ameliorate their impact.

At the very least, it adds to the architecturally interesting experience of parking in downtown Chicago — you can go underneath trains, curl up through Marina City, and now this. 🌀



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