Podcast: Genetically-engineered houseplants can scrub household toxins from the air

Indoor air contains a variety of harmful compounds. We invite many of these compounds into our homes in electronics, and others occur spontaneously from our water supply, and as homes become more energy efficient and dependent on air conditioning, these chemicals concentrate in our homes.

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Dr. Stuart Strand of the University of Washington explains what they are and their relative risk. He also describes a solution—plants genetically engineered to scrub these molecules from the indoor atmosphere. A variety of plants have been engineered to remove these molecules, including pothos ivy and tobacco, and he is setting his sights on crop plants that could affect the molecules that contribute to climate change.

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