

Hisui's New Power Plant

The Galaxy Team has decided that in order to advance the research on Pokemon and the Pokedex, [Jubilife village](#) needs a brand new power plant. Luckily, Professor Laventon has discovered that the Pokemon, [Voltorb](#), is the best candidate to help power the village.

Voltorbs can cleanly and efficiently produce electricity. An average Voltorb is about 0.5m (1'08") tall and weighs 10.4 kg (22.8lbs). However, they are uncommon and are only found in the Sacred Plaza.

Objective: How many Voltorbs will you need to catch to fully power the village. Describe each step in your thought process.

Response



Power Requirements

According to Bulbapedia, the [Hisuiian](#) region is based on the real-life location of Ezo/Hokkaido. If the timeline of Hisui's renaming to Sinnoh lines up with Ezo's renaming to [Hokkaido](#) in 1869, we can assume that the level of technology and usage of electricity in Hisui is at or near the level used before 1869.

It is unlikely that any villager within Jubilife Village would require electricity in their daily life. However, development of incandescent [street lights](#) around this time, as well as the existence of Professor Laventon's lab, may necessitate a need for electric power moving forward. The proposed power plant would help facilitate the village's development into Jubilife City in the coming years.

In the Pokemon Diamond and Pearl! manga, a Shinx single-handedly supplies enough power to the [Valley WindWorks](#)' broken power grid to restore all lights in the facility. Given the miniscule amount of electricity necessary to power a village in the late 1800s, a single Shinx would be more than enough for the proposed power plant. A single Voltorb would likely work, as well; assuming it is the best candidate and that Pokemon strength is relatively balanced (questionable, to be fair, given depictions in games and anime).

While one Voltorb may be enough, there are many other factors outside of “clean and efficient energy” production that need to be considered before construction of the power plant can begin.

Potential Danger

While [Voltorb](#) may be the best candidate to power the village, its tendency to “self-destruct with very little stimulus” (Pokemon Yellow Pokedex) suggests it to be the least practical.

Even assuming that Husuian Voltorb hasn’t yet developed the ability to self-destruct, its Pokedex entry still states: “When excited, it discharges the electric current it has stored in its belly, then lets out a great, uproarious laugh.”

A Voltorb could discharge all electricity from any unexpected stimulus, leaving the plant unusable until its electricity could be stored again. This issue would likely not be solved by capturing additional Voltorbs as backups, as the sudden discharging of one would undoubtedly be enough stimulus to trigger the rest.

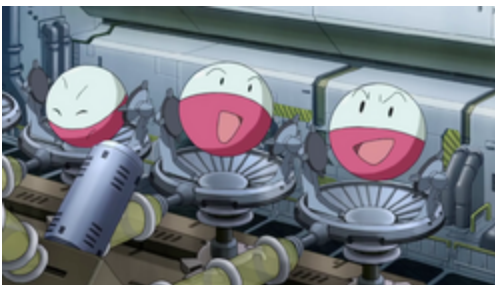
Given these factors, as well as the minimal electricity requirements of Jubilife Village, the tradeoff of a less temperamental but possibly less efficient Pokemon would be a better solution.

Ethical Concerns

Culturally speaking, it would be unlikely that citizens of a village who worship Pokemon, as part of the Diamond clan or Pearl clan, would agree to forcibly utilizing one as a tool. One episode in the anime does depict Electrodes being used to power a facility by Team Rocket, but the raid on the facility and subsequent freeing of the Electrodes, suggest that this solution may be considered unethical in the Pokemon world as a whole:

“Lance runs over to a window and sees how multiple Electrode are attached to a large machine. The Ball Pokémon are forced to give off electricity to power the radio transmitter that emits the mysterious radio waves.”

“Lance walks over to the Electrode and promises to free them. He has his Dragonite destroy the control panel and break open the window. After doing so, the generator is shut down and the Electrode are freed from the machines they were attached to. Lance tells the Electrode to escape and they happily bounce away from the generator. They gather in front of Petrel and shock him with Thunderbolt as revenge for what he did to them.” ([Bulbapedia](#))



Looking into the future, there has been no evidence of power plants in any Pokemon region utilizing Pokemon as a source of energy. While the technology clearly did exist, it is likely that it was developed solely by Team Rocket to further their evil plans and has not been seen elsewhere.

Outside of this one instance, pokemon roles in the franchise are usually depicted as working employees of their respective facilities. As such, any Voltorbs captured for usage of the power plant would need to be bonded with and convinced to work of their own volition or employed, which would be difficult, time-consuming, and expensive.

Alternatives

Given the above constraints, one practical solution to the problem of providing electricity that would be both convenient and ethical would be to give this task to [Sanqua's](#) adopted Pichu or better yet, [Zisu's](#) Luxray. As an evolved form of Shinx, it should be even more capable than the Shinx depicted in the referenced manga. Both Pokemon are already friendly companions of existing Team Galaxy members, meaning entrusting these Pokemon with the task would be a quick and easy solution.

Future developments

But why even use Pokemon at all? The majority of power plants depicted in the Pokemon franchise have been powered by naturally occurring sources such as the [Kalos power plant](#) (solar powered) and the [Geothermal Power Plant](#) of the Alola region.

It seems like sustainability is a priority in the Pokemon world and [Professor Laventon](#), as a renowned researcher remembered even in future Naranja/Uva Academy textbooks of Pokemon Scarlet/Violet, would likely share and perhaps even help to pioneer the same sentiment.

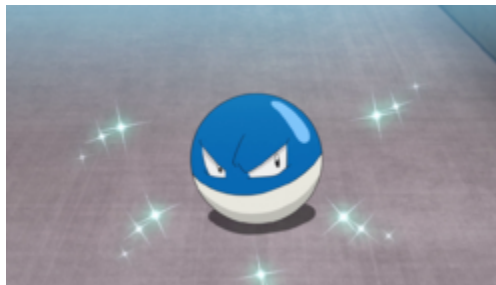
The only power plant in Hisui/Sinnoh in the future is the aforementioned [Valley Windworks](#), a wind power plant in Floarama Town. Floarama Town is immediately north of Jubilife City, and it is likely providing power to the city as well as the entire Sinnoh region.

Professor Laventon may have even been the one to suggest the creation of this plant and the utilization of wind power to power the city after some revisions of the current plan. With the first wind-powered electricity generator being installed in [1887](#), the timeline would be appropriate, as well.



Conclusion

Voltorbs would not need to, and should not be, captured to power Jubilife village. Other more practical solutions are already present within the village and it is likely that a wind-powered electricity plant can and will be developed as a much better alternative anyways. If a Voltorb is absolutely necessary though, one would be sufficient.



Thanks for reading!