

## Pop Goes the Mobile!



Mobile phones are part of our everyday lives, but smaller, lighter and ‘smarter’ models quickly replace old ones. What happens to all the phones we replace? When recycled, most phones are shredded to recover some of the materials, as this is quicker and cheaper than to take them apart by hand.

To save lots of precious materials from going to waste, wouldn't it make sense to design mobile phones so we can recover and reuse materials easily to make new

phones? Could we design phones that pop apart in a few seconds with heat or electric magnets: screws that push themselves out, circuit boards that pop off and glues that melt or dissolve. Some companies are exploring these ideas.