

PGE employees find E-bikes electrifying

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Scott Frank takes an E-spin around the 2WTC plaza.

PGE employees got a close-up view of — and an opportunity to test ride — today’s advanced E-bike technology when [Cynergy E-Bikes](#), a Portland vendor, presented a Lunch & Learn about electric bikes as a commuting and recreational option.

The main message from Rich Fein, Cynergy’s proprietor, is that an E-bike, with an average carbon footprint about 1.8 percent that of the average gasoline-powered automobile, is a viable option for someone who has been reluctant to use a bicycle to commute.

Fein bills it as “no sweat” bike commuting. But don’t be mistaken, there is some effort involved! The E-bikes he peddles include some pedaling — as much or as little as the cyclist desires. They’re especially useful, he says, in routes that have hills or in extending the distance that would make for a comfortable commute.

Fein notes that electric bikes are on a decided upswing in popularity in the United States — particularly in the Portland-metro area where there is good infrastructure for cycling. However, the real boom is in Europe where 12 to 25 percent of all bicycle sales are electric-assisted bikes.

The Lunch & Learn event was sponsored by the PGE Power Pedalers cycling team.

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