

Green Notes

Colorado Shop Reaps Savings of Solar Energy

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—John Crandall's Old Town Bike Shop became the first business in Colorado Springs to implement solar energy last October when he installed an array of 28 solar panels in his parking lot. Since then, at least two other local businesses have followed suit. "We've had a lot of visitors because of it. Hopefully it will stir the pot a little because we're way overdue on this," Crandall said. Crandall's 4,200-watt display covers about 35 percent of the total energy used by his shop. He purchased wind power credits through the local utility company to offset the remainder. The solar setup cost Crandall \$59,000, but he recovered \$16,000 through the utility company's rebate program, and another 30 percent from the federal tax credit. Not to mention, the savings on his monthly electric bill. Crandall crafted his environmental ethos following the 1973 oil embargo, which he called "a huge wake-up call." Then an industrial engineer, he quit his job to open Old Town Bike Shop in 1976 and began commuting on a Centurion bike. He rode the same bike for 25 years until the frame cracked. In that time, he calculated savings of \$72,000 by forgoing a second car and the repair and gas costs that come with it. Crandall also uses efficient T12 fluorescent light bulbs in his shop and recycles nearly everything that comes through the door including plastic, cardboard, aluminum and steel.

Chris King Featured in Sustainability Exhibit

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Chris King Precision Components' sustainability practices earned the company a display in this year's Swell Future Friendly exhibit in Vancouver, British Columbia. Several Chris King components and a



Chris King components on display in Vancouver, B.C.

puck from the company's chip recycling machine were displayed from April 22 to May 21 in Vancouver's Pendulum Gallery in the lobby of a prominent downtown bank tower. "The goal of the show is to promote the work of the designers and companies that are leading the way in their fields vis-à-vis employing sustainable strategies in the design, production and use of their products," said show designer Toby Barratt. "The exhibit also strives to educate the

public about the issues that underlie sustainable design. My design firm partners and I are avid road and track riders and have admired Chris King products for some time." Chris King uses 400 tons of hydraulic force to turn piles of oil-covered aluminum, steel and titanium shavings into a puck. When the metal shards are squeezed, more than 98 percent of the oil can be recovered. It's then filtered, clarified and put back into the machines to make more parts. All the pucks are recycled and the oil is used over and over.

Ryan Leech Ups Environmental Commitment

PORT COQUITLAM, British Columbia—Ryan Leech is cementing his commitment to the environment by becoming the first professional mountain biker to sign on with the David Suzuki Foundation's Play it Cool program. Play It Cool teams high-profile athletes concerned about global warming with the foundation. Leech is working to spread the word about Suzuki's Nature Challenge, which is an easy formula for green living: Make small changes in how you get around, the food you eat, the energy you use and the public actions you take to add up to a big difference on the environment. Leech also offsets 100 percent of his air and vehicle travel carbon dioxide emissions and pens a monthly eco-style column in *Mountain Biking* magazine.



Ryan Leech recently joined the Play it Cool program.