

# Green Ideas sprouting



Harrie Hafstede, MD of Spartel Ltd, demonstrates crushing bottles. Picture: Darren Clark

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VISITORS to the recent Yanchep Festival of Green Ideas were able to pick up tips on green living and try out groundbreaking sustainable products.

Among the favourites were battery-powered bicycles and solar powered hats.

Encouraging the hospitality industry to manage waste more effectively, environmental research and technology firm Spartel Pty Ltd demonstrated its WA-grown glass-crushing unit.

Sold mainly to hotels, restaurants, bars and nightclubs, the crusher can reduce the volume of glass by up to 80 per cent and cuts disposal costs.

The company, which is also involved in composting and waste management, has already exported about 20 machines overseas and supplied 13 to Melbourne's new convention centre.

"This technology is still relatively new in Perth," managing director Harrie Hofstede said.

"It's a machine to decrease the volume of glass and save on disposal costs.

"But it also helps the community by eliminating bottle

noise from removal early in the mornings."

People trying out the electric bicycles from Easybike Australia said they were "amazing" and "incredible". They have a rechargeable battery and a range of about 40km per charge.

A flat battery takes four hours to recharge and costs about 5c for electricity. They are like a normal bicycle with an electric motor, activated via a hand throttle.

Easybike operations manager Allan Birrell said the bikes appealed to older people and commuters. The Easybike ethos ties in with the aims of Yanchep developers to achieve employment self-containment, healthy living and sustainability.

"The idea is to encourage people in the new Yanchep-Two Rocks to cycle to work," Mr Birrell said.

"There are good bike tracks up here and the bikes are ideal for people living within a 15km radius from where they work."

Retailing from \$1650, they offer a cheap form of transport with the added bonus that you do not even need a licence to ride one.

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