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Some Real Pedal Power At The Gym

SWEAT ENERGY • Company captures electricity from exercise machines

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Most of us who visit gyms and watch scores of stationary bikes and other equipment spinning and whirring have had the same thought: Too bad there isn't a way to capture all this energy.

This just in: There is.

A firm in Ridgefield, The Green Revolution Inc., has developed a device that attaches to a standard exercise bike and generates electricity from the pedal power. After developing the device at a local fitness center in 2008, the company started marketing it around the country this year. It's in fitness centers in Vancouver and several U.S. cities, including a health club in Orange called Go Green Fitness, which employs a number of other energy-saving measures as well.

Mike Curnyn, the company's chief marketing officer, said the device is about to debut in two Manhattan health clubs, which gets the company closer to its goal of being in nearly 200 fitness centers, schools and other exercise venues by the end of the coming year. He said the company is working on applying its technology to other exercise machines such as elliptical trainers and rowing machines.

Even though fitness centers tend to be energy hogs, Mr. Curnyn's company hopes their technology will reduce clubs' energy use by as much as 30 percent. That's good old Yankee ingenuity. Now if we can get people to leave their cars at home and use movable bikes to get to work, we can have some real energy savings.

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