Green, clean and friendly: Solar pedal bus launches in Charlottetown

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Travis Kingdon · CBC · Posted: Jul 14, 2019 6:34 PM AT | Last Updated: July 14

At least eight people are required to move the bus and it can hold up to 18 riders. (Travis Kingdon/CBC News)

There's a new eco-friendly way to experience downtown Charlottetown this summer.

Ride Solar has introduced a solar-powered pedal bus, a large bicycle that will tour people around the city.

Eight people are required to move the bike and it can hold a total of 18 people. The bus stops at restaurants and points of interest along the way.

Inspiration for the bike came from similar ones in Europe and other parts of North America.

Peter Ixkes, owner and co-founder of Ride Solar, said he knew of this style of bike from Germany and the Netherlands, and wanted to bring the concept to P.E.I.

But, unlike other bikes, Ride Solar's bike has a solar powered aspect to it.

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"We have an electric-assist motor that makes it easier to pedal when you're going uphill and things like that," said Arnold. "And instead of having to plug the batteries into a socket, we have 1.2 kilowatts of solar panels on the roof."

These solar panels generate enough electricity to keep the motor charged, he said.

Arnold hopes the bike offers tourists and residents alike a fresh new way to explore the city.

"It's green, it's clean, it's friendly, just like P.E.I. and it gives a different way to see how pretty the city is," he said.

Steve Arnold, director and partner of Ride Solar, said he hopes the bike gives residents and tourists a fresh way to experience the city (Travis Kingdon/CBC News)

Rides cost anywhere from $40 to $60 per person. Two dollars for every rider who takes a tour on the pedal bus will be donated to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation.

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