

# The Portland Observer Sustainability



## Natural Bedding for 30 Years

Entrepreneur finds niche with hand-crafted futons, mattresses

Cotton Cloud Futons and Furniture has been in business for 30 years, offering the most affordable natural bedding. All products are locally hand-crafted, including custom cushions, mattresses and sewing.

Store owner Terri Treat is an amazing woman who knows her business along with her 11 employees. Treat uses USA cotton and wool from sheep farmers to create sustainable products. She has come up with some awesome designs for her futon covers that you'll have to see to believe.

Cotton Cloud Futons started in 1981 at 31st and Burnside then moved to 31st and Broadway, before its current location at Seventh Avenue and Broadway across from the Les Schwab Tire Center.

The store pleases both customers and the environment with its 100 percent natural latex mattresses,



PHOTO BY LEONARD LATIN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Terri Treat has been hand-crafting natural bedding for 30 years. Her Cotton Cloud Futons and Furniture store is located at 701 N.E. Broadway.

natural mattress pads and organic hand-made pillows. The materials are all grown in the USA and are all natural and environmentally green. They take organic cotton fabric and wool fabric then quilt them into the most comfortable non-toxic pillows and mattresses you'll ever have the opportunity to lay or sleep on.

The customer service is wonderful and one percent of her sales are donated to charity.

You can take a look at some of the futons of your dreams on the store's website at [cottoncloudfutons.com](http://cottoncloudfutons.com). Designs come in many different types and frames are interchangeable. Some of her bedding is as low as \$100.

Another amazing work of the company is to recycle soda bottles and make them into a batting for both mattresses and futons.

Cotton Cloud Futons is truly into sustainability and with her organic wool and her organic cotton products, the store promises to be around for a long time.

For more information, visit the showroom at 701 N.E. Broadway or call 503-335-0758. If you have any trouble sleeping or back problems, maybe you should give Terri Treat a call.



PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Portland inventor Chris Hoffman shows off his one-wheel, battery operated motorcycle at the recent opening of an electric charging station on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

## Half the Carbon Footprint, Half the Bike

BY MINDY COOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As clean energy technologies are becoming recognized as important throughout the country, local Portland inventor Chris Hoffmann, along with his company RYNO, is currently working on a one-wheeled electric cycle creation he hopes will revolutionize short distance commuter transportation within cities known for high-levels of green house gas emissions.

"We are working on this one ideal product," said Hoffmann. "We call it the microcycle."

The machine, which looks as though someone has sawed a motorcycle in half, rests between the drivers legs, which sit on the outside of the bike.

The idea for the small one wheeled electric motorcycle was born into existence five-years-ago when Hoffmann's 13-year-old daughter told him about a cycle she witnessed in a video game and asked if he could build it. "I asked what it looked like, and she actually drew me a sketch in the car," he said. "I never would have thought of it."

After toying with the idea, Hoffmann said he took a machine shop class to learn how to better build the product, and after riding the cycle for a year he discovered how fun, enjoyable and practical it is.

"It's half the bike, so it has half the carbon footprint to manufacture it," he said. "And electric vehicles should be seen as a way to reduce stress in a city as people move closer together to be near jobs and community."

As gas prices go up, he said, people are going to have to congregate. "Without a way to reduce the stress people are going to go nuts," he said. The small size of the electric machine addresses this challenge.

The cycle goes a maximum of 20 mph with a 25 mile charge, while the battery takes one and a half hours to become completely full.

Hoffmann said, however, the beauty of the bike is that it doesn't require a charging station.

"It just requires a charger similar to a laptop," he explained. While the charge is comparably short-lived, the battery is

removable and can be charged anywhere and easily in resident's homes.

Although at first glance the cycle appears difficult to balance upon, Hoffmann said, "It only takes about five minutes to ride in a straight line and 45 minutes to get pretty good."

Once stopped, the driver can rest their feet on the ground and provide themselves with easy stability, said Hoffmann. To him, he said the most important attribute is that you remain at eye-level. "Police officers like this a lot," he said. "The Portland Police Bureau is going to lease two bikes for the year," he said. "They have ridden and looked at the bike, and they are pretty enthusiastic about it."

He also explained the cycle to be extremely non-threatening when interacting with pedestrians in a crowd. "Since it's so small you can go into the elevator or the MAX and no one gets upset because when you roll up next to somebody your leg is still next to their leg," he said.

Hoffmann said he hopes the bike will be ready for production by 2012.