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## Internet Technology Helps Bike Shop Kick **Business Into High Gear**

From product education to grass roots marketing, this small business leverages the Internet to improve customers' experience

December 2014

For Brian Ballard and Beth Black, opening Pedego Electric Bikes of Greater Long Beach was inspired by personal passions. The partners loved cycling and became avid fans of the Pedego brand just a year-and-a-half before making the leap to open a shop of their own.

Today, Pedego Electric Bikes of Greater Long Beach sells and rents electric bikes in the coastal community of Seal Beach, California. They also lead guided bike tours.

Ballard and Black use Internet technology to educate curious passers by and potential customers about Pedego Electric Bikes. Electric bikes work exactly like traditional bikes, except they have electric motors that can be turned on to provide a boost when needed, such taking on a steep hill or in times of fatigue. When people stop in to ask about the colorful bikes, Ballard and Black are able to access video and images online to show people how their bikes work.

The co-owners leverage Internet technology in their grass roots marketing efforts, as well. When customers rent bikes from the business, Ballard and Black encourage them to take video documenting their ride and send the video to the shop from the road. By the time the customer returns the bike, a shop employee has uploaded the videos to the business' website. This makes it easy for customers to share their experience with friends and family. Black says they find, by the next week, the customer's friends have seen the video and are coming into the shop as well.

Using Internet technologies to improve customer education and experience requires adequate bandwidth. Uploading, downloading and even viewing videos and photos can become a slow and inefficient process without enough bandwidth to keep load times to a minimum.

Learn more about Pedego Electric Bikes of Greater Long Beach by reading their case study.

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