

SUSTAINABLE AND BEAUTIFUL SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF CYCLING

By Kim Assaël

In Holland, a country where bicycles are a common daily means of transport for citizens of all social backgrounds, research is advancing for the improvement of cycle paths seeking solutions that are effective, sustainable and which can enhance the beauty of the landscape. It is not by chance that the first solar cycling route in the province of North Brabant - Van Gogh's homeland, is inspired on the painting *The Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh.

The designers of the Studio Roosegarde have created an [illuminated bike path made out of swirling solar-powered LEDs](#). During the day, the lines charge up with solar energy, and at night they can glow for up to eight hours, illuminating the route and keeping bikes safely on the road.



This innovative and beautiful solution also stimulated the [TPA Instytut](#) in Poland that has created near Lidzbark Warminski in the Region of Mazury another techno-poetry prototype of glowing bike path to help the safety of night-time cyclists. This new [bike path](#) is illuminated by phosphor, a synthetic material that lights up for 10 hours when it is dark, after it's charged by sunlight. The *luminophores particles* of the bike lane can emit a variety of colors, and the designers chose the bright blue to fit with the surrounding landscape.



The glowing bicycle path helps prevent accidents between pedestrians and cycles, which is very common especially at night and are a major problem for rural areas that tend to be darker than the city. The bike lane is still being tested and the TPS Instytut is working to find the best solutions to save the production costs making the project more cost-efficient in order to spread it at global level.



The prototypes of this illuminated bike path in Holland and in Poland show the increasing development of research and technology innovations in cycling. For the moment this bright idea with innovative combination of light, energy, care of the landscape beauty will surely be transferred to other cities going towards a sustainable mobility and sustaining attractive territories.



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