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New tree guards are made from biodegradable cardboard

ANELSON COMPANY has recently launched a cardboard alternative to traditional plastic plant or tree guards.

The guards are the brainchild of Robert and Jan Fryer who run FuturEcology, a consultancy and project management company specialising in land and water use issues.

Robert said the idea began when his teenage daughter Emma was helping him plant a wetland area and she said ‘dad, why are we putting plastic into the environment? There must be something better.’

It took two years ‘and a bit of trial and error’ to come up with the final answer, the Emguard, where the Em stands for Ecological Management and also recognises the input from Emma.

Robert says the guards are made from fully biodegradable cardboard coated with a food grade water repellent. They are said to last up to a year in the field in normal riparian conditions.

They can then be collected and re-used if still okay, recycled, or just left to break down naturally. The guards are held in place by bamboo stakes passed through holes in their sides and down into the ground.

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