

MORE THAN JUST A BIKE SHOP.

**Our Impact
in 2023.**



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WHO ARE WE?

Refurbishing bikes. Changing lives.

We are a charity bike shop selling refurbished bikes and reinvesting into local community programmes across Edinburgh and Perth.

Our expert mechanics refurbish donated bikes and sell them in our Edinburgh and Perth branches. Our dedication to keeping bikes in circulation means our refurbished bikes come with a much lower carbon, waste and water footprint than a new bike.

As a charity, we use the revenue from our sales and services to fund our community programmes, which focuses on using cycling to help those most vulnerable in society.

We also offer a range of services such as Fix Your Own Bike, Velotech qualifications and maintenance classes to give our local communities the tools they need to get into cycling.

Equality in active travel - We want to make sure cycling is available to everyone

Circular economy focused - We are completely committed to recycling, repairing and repurposing bikes.



Perth | Gorgie | Causewayside

The Bike Station is Revolve accredited. Revolve is a Zero Waste Scotland programme that aims to increase re-use by improving professionalism, customer experience and visibility of re-use organisations. Re-use organisations who achieve Revolve accreditation help to give shoppers confidence to buy re-used and decrease the number of goods going to landfill.

We are also a Member of Circular Communities Scotland and sit as a member of the National Cycling Interests Group.

HIGHLIGHTS

578 customers signed up to the Wee Bike Library.



145

People Velotech trained.

3 Branches across Edinburgh and Perth promoting Circular Economy and Active Travel.

100%

of Wee Bike Library users said they would use the scheme again.

281 Bikes

Borrowed through the Wee Bike Library.

240

participants referred to our Shifting Gears programme from 12 different partner charities and organisations.



In the 22/23 financial year, we distributed 72 free bikes with accompanying lock, lights and helmets.

We recycled around

4.02 tonnes

of old bicycle tyres.



37

Dedicated Volunteers.

2 people from the 22/23 Shifting Gears programme have gone on to permanent employment at The Bike Station.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

OUR WORK IN A POLICY CONTEXT.

We are **more than just a bike shop**; we play our part in creating change for a sustainable future. Beyond wheels and pedals, our commitment to a circular economy and community-driven projects, such as The Wee Bike Library, exemplifies our dedication to shaping inclusive, resilient communities. We want to pedal towards a future where sustainability and community impact intertwine.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

At the heart of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are the 17 Sustainable development goals, an urgent call for action from all United Nations Member States, of which Scotland, as part of the United Kingdom, is a part of. At The Bike Station, we play a key role in working towards a sustainable future. Our work demonstrates a key focus around the SDG's, particularly goals 3, 10, 11, 12 and 13.



By refurbishing pre-loved bikes and selling them at affordable prices, we are reducing waste and contributing to a circular economy. This encourages responsible consumption and

production in the community and emphasises the case for investment into sustainable cities and communities - the more people on bikes, the greater the need for safe cycling infrastructure.

Getting more people cycling champions good health and well-being and making bikes more affordable helps to break down inequality. Our Free to Access and Shifting Gears programmes further strengthen our commitment to breaking down inequality. More on this work can be found in the communities section.

We join the many organisations in Scotland fighting and advocating for children's rights. Cycling should be accessible for children and young people, but all too often the cost of children's bikes are a barrier for families.

That’s why, with our Wee Bike Library, we take a rights based approach. We want to **make rights real** and ensure children and young people can access their **Article 31 right to rest and play**.



The Wee Bike Library allows families to access kids bikes (and accessories like helmets and lights) for free and exchange them for the next size up as their kids grow. This project is only just the beginning of our work championing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and taking a rights-based approach. As the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill reaches royal ascent, we will be active and ready for implementation.

Delivering Safe and Active Travel.

Enabling safe active travel in Perth and Edinburgh requires the provision of integrated and high-quality routes

for cycling that joins up homes and destinations. This is essential to support the vital role cycling has to play to enable people to make healthy living choices and assists in delivering places that are happier, more inclusive and equal.

The drive towards Net-Zero communities.

Scotland has established ambitious climate change legislation, aiming to achieve net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by the year 2045. **We play a big role in that.**

Sustainable forms of transport are essential for achieving Scotland’s objectives and cycling is among one of the most sustainable options, with potential to not only reduce carbon emissions but also increase active travel and health outcomes.

The Bike Station helps make getting into sustainable transport possible **for everyone**. We break down barriers to active travel through our Shifting Gears Programme, aimed at supporting people who are typically underrepresented or excluded from sustainable travel programmes. Our commitment to supporting grassroots community action empowers people living in the local area.





COMMUNITIES

Cycling for Change: Breaking Barriers and Inspiring Scotland's Sustainable Future!

At The Bike Station, we are driven by a passion to make a positive impact in the communities we serve. Our dedicated team strives to create meaningful change through our various community programmes. From empowering families to get cycling through the Wee Bike Library and breaking down barriers people face in active travel. We make a difference that lasts a lifetime.

WEE BIKE LIBRARY

The Wee Bike Library is a programme funded by the Scottish Government, and it is aimed at **making bikes more accessible to families with children**. The project launched in August 2023 and is currently running until the end of March 2024. Depending on funding, it will continue to run for another financial year.



“Helped us get a next stage bike for our child that we wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise” -Wee Bike Library User

Customers using the Wee Bike Library can sign up and reserve a bike for free. Once their children have outgrown the bikes they borrowed, customers can return those bikes and exchange them for the next size up. Upon collection, they also get free lights, locks, helmets and bells, as well as free repairs throughout the loan period.



Did you know? The Wee Bike Library reinforces and champions the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - Article 31, the right to play and rest.

“My daughters had outgrown their bikes, this has allowed them to cycle again, get fresh air and exercise. It's a brilliant scheme!”
-Wee Bike Library User

SHIFTING GEARS

Shifting Gears is a **grassroots community led project** that has been operating since April 2021 in Perth and Edinburgh. The aim of the programme is to support and work with individuals who have been typically underrepresented or excluded from sustainable travel programmes. People are referred to the programme through our partner charities and can then access any of our services including: a free refurbished bike with accompanying lock, lights and helmet; 1-1 cycle lessons with our Cycle Trainers; group rides and social events; maintenance classes; Velotech training; and paid employment at The Bike Station as an Assistant Mechanic.

Shifting Gears participants said...

“Shifting gears has been brilliant for me. All of the people that work there have been amazing, it's really helped my mental health and really improved my fitness. Keep up the good work guys.”

"Without Shifting Gears I would never sit on the bike...I'm 49.... So Thank you SO much"



PRISON PROJECT

The Bike Station has worked alongside the Scottish Prison Service since 2006. In 2011, the Bike Station Prisons project was expanded with funding from the Robertson Trust. Currently, we are supporting the continuation of bicycle maintenance workshops in four prisons, including HMYOI Polmont, HMP Perth, and HMP Edinburgh, HMP Shotts.

The bike sheds within the prison setting are designed to offer opportunities to develop vocational skills through learning bicycle maintenance. Each prison has a different operational model, including frequency of sessions and duration of the programme.

ROYAL EDINBURGH HOSPITAL

We are running a 10 week bike building project with the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Patients are able to learn maintenance skills and build a bike up from scratch which is then kept by the hospital to be used as part of their fleet of pool bikes.

FREE TO ACCESS PROGRAMME

We have received ongoing funding from Cycling Scotland to distribute 72 free bikes, locks, lights and helmets to people in Edinburgh and Perth who are not otherwise in a position to purchase these items. Enquiries and requests come from a variety of sources including social work, youth groups, community groups and individuals.

UCI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS & LIDL

We ran a series of Dr Bike sessions in collaboration with Lidl supermarkets as part of their sponsorship of the UCI cycling world championships in Scotland. We ran Dr Bike events at 22 Lidl stores across the Greater Glasgow area servicing approximately 660 bikes in the process.

- In the 22/23 financial year we distributed 72 bikes with accompanying lock, lights and helmets.
- So far, in the 23/24 financial year we have distributed 18 bikes with accompanying lock, lights and helmets.

Many of our bikes this year have gone to Ukrainian refugees now living in Edinburgh and Perth.



SUPPORTING LOCAL ACTION

Embedded in grassroots community work.

Throughout the year we empower our local community by supporting various different events across Perth and Edinburgh including School Bike Buses, Kidical Mass, Critical Mass, Infrasisisters and many more!

We support these events in many different ways, ranging from taking part in mass cycle rides and encouraging our community to get involved too, to providing mechanical support and Dr. Bikes

during events, to keep everyone, (and their bikes!) in working condition.

Pictured above, In December 2023 we supported the InfraSisters #OurStreetsOurNights mass cycle ride, campaigning for nighttime cycling infrastructure in Edinburgh that is safe and comfortable for women and girls.

One of our mechanics was at this event to provide repair support during the ride for anyone who needed it.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

At The Bike Station, we have a programme of skills development training courses designed to improve individuals and organisations cycling and mechanical skills.

DR BIKE

Dr Bike is a mobile repair station brought to you by our mechanics. It is perfect for company events, outdoor activities, schools, and more!

Getting a bike checked can be expensive and daunting. We aim to ensure everyone's bike is safe for day-to-day use to encourage more cycling!

MAINTENANCE CLASSES

Our maintenance classes are designed to build skills and confidence so you can go away and fix your bike independently. Our classes range from beginner to advanced and we also offer 1:1 sessions.

VELOTECH COURSES

We run Velotech Awards maintenance courses in our Edinburgh and Perth branches.

These are accredited maintenance courses recognised by the Bicycle Association. Successful participants will receive either the Gold, Silver or Bronze Award, a recognised professional mechanics qualification.

WT*F (WOMEN, TRANS*, FEMME) COURSES

These are Maintenance courses that are reserved for anyone who identifies as a woman, non-binary, transgender, genderqueer, or anyone else who feels as though their identity has impacted their ability to be involved in bike mechanics or the bike community in general.

FIX YOUR OWN BIKE

We run sessions in Edinburgh and Perth where you can come down and use our shop and tools to fix your own bike.

OPENING GORGIE

Wheels in Motion: Pedalling Progress in Gorgie, Edinburgh.

In partnership with Cargo Bike Movement, on the 24th of March 2023 we officially opened our new branch in Gorgie.



Situated on Gorgie Road, our branch is not just a workshop; it's a hub of passion, expertise and community engagement. Comprising a dedicated team of skilled mechanics, they are here to ensure that your bike wheels keep turning smoothly, reflecting our commitment to a sustainable and active lifestyle.

At Gorgie, we offer a range of services tailored to meet your cycling needs. From refurbished bike sales to repairs and servicing, our team is driven by the vision of promoting a cycling-friendly community. But our commitment doesn't stop at the workshop; it extends into the heart of Gorgie's vibrant community.

To celebrate the opening of the new Gorgie branch, we offered our free access to bikes programme, generously supported by the Paths For All Open Fund.

We provided free access to bikes, locks, lights, and helmets, empowering the community with the tools they need to embrace cycling as a part of their daily lives.

But it doesn't end there – our commitment goes beyond providing resources. We hosted a series of engaging and informative maintenance classes, invigorating group rides, and essential cycle lessons, ensuring that everyone, regardless of experience, feels confident and secure on two wheels.

Our "Dr. Bike" sessions further solidified our presence as more than just a bike shop; we are a community-driven force for positive change.

Did you know? As part of our free to access programme at Gorgie, we distributed 40 free bikes with accompanying lock, lights and helmet to people from the local community.

OUR TEAM

Our volunteers are key to our success. In 2023, The Bike Station recruited for a Volunteer Coordinator to help support and recognise our team of dedicated volunteers.

The Bike Station's mission is made possible by our dedicated volunteers, each contributing their individual knowledge, skills and personality to our team.

Our Warehouse volunteers process donated bikes, salvaging reusable parts and responsibly dismantling unrepairable bikes. Shop volunteers enhance the customer experience by supporting bike selection, handling accessory sales, and helping with enquiries. Our team also helps with Fix Your Own Bike (FYOB), an initiative to empower the public through access to our workshop tools and support from our skilled volunteers.

Driver volunteers play a vital logistical role, managing collection, triage, and transportation of bikes between branches, prisons, and Recycling Centres in Edinburgh and Perthshire.

Did you know? At The Bike Station, we have 9 volunteers who have been volunteering with us for over 10 years!



Young volunteers participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award contribute under parental supervision, building skills in their chosen role, in a friendly and professional environment. Our volunteers are essential as part of The Bike Station team, promoting sustainable transportation, reducing waste through bike refurbishment, and building our cycling community.

Joining The Bike Station as a volunteer not only contributes to impactful initiatives but also provides individuals with valuable skills and social experiences, making a positive difference in community cycling and environmental sustainability.

The Bike station would like to thank our outgoing trustees; **Lucia Urra Viana, Christopher Brace, Leanne Farmer, Elizabeth Watkinson** for their dedication and passion. We'd also like to welcome our new trustees; **Paul Lewis, Thomas Haddock, Matthew Smith.**



A VOLUNTEERING STORY

“ I started as a volunteer with the Bike Station soon after I retired in July 2017 and soon became a regular Wednesday volunteer. I particularly enjoyed doing something constructive with similarly minded people whilst working as a team and learning a lot about bikes. I also made new friends and felt positive about being part of something special, which brought about a commitment and loyalty which remains to this day. I think the prospects for The Bike Station and what it is trying to do are very bright, and volunteers are key to its success. I would encourage anyone passionate about bikes and cycling to get involved as a volunteer – it is so much more than recycling old bicycles!

-Tim, Volunteer at The Bike Station.

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OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Our impact is fuelled by the invaluable support of our partners and supporters. Without their commitment, our impact would not be possible. We extend sincere gratitude for their contributions.



NHS Community Innovation Fund
Royal Edinburgh Hospital



THE BIKE STATION

www.TheBikeStation.org.uk

Get in touch...

info@TheBikeStation.org.uk

We are a registered charity (SC033703) and a registered company (SC237798) in Scotland.

Edinburgh (Causewayside)

250 Causewayside, Edinburgh
EH9 1UU

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10:00am - 8:00pm
Thursday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Friday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Sunday: Closed

Edinburgh (Gorgie)

473 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh,
EH11 3AD

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Thursday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Friday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Sunday: Closed

Edinburgh (Perth)

284 High St, Perth
PH1 5QS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Thursday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Friday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
Sunday: Closed