



# THE **BIKE** STATION

TAKING YOU ON A JOURNEY...

# OUR IMPACT 2024

The Bike Station is a registered charity in Scotland. Scottish charity Number SC033703.

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Each bike has a unique story, whether a kid learned to ride on it or it was a commuter's best friend... all too often they are discarded when they could be a tool for empowered communities and connected cities.

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## A New Lease of Life

When a bike is donated to us, it begins a new journey, from landfill towards a new adventure. Our bikes are a vehicle for social change, tackling inequality, creating skills for life and creating a more circular economy.

## A New Home, The Next Adventure

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Our place-based approach allows our communities to be experts and for us to do what others can't - truly connect and meet the needs of the communities we work with - creating more empowered and connected cities.

## Acknowledgements

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# 2024 AT A GLANCE

# 882

free bikes borrowed through the **Wee Bike Library**.

# 6200

**bikes** were **donated** to us across all 3 of our branches.

# 2387

bikes were refurbished, repaired and given a new lease of life.

In 2024, our mechanics repaired and serviced...

# over 800 bikes.

We are able to **keep bikes rolling** that would otherwise have been **condemned**, by using second hand parts to keep the costs down.

In 2024, around 1000 bikes went through the prison project!

WE RECYCLED A WHOPPING...

# 6 TONNES

of bicycle tyres and tubes which would have otherwise ended up in landfill.  
(that's the weight of about 8 Newborn Gray Whales!)

"We have triplets and so new bikes at Christmas would have been a huge financial burden on us had it not been for Wee Bike Library. This is a fantastic service and it should continue and grow! I have recommended to friends and family. My girls LOVE their bikes!" -Wee Bike Library Parent

Between Oct 23/24 Recruitment of 51 volunteers across Edinburgh and Perth including; Workshop volunteers, Shop Front & Driver volunteers.

# 1



# 95%

of Wee Bike Library users agreed or strongly agreed that their children gained more confidence in cycling since they borrowed a bike from the Wee Bike Library.

In the 2023/24 Shifting Gears Programme, we ran

# 398

cycling lessons, including 1-2-1, group lessons and group rides, and maintenance activities.



# 78%

of customers agreed or strongly agreed that the Wee Bike Library removed a financial barrier for them.

“This [programme] is what got me off my couch playing video games into cycling up to 80km a week. ... Now I could look at a bike, think what parts it would need, how to build it up - I can do bike mechanics! It's the first thing I can do that's not a commonly held skill.”

- Shifting Gears Participant

**86% of customers agreed or strongly agreed that their children gained new skills since they borrowed a bike from the Wee Bike Library (for example by learning how to ride a bike).**



# Before The Bike Station

**Did you know?** Research by the Bike Club shows 34% of adults in the UK have one or more unused bikes and 15% have one or more unused kids' bikes!

Setting the Scene: The Circularity Gap Report by Zero Waste Scotland and Circle Economy, **Only 1.3% of the resources Scotland uses are cycled back into the economy after use - that is close to three times what's considered a sustainable level.**

**The report recommends that Scotland embrace a car free lifestyle and to walk and cycle more!** In Perth 25% of residents want to drive less, yet 37% of residents often use a car because no other transport options are available or they face other barriers like lack of infrastructure and opportunities for skills development. In Edinburgh, these numbers are 21% and 28% respectively.

**Between January and November 2024 6200 bikes were donated to us across all 3 of our branches.** The numbers of bikes donated in each location was as follows;

- Causewayside - 3450 bikes
- Gorgie - 843 bikes
- Perth - 2004 bikes

Can you imagine the damaging impact those bicycles would've had on the environment if they hadn't been donated to us? Find out what actually happens once a Bike Station bike is donated and the impact it has on creating healthier and stronger communities in the next two chapters!

Find out how we are more than just a bike shop. At every stage of **The Bike Station's model we're creating generational change, more bike friendly cities, healthier communities and a stronger and more sustainable Scotland.**

Top tip: Our little handy route planner shows you just where you are on your journey through The Bike Station!





# A New Lease Of Life

**When a bike is saved from landfill and donated to us, it gains a new lease of life, enabling us to tackle inequalities, contribute to a circular economy, and create skills for life.**

At The Bike Station, we take a sustainable approach to cycling, refurbishing donated bikes by our team of expert mechanics. The refurbished bikes are then offered free of charge through one of our community programmes or sold at affordable prices at our branches in Edinburgh and Perth.

This approach provides high-quality, cost-effective transportation options while significantly reducing the environmental impact associated with bike production. Our refurbishment process lowers carbon emissions, reduces waste, and conserves water compared to the manufacture of new bikes, making every bike we sell a step toward a more sustainable future.

The income generated from our bike sales is reinvested into our operations, enabling us to continue supporting local communities.

Our dual focus on sustainability and community engagement makes us a unique and impactful organisation, dedicated to reducing waste, promoting cycling, and fostering a circular economy. Our model offers measurable environmental and social returns, making us an ideal partner in advancing both local and global sustainability goals.

In 2024, our excellent team of mechanics repaired 2387 out of the 6200 bikes donated to us. This year we have sold 1100 refurbished bicycles over the year in our 3 shops. Each one of these will go on new adventures and provide another lifetime of memories! As well as recycling metallic parts, we recycle tyres and tubes which would otherwise end up in landfill. This year we have recycled nearly 6 tonnes of rubber - that's the weight of about 8 Newborn Gray Whales!





# The Journey of a Bike Station Bike

We are more than just a bike shop, our bikes play a vital part in providing an affordable and reliable means of transport, reducing waste, and a vehicle for positive social change. The bikes that get donated to us go through a triaging process in our warehouses, they get thoroughly checked over to see what condition they're in, some of these will get fully refurbished by our skilled mechanic team.



## Donation

Unused Bike is dropped off at one of our 3 branches or picked up in our electric van by one of our incredible volunteers.



## Triage

The Bike is then assessed by our team of expert mechanics to assess whether the bike can be refurbished or stripped down for parts.



## Bike is Refurbished

In-Branch

Prison Project

Refurbed Bikes



## Shop Floor

Selling refurbished bikes at more affordable prices and then reinvesting back into our communities.



## Community Programmes

Using our 20+ years of experience with grassroots action in our local communities we are empowering more people to cycle.



## Wee Bike Library

Families can access kids bikes for free and exchange them for the next size up as their kids grow!



Before The Bike Station

A New Lease of Life

A New Home, The Next Adventure



## Our Team

The Bike Station's successes are made possible by our dedicated team of staff and volunteers who each contribute their unique skills, knowledge and personality.



*Photo of some of The Bike Station staff team out on a ride: Yannic Grawitter*

**Did you know?** In 2024, our repair mechanics repaired and serviced over 800 bikes. We are able to keep many bikes rolling that would otherwise have been condemned by using second-hand parts to keep the costs down.

“

Working at The Bike Station has been a nice break from sitting at a computer and learning about a tool I use everyday, my bicycle. The friendly bike mechanics and fellow volunteers make the day fly by. - Sébastien, Volunteer

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“

Volunteering at The Bike Station immediately had a positive impact on my overall well-being & especially my mental health. For me, it's the welcoming cycle community, the engagement in practical tasks and the simple act of helping others that make a real difference.

- Simon, Volunteer

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## Scottish Prisons Service (SPS) Partnership

Our partnership with the SPS continues to progress with the 3 prisons we are currently working with. This partnership provides inmates with hands-on experience working with bikes, helps them develop employability skills, and allows them to earn professional Velotech qualifications. We support Prison staff to deliver training and guidance which results in the bikes being refurbished to a high standard. **Around 1000 bikes have gone through the prison project this year!**





Alongside our refurbishing work our team in Gorgie grew from strength to strength in 2024 and our Perth team have been busy growing our unique community hub .

Our mechanic team have also worked on numerous bikes at our Dr Bike events all over Scotland. Dr Bike is a mobile repair station perfect for company events, outdoor activities, schools, and more! More information about how to book one in your setting on our website.

This year we have continued to deliver skills development work, enriching our local communities with the skills they need to feel empowered in active and sustainable travel.

“Volunteering at The Bike Station has been an excellent opportunity to exercise and improve my communication and social skills, the work I do is very fulfilling and helping people with their bikes is something I enjoy. I do not regret my decision to volunteer at The Bike Station one bit, it has been an excellent experience.”

- Deniz, Volunteer

We have had our new Electric E van, Wheelma, (ha ha see what we did there!) for one whole year, this has **been transformative as a work vehicle, reducing Co2 and other harmful particulates and gases.**



Before The Bike Station

A New Lease of Life

A New Home, The Next Adventure





# A New Home, A New Adventure

In 2024 we continued to build on the work of our Shifting Gears and Wee Bike Library projects while expanding with the launch of Kids Bike Life. In unison with the opening of our new premises in Gorgie, we also ran a project called Free Wheel Gorgie which worked with the local community offering free-to-access bikes, cycle lessons, bike health checks and maintenance classes.



“The staff at The Bike Station were great in helping my daughter get a suitable bike from the Wee Bike Library and being able to pop back and have maintenance and adjustments made was invaluable. She uses it everyday for school and at weekend with friends so receiving a helmet and lock was also an excellent addition.

—Wee Bike Library Parent

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## The Wee Bike Library

Our bike loan scheme, providing a free bike, lights, lock and helmet to young people aged between 2 and 16 years old. As a 'library', it also allows for young people to return their bikes and swap for the next size up if/when required. The project runs across our Gorgie, Causewayside and Perth branches.



**Did you know?** Since starting the Wee Bike Library, 882 free-to-access kids bikes have been borrowed. That's 882 kids that can grow, explore and create memories in cycling and active travel.

Some key benefits of the Wee Bike Library so far include;

- **95% of Wee Bike Library users agreed or strongly agreed that their children gained more confidence in cycling since they borrowed a bike from the Wee Bike Library.**
- 86% of customers agreed or strongly agreed that their children gained new skills since they borrowed a bike from the Wee Bike Library (for example by learning how to ride a bike).
- 78% of customers agreed or strongly agreed that the Wee Bike Library removed a financial barrier for them.

“

I really appreciate the use of second hand bikes by the library. It reduces the environmental impact of my child's hobby but because it has been sourced through the library I'm confident that the bike is safe for them to use.

-Wee Bike Library Parent

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# Kids Bike Life

A programme designed to enable more young people and their adults to choose cycling. It is run across Edinburgh and Perth and focuses on priority areas or catchment areas surrounding key active

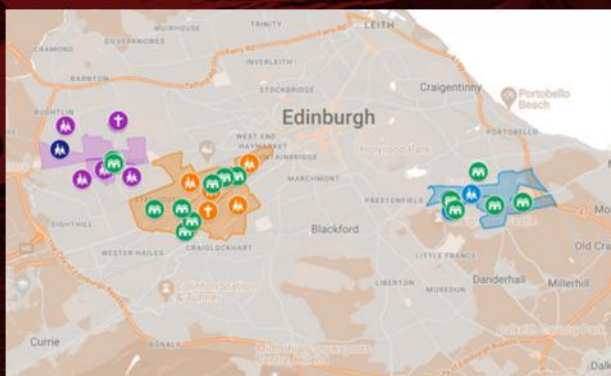
travel infrastructure, primary and secondary schools and areas of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

In Edinburgh these are:

- Catchment area surrounding St Johns Road
- Catchment area surrounding Gorgie / Slateford Road
- Catchment area surrounding Niddrie Mains Road

In Perth these are;

- NCN77 via the North Inch
- Ruthvenfield to Perth South
- Town's Lade City Centre to Almondbank



Edinburgh Kids Bike Life Mapping



Perth Kids Bike Life Mapping

Our activities in this programme include; Bike health checks and maintenance of fleet bikes, beginner cycle training sessions, after school clubs, bike buses, bike curious events and competitions and free refurbished adult bikes.



Did you know? Both the Wee Bike Library, Kids Bike Life upholds children's rights. In particular articles 24, 29 and 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.







# Shifting Gears

A grassroots community 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 typically been underrepresented or excluded from sustainable travel programmes. We work closely with our partner organisations in both cities to understand the needs of their communities and tailor our services to them. Some of these partners include;



Our partners identify and refer clients to Shifting Gears who they feel will benefit from the service. Once referred, participants then have access to a range of cycling related services from The Bike Station. These include:

- Free refurbished bicycles with accompanying lock, lights and helmet
- Cycling workshops and training with our experienced cycle trainers
- Group rides
- Maintenance workshops
- Velotech qualifications
- Paid work placements.

There is no set formula for how participants access these services and they can mix and match as they please. For example, some participants who join the programme already have a bike so they only engage in the cycling and maintenance workshops.





**Did you know?** Since 2021, we have partnered with 15 organisations who have referred a total of 624 people to the Shifting Gears programme! *You can read more about Shifting Gears and the impact of our work over the years on our website.*

“The main achievement for me is confidence, getting my confidence back. Knowing there’s something I’m good at. I feel like I’m semi back to myself now, I’ve dug myself out of the hole that I was in before.”  
-Shifting Gears Participant



“This project has genuinely changed my life. I love getting out on my bike.”  
- Shifting Gears Participant

We are committed to ensuring our approach empowers communities to take the lead. We work collaboratively to identify the needs of our communities, a place-based approach. Our Free Wheel Gorgie, free-to-access programme did just that!

As the name suggests, this piece of work was based in the areas surrounding our Gorgie (Edinburgh) branch. As part of this project we worked with Tynecastle High School and Garvald Edinburgh to better understand their communities.



“As a person with a disability, the scheme has enabled me to cycle again due to the trike that I was given through the scheme. -FWG Participant

“I feel that The Bike Station gave me a great opportunity to get back on my bike again and start to use it to cycle back and forth to work. - FWG Participant



# Acknowledgements

FINISH

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for their support in 2024.



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THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH







# THE **BIKE** STATION

[www.TheBikeStation.org.uk](http://www.TheBikeStation.org.uk)  
Branches in Edinburgh & Perth

We are a  
*Living  
Wage*  
Employer

**OSCR**

Scottish Charity Regulator

[www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

Registered Charity  
SC033703

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