

END OF AWARD REPORT

Please complete and return this form by 31st March or within 2 months of project completion.

Please note this information may be made available to the public.

Receipts (or good quality scans of receipts) should also be submitted with the report.

PROJECT DETAILS
Name of Group: Wee Spoke Hub
Main Contact person: Ana Blinstrubaitė
Postal Address (if relevant): 13 Guthrie Street, EH1 1JG E-mail address: ana@shrubcoop.org
Date of Grant Award: 30/04/2023 Amount of Grant Award: £20,000
Additional funding received: £5,000, £41295, £6,250 Source of additional funding: The National Lottery Awards For All Fund, Paths For All Smarter Choices Smarter Places Fund and the Edinburgh Environmental Action Fund. We also received funding from Cycling UK (£18,129) to give out 20 bikes to members of our community.
Briefly describe your project aims (please refer to your original application and also note any later changes/developments to the project): Staff turnover forced the project team to re-assess the project targets and the activities programme however we were still able to achieve a lot in the time we had. We ran a total of 45 DIY sessions with 63 unique bike DIY participants over the past 9 months. Despite the delay in getting started and the months missed during our peak season staffing issues, we averaged more than one DIY session per week which we are pleased with. For our fix your own bike sessions, we targeted people marginalised from the cycling community, including people experiencing financial hardship. However, we have not been targeting people experiencing homelessness as we soon realised that this is not a demographic that typically owns bikes. We exceeded our audience specific workshop numbers with a total of 70.5 hours of audience-specific training workshops, however, we only managed to reach 55 total participants. Run the following workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activity 1: Fix Your Own Bike Run 112 'Fix your own bike' workshops and reach 400-450 participants experiencing homelessness and/or financial hardship. ● Activity 2: Commuting Skills Run 37 confidence boosting led-rides in partnership with under-represented groups in cycling (LGBTQ+, women and SIMD communities) and reach 130-140 participants. ● Activity 3: Audience Specific Workshops Run 18 sessions with people who are under-represented in cycling (LGBTQ+, women and SIMD communities) and reach 70-80 participants. Please watch this video for an insight into the work we have been doing here .
PROJECT DELIVERY

Did your project achieve its aims? (please tick all that apply)

Fully

Partially

X

Not Really

Still Working on it

Achieved other unanticipated outcomes

X

SPENDING YOUR GRANT AWARD

Please give details of all the items funded by the grant. Copies of receipts for all expenditures must be supplied.

Item	Cost
Bike Workshops with Under-represented Groups in Cycling	3684.35
DIY Sessions	2635.56
Finance Administration	1636.90
Project Management	1717.41
Rent	5605.00
Utilities	1401.02
Maintenance	565.43
Subsistence	45.11
Volunteer travel	10.40
Consumables	740.32
Training (Velotech)	360.00
Tools	1598.50
Total grant amount spent by your group	20,000.00

How many people were involved in delivering the project?

Paid Staff:

4

Volunteers:

43

Volunteer hours:

740

IMPACT

Criterion 1: Create opportunities for community leadership and learning on climate change

If relevant, please tell us how your project met criteria 1 of the fund (300 words max):

Community leadership:

We have created opportunities for community leadership by upskilling our volunteers with bike maintenance and repair skills, with a particular emphasis on offering training to those typically underrepresented in the cycling community. As part of this, we introduced weekly women and

non-binary skills-building sessions in which we tackle the skills gap we noticed between our male and non-male volunteers. We now have a range of new and long-standing volunteers from different backgrounds who are confident and skilled enough to assist a customer during our weekly Bike DIY sessions.

Additionally, as part of our organisational democracy, we have reintroduced regular Wee Spoke Hub Working Group meetings in which volunteers offer their ideas or feedback on how we operate. This has empowered volunteers to become Wee Spoke Hub community leaders as they can contribute to decision making within the organisation.

Learning on climate change:

As well as this, we have introduced monthly ‘Everything you need to know about bikes’ and ‘puncture repair session’ workshops for the public to attend. This event is primarily targeted at women, and members of the LGBTIQ+ community, as well as anyone typically marginalised from bike maintenance. As part of these sessions, we have conversations with participants about the benefits of cycling and using second hand parts, a significant aspect of which is climate change mitigation. We have raised awareness of other organisations in Edinburgh working towards similar goals such as Infrastesters, Critical Mass, and Love to Ride so that our community is aware of the events they are running and the education on climate change mitigation these groups offer. Moreover, we have organised multiple Wee Spoke Hub pelatons to attend the monthly Critical Mass Edinburgh protest cycle in which there are speeches educating participants on the importance of active travel for tackling the climate emergency.

Criterion 2: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions within communities and contribute to the net-zero agenda for Edinburgh

Qualitative assessment: If relevant, please tell us how your project met criteria 2 of the fund (300 words max):

Since reopening, we have hosted 45 DIY sessions (over 150 hours) of Bike DIY sessions in which members of the community came by to fix their own bike with help from a volunteer, mechanic, and the use of our workshop. During these sessions, we are cultivating a repair culture and encouraging the use of salvaged second hand parts to repair the bikes they are working on. This diverts mechanical waste from landfill and enables more people from lower incomes to get back on their bikes sooner, as this service is significantly more affordable than paying a mechanic to repair your bike.

We have had over 30 hours of lead rides which has enabled members of our community to build their confidence cycling and enabling them to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by choosing to cycle more frequently as a result of improved confidence.

We have sold 43 second hand parts and accessories, and 124 new parts and accessories. Each item that we have sold has in some way enabled our customer to continue using their bike, whether it is the purchase of new lights that has enabled them to feel safer - and consequently more likely - to cycle at night time, or a part that has enabled the bike to work again after not working for a while. Moreover, we have repaired approximately 100 bikes which means that 100 people have been able to get back on the roads and consequently reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their communities.

We have also sold/distributed 25 bikes to community members through sales and the Access Bikes scheme by Cycling UK, enabling 25 more people to use cycling as their primary mode of transport.

Quantitative assessment: If relevant, please provide an estimation of carbon savings or any relevant data that could inform the estimation of carbon savings (e.g. km travelled by cargo bikes instead of car, kg of waste avoided, kWh of electricity or gas saved etc)

According to Cost of living and commuter trends – Mobilityways, the UK has an ‘average commute distance of 19.5 miles for a single occupancy car journey’.

63 unique bike DIY participants

If we assume that the 63 people who have repaired their bikes at our DIY sessions over the past 9 months are now using their bikes instead of cars for the average daily commuting distance, then after a year, they each will have saved 695 kg of CO2 emissions, so together they will have saved 43,785 kg of CO2 in one year.

Equally, if these people were primarily using buses to travel before they got their bikes, they would each be saving 516 kg of CO2 per year, equating to 32,508 kg of CO2 per year.

262 sales

If we assume that the 262 people who have repaired their bikes over the past 9 months are now using these bikes instead of cars for the average daily commuting distance, then after a year, they each will have saved 695 kg of CO2 emissions, so together they will have saved 182,090 kg of CO2 in one year.

Equally, if these people were primarily using buses to travel before they got their bikes, they would each be saving 516 kg of CO2 per year, equating to 135,192 kg of CO2 per year.

These calculations come from Cycling Calorie & CO2 Calculator - Cyclescheme.

Criterion 3: Generate sustainable projects for the benefit of local people to build resilience or adapt to climate change within communities.

If relevant, please tell us how your project met criteria 3 of the fund (300 words max):

Benefitting our local community through cycling is at the core of what we do.

An increase in cycling within a community has a multitude of benefits including reducing air pollution, improving physical and mental wellbeing of the cyclists, reducing noise pollution, improving safety of pedestrians, and much more. By equipping local people with the skills, knowledge, confidence, and tools to repair their bikes and cycle more often, we are benefiting not only the individual cyclist but the wider community and wildlife.

We have run over 70.5 hours of audience-specific training workshops with 55 total participants. This is reducing social exclusion from cycling for demographics that are often ostracised from the cycling community, as well as building new skill sets within our volunteer team, consequently improving job prospects. We also introduced a regular Follow the Sun event in which we ride as a group to build a greater sense of an inclusive cycling community which benefits participants’ mental and physical wellbeing, and increases the likelihood that participants will incorporate cycling into their everyday lives, if they aren’t already doing so.

Criterion 4: Build relationships between neighbourhoods of different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds to work together on just, equitable and accessible climate and resilience activities contributing to the city’s net zero agenda, also ensuring that activities work towards reducing or removing barriers for disabled people in the transition to net zero.

If relevant, please tell us how your project met criteria 4 of the fund (300 words max):

- Started a weekly Women and Non-binary Skillbuilders session to tackle the skills gap between our male and non-male volunteers.
- We have had 43 unique volunteers contribute a total of 600 hours of their time.
- Started a monthly Puncture Repair Workshop targeted at people typically marginalised from the cycling community. - made it very affordable - including more people on lower incomes.
- Started a monthly ‘Everything you need to know about bikes’ workshop targeted at people typically marginalised from the cycling community.
- We have attended multiple community engagement events such as Edinburgh Napier Sustainability Fair, Porty Community Energy Saddle Library, and Women on Wheels by Edinburgh Bicycle Cooperative.
- We have taken small steps to removing barriers for people with disabilities in the transition to net zero by repairing a few highly complex wheelchair bikes belonging to members of our community - something which bike shops generally aren’t equipped to deal with.
- We have also created the opportunity for community learning on cycling as a way to combat climate change by becoming a Cycling Scotland verified Adult Cycle Trainer by onboarding a new cycle trainer. We are offering this for free with a small booking fee to ensure it is accessible to people from varying socio-economic circumstances.
- We have made a Borrow Bike available for community members to use by donation. This service makes use of a bike to people who cannot afford their own, and it is a non-committal, inexpensive gateway for people to get into cycling.

Tell us about the people who benefitted from your project. Please provide quantified metrics where possible

e.g. Overall numbers of groups/people, Number of events/workshops organised, Number of charities/groups engaged in the project, etc.

- We have had 43 unique volunteers contribute a total of 600 hours of their time.
- 70.5 hours of audience-specific training workshops with 55 total participants.
- Organised 2 volunteer socials to deepen the relationships between volunteers.
- Started a weekly Women and Non-binary Skillbuilders session to tackle the skills gap between our male and non-male volunteers.
- Started a weekly Open Skillbuilders session to upskill our volunteers in bike repair.
- Started a monthly Puncture Repair Workshop targeted at people typically marginalised from the cycling community.
- Started a monthly ‘Everything you need to know about bikes’ workshop targeted at people typically marginalised from the cycling community.
- Had over 150 hours of Bike DIY sessions in which members of the community came by to fix their own bike with help from a volunteer, mechanic, and the use of our workshop.
- We have had 30 hours of lead rides.
- We have repaired approximately 100 bikes.
- We have attended multiple community engagement events such as Edinburgh Napier Sustainability Fair, Porty Community Energy Saddle Library, and Women on Wheels by Edinburgh Bicycle Cooperative.
- 63 unique bike DIY participants.
- We have organised multiple Wee Spoke Hub pelatons to attend the monthly Critical Mass Edinburgh protest cycle.

Tell us about any other outcomes achieved.

e.g. What changes and/or benefit(s) did your project bring?

What did people feel was the most important or valuable aspect of your project?

We feel that offering you an insight into some of our many 5-star reviews is the best way to demonstrate the value that our project brings:

‘Overall I just felt really looked after and not judged. It wasn't just about fixing the specific thing I came in for, it was making sure I was totally set up to enjoy my bike the best way for me.’ - Caitlin Oddy, Google business review, May 2024

‘Excellent mechanical skills and a very inclusive and friendly bicycle hub. Customer service is fantastic! Thank you for all that you stand for WSH! I hope to visit again soon.’ - Michelle, Google business review, May 2024

‘The volunteers and staff I engaged with were incredibly helpful and dedicated. Their commitment to promoting cycling and accessibility is commendable. - customer feedback survey, March 2023

‘Mark and Mary were thoughtful and generous through the whole process, from spending time finding the right bike for me to patiently letting me help assemble it. The space is made so welcoming by their warmth and hospitality and many cups of tea, and really embodies its role as a community hub rather than just a bike shop.’ - Alex, March 2024

‘It was amazing - everyone was lovely and really helpful, and I felt very comfortable asking questions, which isn't something that usually happens.’ - Anonymous Access Bikes recipient, March 2024

‘I cannot stress enough how grateful I feel for all the hard work the staff and volunteers put on this project. Great attention to detail and willingness to help, making you feel part of a community right away.’ - Anonymous, customer feedback form, March 2024

‘Other bike shops either assume you know what they are talking about when it's very technical, or they can sometimes explain it in very patronising ways. Here I don't find that anyone assumes what I know/ don't know, and explains it clearly and kindly if I need it.’ - Anonymous, customer feedback survey, December 2023

“In other bike shops I ask my dad to come with me so they don't mansplain at me and make me feel like I don't know anything. I mean, I don't know much but they don't have to make us females feel like that either!” - anonymous, verbal feedback, November 2023

‘Very thoughtful, productive conversations that are aimed towards a common goal of making cycling safer and better for everyone, with a focus for queer people’ - anonymous, customer feedback survey, November 2023

‘I felt very welcomed and it felt like a judgement-free environment, especially for a woman who is under-represented in this kind of area!’ - anonymous, customer feedback survey, November 2023

LESSONS LEARNED

What worked well and what could have been improved?

We had a delay to our start time due to staffing issues and this meant we missed business over the height of summer, this certainly impacted our ability to re-assert ourselves within the Edinburgh cycling and climate justice community during peak cycling season and also impacted our revenue over this period. However, in spite of this and due to the strong community foundations that SHRUB Coop is built upon, we have found many people were aware of our presence and reopening.

Another issue we faced is that we struggled to engage people for Adult Cycle Training which we believe has something to do with the fact that we were primarily promoting it over the winter period. We could improve this by targeting our audience more directly through partnerships rather than relying on social media outreach. We are now at a stage where we have a list of people who are interested in these sessions and intend to start scheduling them over the next few weeks.

Our weekly women and non-binary volunteer skills-builder sessions have been a huge success and have demonstrated to us the need for spaces that prioritise upskilling demographics marginalised from cycling. As well as this, our audience-specific Saturday morning workshops have been relatively successful, with many of the people who took part in the workshops, later signing up to become volunteers.

Our Bike DIY sessions have once again been embraced by the community and attendance has been going from strength to strength, particularly over the last few months as the cycling weather has improved.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

Were people with [protected characteristics](#) involved in your project? Please detail groups, numbers and the nature of the involvement. Please describe outreach efforts made to include people with protected characteristics.

A large proportion of our volunteers are members of the LGBTIQ+ community, and we have arranged workshops particularly targeting these groups. Moreover, we have also ran workshops aimed specifically at women and non-binary folks - gender identities that are underrepresented in cycling.

We have worked on a number of wheelchair bikes, offering a service that no other bike shop in Edinburgh does, which is drastically changing the Edinburgh cycling community to improve inclusivity and accessibility for people with disabilities.

Moreover, a number of our volunteers are neurodivergent and we have worked to deliberately cultivate an environment in which staff and volunteers are understanding of neurodivergence, and the different unique skill sets it can bring.

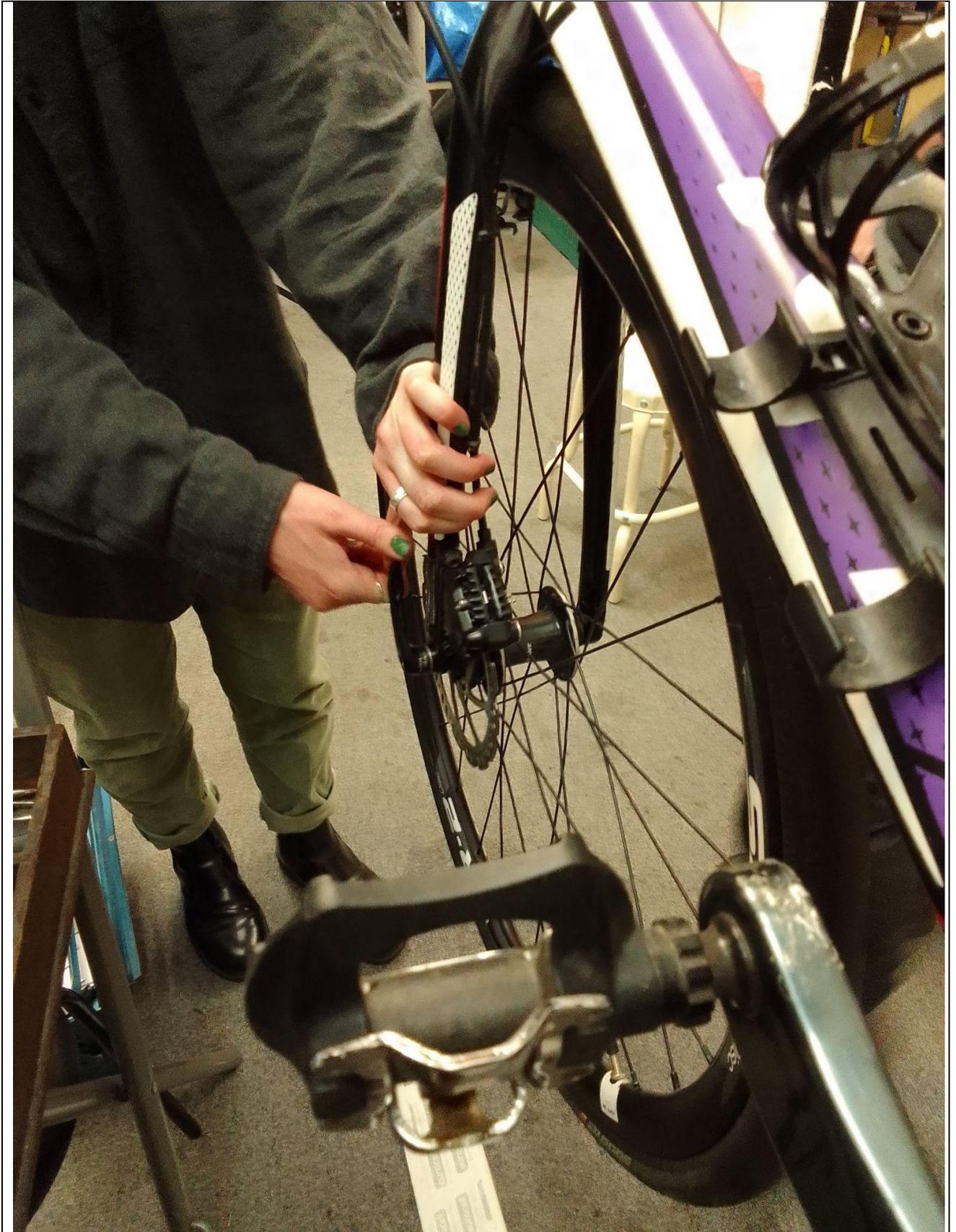
PROMOTION

Please attach or send (in electronic format if possible) photographic evidence of delivery of your project - this must be suitable for publication, so not showing faces.











- Yes, photos attached
- Photos coming separately
- No Photos

Do you have any quotes from participants we could use or any feedback around participant satisfaction?

Please see the 'Tell us about any other outcomes achieved' section for quotes from participants that you are welcome to use.

FUTURE

Will you be able to sustain the initiative started with this project grant beyond this year?

- Yes
- No
- Unclear as yet
- Not relevant (a one off activity)

If yes, please give details of how the project will be continued:

We are currently applying for funding with CPTF (formerly Smarter Choices, Smarter Places) and we are looking for other funding opportunities. We have made significant progress over the course of this year in improving the chances of this project one day becoming self-sustaining. However, at the moment, our revenue is simply not high enough to support the community engagement activities we do and we will be reliant on funding to offer these services for the foreseeable future.

SIGN OFF

Your consent

By signing this form, I declare that I am a competent person to give consent to the City of Edinburgh Council to publish, republish or otherwise transmit still and moving images that have been submitted.

I understand that:

- **my information (including still or moving images and/or audio files will be stored electronically following with data protection guidelines**
- **information will be kept for seven years. We will not use your information/images/files after this time without asking you first**
- **I have the right to withdraw this consent at any time by contacting communityplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk**

Completed by: Mary O'Driscoll

Position in group: Wee Spoke Hub Communications, Outreach, and Admin Coordinator

Date: 22/05/2024

Please return attaching copies of receipts

Return Address communityplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk