

# Community Ideas Hub Case Study



**TRANSPORT  
FOR LONDON**  
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS

## Bike recycling

### Overview

The 'Bike Recycling Project' targets small groups of secondary school students, with the aim of teaching bike maintenance skills. The sessions are practical based, and allow students to use their new skills to repair broken and unwanted bikes donated from the community. Bikes can be donated from parents, teachers, and others from the local community, such as bike shops and the police.

The project aims to reengage selected student with school and learning. Students may have become disengaged due to additional needs, language barriers or challenging behaviour. The Bike Recycling Project allows them the chance to attend non-traditional lessons, with the aim of building their confidence and teaching them a new skill.

It is important to communicate with the partner school(s) to ensure the correct students are being recruited. Informal 'interviews' can be conducted to make these selections, if necessary. These students will take ownership of this project from the very beginning and will be taught how to be responsible for the project.

The project will teach skills such as, IT and financial management, promotion of the project, establishing relationships with businesses, setting up trade accounts for parts, encouraging donations of bikes from the community, brand and logo design, recording project income and expenditure, managing budgets and sourcing funding, and ensuring that there is a lasting legacy of the project.

Once a bike has been fully repaired it can be resold to the community at a subsidised price – this money can then go back into the project to fund more parts, tools, bikes, etc.

Sessions should be run once a week during school hours, for a period of 12 weeks per group (one school term). As this is a maintenance project, it is not weather dependant, and can be run all year round.

This activity can be run anywhere where there are secondary schools, particularly in areas where there is a high level of children excluded from schools, with behavioural challenges or



low level crime.

## Target audience and engagement

- The key target audiences are secondary school students, who have been identified as benefiting from this project due to disengagement from school
- Create a WhatsApp group to stay engaged with student participants
- You may also want to create a Facebook Group, where participants can share their work and ideas. This is especially important when targeting multiple schools, as it can encourage partnership work in the future.

## Reach

- Small (10-20 beneficiaries)

## Requirements

Equipment needed:

- 5-6 bikes of various sizes to start. It is expected that the students will work to get more bikes donated throughout the project
- Bike maintenance tools
- Bike parts
- Flyers and posters for promotion

## Resources needed

Project Leader

- Form relationship with school(s)
- Recruit participants
- Oversee the project
- Ensure students are attending the sessions
- Help the students with the additional aspects of the project (financial management, promotion of project, getting bikes donated)
- Attend and help at all the sessions
- Ensure all funding criteria and documentation is met (if required)
- Run risk assessment for safeguarding, injuries, and also to identify any other concerns which may affect project delivery.
- The Project Lead should have the requisite level of CRB. Understand health and safety needs (preferably First Aid trained)

Mechanic:

- Attend all sessions to teach basic mechanics and assist with fixing bikes



- Must have the relevant qualifications

Storage space:

- You will need somewhere to store bikes, tools and parts. Talk to the school you are delivering the project at, as they should be able to offer storage space. If this is not possible, speak to a local community centre, or perhaps another local business that has storage room. Your council may be able to provide you with relevant contact information.

## Costings

Please note this budget is based on one 12 week course at one school

Bikes of different sizes – all donated if possible	£0 - £200
Project Lead	£1,700
Mechanic	£1,400
Tools	£700
Spare Parts	£200
Flyers and Posters	£100

## Top tips and key learnings

- Ensure you leave plenty of time before starting the sessions to find a partner school and to interview and select the students for the project.
- Try to keep the sessions fun! Remember these students do not work well in traditional classroom setting, so try to steer clear of this type of environment.
- Always encourage your participants to do more, help them so they can continue this project after you are gone, or even to set up their own social enterprise or business!
- Gain an understanding of whether participants are more confident in bike mechanics after taking the session(s). This can be done by a 'hands up' survey or with a questionnaire.
- Depending on the area, you could direct participants to free cycle confidence and maintenance courses – please check with your local council and organisations.

## Maximising local contacts

- Talk to local businesses and organisations to get bikes donated, as well as the local community, police, schools and parents.

- Engage with your council – they may be able to lend you equipment, help market the project and help secure a space.
- Talk to your participants to see if there are any other ways you can help them.