

Bike recycling

Introduction

Bike recycling is a common project theme and has far reaching benefits. Preventing bikes from reaching landfill can have the following positive impacts:

- Reduced waste
- CO2 savings
- Provides affordable bikes to the public
- Supplies a source of income for an organisation
- Allows for capacity building opportunities

Considerations

There are a number of consideration before starting a bike recycling project:

- Storage of raw materials/bikes for recycling
- Storage of reclaimed/reconditioned bikes
- Funding and sourcing of spare parts, consumables, and tools
 - An account with a bike part distributor may be helpful when sourcing more obscure parts
 - Contact with other bike recycling organisations can be beneficial to share spare parts
- Business displacement:
 - Liaising with local bike shops can avoid misunderstanding and lead to partnerships
 - Shops can be a source of bike to recycle
 - Local bike shops may have a different target audience, and can be a potential source of referrals (and vice versa)
 - Many retailers understand that people purchasing reconditioned bikes are likely new to cycling, and will potentially buy a new bike in due course, leading to cross promotion

Partnerships

Working in partnership with a range of organisations and businesses can raise awareness of the project and help to secure a steady supply of bikes to recycle:

- Local Authority Waste and Environmental Services can potentially set up deposit points for bikes at recycling centres, which can then be collected regularly by a bike recycling organisation
- Private waste disposal companies may also be able to divert bikes from the waste stream
- Bike retailers to acquire unwanted bikes, and for cross promotion of new and used bikes

Disposal of materials

- Scrap metal recycling can divert further waste and potentially provide funds for your organisation
- Rubber recycling organisations can accept worn tyre, and recycle them into playground surfaces
- Consideration should be takes of safe disposals methods for oils, solvents, and other contaminated waste items