

Banzai Bikes Impact Report

2025-26



Photo: Jenny Elliott



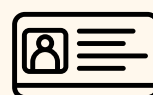
5

bikes available
for borrowing



50%

of loans replaced
car journeys*



3

new volunteer
librarians



352

member loans



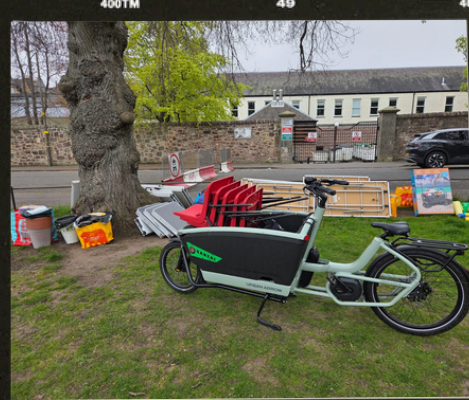
219

new members



97.5%

of library users
will borrow again



Our Vision

At Banzai we believe in the power of community action to create change and maintain optimism and resilience in the face of the challenges ahead.

The aim of our bike library is simple: make e-cargo bikes accessible to more people and help create a greener, friendlier neighbourhood.

In the last year, at least three of our members have gone on to purchase their own cargo bikes!

By sharing bikes we can:

- Give people access to e-cargo bikes they might not otherwise be able to afford or store
- Help people try a cargo bike before buying one
- Reduce carbon emissions and car journeys, creating quieter, safer streets
- Strengthen our local community



Bryony's Family

When she realised that her well-used buggy wasn't going to support her family's car-free lifestyle for much longer, Bryony wondered whether a cargo bike might suit them. However, since cargo bikes can be a big investment, the family wanted to give it a trial run with Banzai before they made the leap.

"We took a lovely trip up and around Arthur's Seat... my baby's first trip on a bike. The electric bikes were amazing for getting us up and around so speedily."

At the time Bryony didn't think of herself as a confident cyclist. The family borrowed two bikes so that Bryony could practise riding on the roads while her husband carried the children.

"Having support and someone else to model handling it well has been so helpful, but this wouldn't have been possible without Banzai."

The trial run was such a great success that Bryony and her husband went on to invest in their own cargo bike.

"Give it a try - it's a fun, brilliant way to get your family around the city without a car!"



Jessie's Campaign

One of Jessie's first journeys on a cargo bike saw her transporting a case of beer, pitching it to bars and pubs around the city. The lager was a collaboration with Pilot as part of an innovative non-flyering campaign for a Fringe show.

"I was curious about whether a cargo bike could work as a practical alternative to using a car or other transport for carrying things around Edinburgh."

Jessie's work with arts and community projects often involves transporting equipment or materials around the city. Borrowing a Banzai bike let her see whether a cargo bike might fit the bill.

"Before, I would sometimes assume that if I needed to carry something bulky or heavy, cycling wasn't an option.... [Now] I think 'I could cycle that'."

Jessie would advise anyone to give cargo bikes a try. "Start with a journey you already know, give yourself a bit more time than usual, and get used to how it feels when it's loaded... The biggest thing I've taken from it is that a cargo bike can make cycling a genuinely practical form of transport, not just a way of getting from A to B.

"Once you realise how much you can carry, you start seeing all sorts of journeys differently."



David's Catering

David describes himself as an occasional event caterer. "I've always enjoyed making very simple meals, so that people can break bread together when they're coming together to talk about climate issues, or ecological architecture."

Borrowing a cargo bike allows David to get to these meetings, often in the centre of town, without resorting to a car.

"It meant I could do it in my own time, at no extra cost."

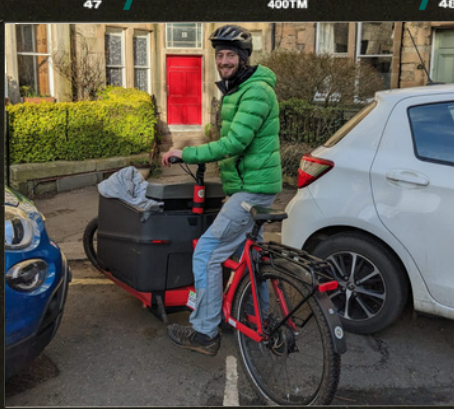
On a typical catering day, David will ride the Riese & Muller Packster to a low-cost supermarket, where he'll stock up on ingredients. He'll load his catering equipment into the cargo bike's tray alongside his shopping, then carry on to the venue.

"The cargo bike is just an absolutely wonderful opportunity to be able to just slide in right by the front door and offload a whole load of stuff."

One of David's favourite cargo bike memories is of taking his grandson out for the day. Arlan has a baby sister, and their loan bike had two child seats. Arlan looked at the spare seat and said, "This one will be for Romy."

"It's a good start in life to realise that active travel is super easy, and much nicer than being car-dependent."





Banzai Bikes has grown in leaps and bounds over the past year. With hundreds more members, a quadrupled team of volunteer librarians, and hundreds of bike loans to borrowers across Edinburgh, it's clear that there is a strong demand for community access to cargo bikes in Bruntsfield and beyond.

We're already reducing the number of cars on our roads, making our streets safer for all road users and cutting down carbon emissions from transport in our neighbourhood. Word is spreading and there can be little doubt that Banzai will continue to grow and provide vital sustainable transport services to our area in 2026-27.

Responses from user feedback survey

I love that I can transport all my weight-training equipment around the city without resorting to a car.

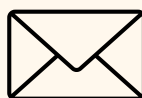
This really is a great initiative and we will 100% borrow a bike again, thank you!

In the morning we pack up trumpet, school bags, head off down the canal. No cars. Brilliant!

Banzai Bikes is made possible thanks to funding from:

- City of Edinburgh Council Community Grants Fund
- Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Network (ECCAN) Greenlight Funds
- The National Lottery Awards for All
- Cycling UK's Cycle Access Fund
- Post-use donations from our wonderful members

Photo: Jenny Elliott



If you'd like to get involved,
we'd love to hear from you!

You can email us at:

bikes@banzaiedinburgh.org.uk

