

# Making it easy for everyone to own a bike

## EkeRua Rebicycle

Transport is Wellington's biggest emitter of carbon. Changing how we get around has huge potential to reduce our emissions, and EkeRua ReBicycle makes sure anyone who wants to ride a bike can get one and keep it in good shape.

EkeRua ReBicycle brings tired bikes back to life and gives everyone the option to experience the wellbeing, freedom and efficient transport benefits of owning a bike. Workshops in Ngā Puna Waiora | Newtown and Raukawa | Strathmore host a range of activities that help people who wouldn't otherwise have a bike to access one and maintain it well.

Since 2022, EkeRua has received ongoing support through the Climate and Sustainability Fund, enabling them to expand their team, increase workshop hours, and open a second hub in Strathmore Park. This support has helped deliver targeted training for underrepresented groups, kaupapa Māori-led community projects, and inclusive programmes like 'Shift Happens' maintenance courses for Rainbow and Takatāpui communities — all contributing to the vision of a connected city where everyone has access to the tools, skills, and support to travel sustainably.

"The cost of a car is one that people assume they have to pay in life. Sometimes having a car is putting people into poverty. With services like ours, you could have a bike with no overhead costs at all." *-Arthur Price, EkeRua*

Every month, EkeRua receives dozens of bikes donated by generous Wellingtonians. A team of volunteer mechanics fixes any issues before bikes are made available for people who have requested one. Depending on the bike and the person, it is often completely free for someone to take away a bike that suits their needs. Around 30 bikes are rehomed each month. Arthur Price, workshop manager for EkeRua, says having a bike can change someone's life for the better.

There are no criteria to be matched with a bike, but referrals from community housing and refugee settlement support services help EkeRua provide free bikes to people who need one. Bikes come with a helmet, lights and a lock.

Providing a welcoming environment to learn bike maintenance skills is an important part of EkeRua's work. Anyone can attend courses and build confidence doing things like changing a tyre and tube, aligning brakes and gears, replacing worn parts, and setting up a bike for the right fit and comfort. There is a dedicated training night each week for women, trans people and gender diverse people to learn skills by maintaining their own bike or working on one that is being repaired for the bike matching service.

Participants are asked to pay what they can to attend a course so that having low or no income doesn't stop anyone from joining. Some people who attend courses decide to volunteer with EkeRua, making it possible to repair and pass along even more bikes to people who need them. Skills learned can also help people prepare for employment as a bike mechanic. Arthur Price says the low cost and flexibility of being able to get around by bike can unlock employment opportunities, too.



> "The mobility of a bike can be the first step toward a more reliable or decent income. It can be the difference between having a job or not if someone has needs that other forms of transport can't fulfil." *-Arthur Price, EkeRua*

As well as making it easier for more people to use climate-friendly transport options, EkeRua is recycling bikes and parts that could otherwise be thrown into landfill. Their regular evening workshop events and services help people keep their bike safe and functioning well for longer. The satisfaction some people get from the community being built around bikes encourages them to volunteer as mechanics, which in turn grows the community's ability to get more people on bikes. Bikes given out can be brought back for maintenance and repair, and bikes for young riders can be swapped out as they grow.

The Raukawa workshop in Strathmore Park opened in 2024 and is part of a wider project focused on building knowledge, wellbeing and skills for Māori whānau. The Haere Whakamua initiative supports low-carbon travel and strengthens connections between caring for people and caring for the environment.

EkeRua estimates that around one million kilometres have been travelled by re-homed bikes in eight years of operation in Pōneke, saving around 240 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions if cars were used instead.

This work contributes to the use and expansion of cycleways, reducing carbon emissions in the short term by shifting vehicle usage. It advances Wellingtonians' uptake of climate action through practical, inclusive and empowering initiatives.

Arthur Price says being better for the environment is just one of many reasons everyone should be able to get around by bike if they want to.




> "The greatest part of bikes is the fun, the recreation value. Having a bike is the antidote to a lot of modern issues, really. Exercise, getting outside into nature and being essentially carbon free." *- Arthur Price, EkeRua*

Join local bike workshops to learn repair skills, volunteer your time, or donate unused bikes to help others get riding. Together, we can make cycling more accessible, reduce emissions, and build a stronger, more connected community.

To learn more or volunteer, visit **ekerua.com**