

Abstract for 2WalkandCycle Conference 2024
ReBicycle EkeRua
6 October 2023

Equity and ebikes: making cycling accessible despite Wellington's wind and the hills!

EkeRua ReBicycle is a charitable community organisation that helps low income people to access bikes. We receive donated bikes, fix them up and match them to people that may not otherwise afford one. Until this year, we have given out very few electric bikes or electric scooters. Electric bikes are a game changer in any city, but especially in Wellington, where they level hills and ease headwinds.

This year, EkeRua ReBicycle has been funded to deliver a range of projects with different models to address barriers for low income people to own an electric bike or scooter, including:

- WheelChange: ride-to-own electric bike and electric scooters
- Low cost cargo bike leases
- Shared ebikes in community housing (exploring feasibility)

During these projects, we have worked with community partners to identify participants and assist them to find bikes or scooters to match their needs and to set payments based on their financial capability. The participants were able to experience the joy and convenience of having an electric bike or scooter in their lives. After a trial period, participants have the opportunity to keep the bike or scooter.

In delivering these projects we changed our strategies and now have valuable experience that we'd like to share. Through creative collaboration with community groups and funders, EkeRua ReBicycle has enabled lower income people to enjoy electric bikes and scooters in their daily lives.