

AASHE STARS 2.2. Innovation Credit

Title: Launching a new electric bike program with the Regional Fitness Center

Description:

In 2020-2021, UMN Morris worked with the local community fitness center, called the Regional Fitness Center (RFC), to launch a new electric bike program. The RFC serves the city, county, local school district, and campus. The RFC hosts hundreds of visitors from the community each month.

The Morris Campus Student Association approached the Regional Fitness Center to consider a partnership that would bring electric bikes to the community. One goal of the project was to introduce the community to electric bikes as a potential fitness option, but also to help shape aspirations that Morris could become a more bikeable community. Another goal was to make a connection for people around the potential of batteries to store energy – in anticipation of increasing adoption of electric vehicles.

Through this partnership, the RFC administers the bike program for UMN Morris students and the larger community. Students are able to rent the electric bikes for free and community members can pay a small fee to rent them.

Results:

Many community members have now been exposed to electric bikes and have an opportunity to test them. We have seen more people across Morris purchase electric bikes for themselves. And, the RFC has applied for additional grant opportunities to grow this outreach in the year to come. More information can be found in the press release below.

<https://news.morris.umn.edu/news/e-bikes>

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