
Lynn Anderson, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies

February 28, 2012

The Community Bike Project makes a significant contribution to our campus community and our environment. It tells the rest of the world that SUNY Cortland students, staff, and faculty care about lifelong health, we care about the environment, and we believe in a trusting community. Here are the goals of the program:

- Increase the activity level of students, faculty, and staff through a fun and useful means
- Provide a daily symbol of sustainable transportation that improves health (personal and environmental)
- Promote a culture of respect and cooperation through the sharing of community property
- Reduce environmental impact of cars
- Decrease traffic on campus, helps alleviate parking problems, and helps save time and money on parking fines and gasoline expenses
- Keep bicycles out of landfills as the program recycles/refurbishes them for community use

The CBP offers free yellow bikes, checked out at the community bike shop for seven day periods. It offers red rental bikes for those who want a higher quality bike for a longer period of time. And it offers green hauler bikes for departments, clubs or groups that want a more sustainable and healthy way to do errands on campus, plus be able to haul loads such as duplicating, mail, and the like. The CBP also helps to sponsor Earth Week, contributes to Sustainability Week, offers numerous special events to raise awareness of biking, sustainability and safety.

Over the last 7 years, the SUNY Cortland Community Bike Project has grown and transformed into one of the longest running campus bike projects in the United States. Many other colleges and universities near and far have contacted us to gather information about the sustainability of such a system. Through our marketing efforts and by holding special programs, the Community Bike Project has attracted a core group of supporters and volunteers who help to provide alternate forms of transportation and improve the overall health of our campus community.

When we refurbish donated and unused bikes, it reduces the number of bicycles that go into landfills each year, additionally helping to alleviate some parking issues on campus. Each yellow bike is checked out (for free) to a student for a 7-day duration and is returned with the lock and key. We offer each rider a helmet as well. We have also recently introduced and “Red Rental Bike” and a “Green Work Bike” program to offer students and departments or clubs the opportunity to have their own bikes. The Red Bikes are available to students as a rental for an entire semester. The Green Bikes are 3-wheeled hauler bikes available for purchase by departments, clubs or organizations. This year, we added “Dragon Bikes,” where a club or group can check out a fleet of new bikes for group rides, all for free.

P.O. Box 2000 Cortland, New York 13045-0900
Phone: (607) 753-4942; Fax: (607) 753-5982
E-mail: lynn.anderson@cortland.edu

*Lynn Anderson, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies*

The Community Bike Project at SUNY Cortland has grown from an inspirational idea to a campus-wide sustainable phenomenon. The Community Bike Project began as a free bike share and has evolved into a campus-wide sustainable vehicular system, an alternative to gas-guzzling busses and cars. Students, faculty and staff from all departments across campus have been utilizing free loaner yellow bikes as a method of transportation. In conjunction with the Community Bike Project, students have completed research projects, organized special events, such as group bike rides, and become advocates for the program. The results of the research projects repeatedly show that the campus perceives numerous benefits from the Community Bike Project. These benefits include: reducing our carbon footprint, increasing well-being, reducing parking headaches, increasing sense of community pride, and a strong identification with our recycled Yellow Bikes!

Sincerely,



Dr. Lynn Anderson, Professor
Community Bike Project Faculty Coordinator

*P.O. Box 2000 Cortland, New York 13045-0900
Phone: (607) 753-4942; Fax: (607) 753-5982
E-mail: lynn.anderson@cortland.edu*