

COMMUNITY BICYCLE WORKSHOPS
THROUGHOUT FRANCE ...



L'Heureux Cyclage is a network gathering non-profit bicycle workshops with the following shared goals:

- promoting everyday use of bicycles
- putting abandoned bikes back on the road, re-using spare parts and recycling raw materials
- sharing skills and expertise and helping cyclists to become "cyclonomous"

Cooperative bicycle workshops supply specific tools, second hand spare parts and technical advice to allow cyclists to fix their own bikes.

Open to everyone, workshops aim to have a local dimension whilst promoting social cohesion and conviviality.

L'Heureux Cyclage wishes to enable the sharing of skills and knowledge in order to help new workshops to open and to support their development.

All the workshops which have signed our charter are involved in this active process.

- * EXPERT ADVICE * SPECIALISED TOOLS *
- * SPARE PARTS *



WELCOMING ALL CYCLISTS
HELP IN DIY BICYCLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE



L'Heureux Cyclage , le réseau des ateliers vélo participatifs et solidaires.

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ACTIVELY PROMOTING CYCLING

Bicycle workshops aim at developing bicycle use, and help newbies to feel good on their bikes. They allow anybody to own a bike in good "rolling order", and to better understand their vehicle.

ENABLING EVERYDAY USE

Bike workshops function cooperatively and give their users the opportunity to:

- purchase or build a second-hand bicycle
- service their bicycle
- repair it at low cost

Community bicycle workshops are shared spaces where people can fix their bikes whatever the problem, thus ensuring a more frequent use of bicycles. Bicycle workshops have a shared vision of a greater number of cyclists, calmer streets and a friendlier city.



CHANGING MENTALITIES

The non-profit organisations which run bicycle workshops also take part in public events promoting cycling, such as mobile workshops, street events and other animations. Their members occasionally build 'unidentified human-powered objects', such as tall bikes, articulated bikes, etc. From a more functional point of view, bicycle trailers or cargo bikes can be built in workshops and lent to members, thus helping to change perspectives about mobility and bicycle use.

PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE CYCLING COMMUNITY

Many community bicycle workshops aim to represent cyclists and defend their interests. On the national level, L'Heureux Cyclage has developed partnerships with the FUB (Federation des Usagers de la Bicyclette) and the CVTC (Club des Villes et Territoires Cyclables) as well as advocacy groups such as Vélorution. Many bike workshops cooperate with bicycle shops and retailers, the long-standing actors in this sector. Their roles are complementary and their collaboration helps to offer a quality service to cyclists.

RE-USE OF DISCARDED BICYCLES

Community workshops play an essential role in environmental education: their members learn how to effectively reduce waste.

One of their main priorities being to prevent the production of waste, workshops act as specialised recycling facilities, giving a second life to bicycles.

WASTE REDUCTION, ENERGY SAVING

Bike workshops strive to reduce waste by recycling abandoned or discarded bikes. They collect donated bikes and develop partnerships with property management companies, local authorities and councils in order to prevent repairable bicycles from ending up at the dump.

Donated bikes are checked and either repaired or dismantled in order to recycle their parts. All the bikes from cooperative workshops are reconditioned or rebuilt from recycled parts.

Fixing abandoned bikes helps:

- to reduce waste
- to avoid the use of finite raw materials
- to save energy resources



POOLING RESOURCES

Donated bikes which are too damaged to be ridden again are dismantled for parts. A stock of spare parts is made available to cyclists who come to fix their own bicycle. Providing a bank of spare parts makes bicycle repair more accessible to all as:

- members can find old or discontinued parts
- recycled parts are free or sold at very low prices

BIKE WORKSHOPS STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT

Even though more and more people are choosing to cycle, bike mechanics training courses are still in short supply. To compensate for the lack of available training, L'Heureux Cyclage has developed its own professional training courses tailored to the needs of cooperative workshops (teaching methods, mechanics, etc.). In addition, many cyclists get their first taste of bicycle mechanics in workshops and later end up making a profession from the skills they learn there: as a mechanic in a bicycle shop, or as a self-employed entrepreneur (mobile bike servicing, cyclists' repair café, etc.)

SHARING SKILLS

EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

Many cyclists know very little about bicycle maintenance and repair. In community workshops, everyone can learn how to detect and solve a mechanical problem. From the most basic maintenance routine to the most complex repairs, the aim of workshops is to enhance the knowledge of all those who wish to learn. Workshops are centres for "non-formal education" and part of the DIY movement.

Sharing of experience and knowledge is also made available online, through the cooperative wiki platform, wiklou.org. All cyclists are invited to share their experience and skills whether it be at the workshops, in the street or on the internet.



WIKLOU
le biclou libre

BECOMING CYCLONOMOUS THROUGH BIKE MECHANICS

One of the goals of cooperative bicycle workshops is to allow everybody to learn the basics of bike mechanics. Cyclists can learn how to check, maintain and repair their bike in order to ride safely (brakes, punctures, gears, lights, bell, etc.).

From the workshops' point of view, learning bike mechanics is central to the active promotion of cycling: it is an essential element of "cyclonomy", that is autonomy on your bicycle. Many workshops go one step further by organising on-road bicycle riding courses for adults.



IN 2015

- 140 BICYCLE WORKSHOPS IN FRANCE
- OVER 50,000 MEMBERS
- APPROXIMATELY 2000 VOLUNTEERS AND 220 EMPLOYEES
- MORE THAN 20,000 BIKES RE-USED

