

Why?

- ..because fixing bicycles is fun.
- ..because the skills needed to fix them can be shared easily.
- ..because it gives kids of all ages something to do.
- ..because, in just a few short years, you will notice a real difference in your community.



The Winnipeg Repair Education and Cycling Hub (The W.R.E.N.C.H.) opened in 2011 to facilitate the development of the community bikeshop model.

For detailed information such as tool lists, training materials, or best practices, visit: www.thewrench.ca or call: (204) 296-3389.

To share your ideas or ask questions, contact us:

Active Transportation Project Coordinator
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Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba

PACM is a broad coalition of organizations interested in facilitating an increase in physical activity among Manitobans of all ages. PACM's mission is to support increased physical activity among Manitobans through collaboration, promotion, and education.

Current members include professional associations, community groups, not-for-profit and private sector groups, educational institutions, municipalities and government departments and agencies.

To get involved please visit:
www.pacm.ca



How to Start a Community Bike Shop Near You



Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba

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What is a community bike shop?

Community bikeshops are places to share tools, skills and ideas. Although there are many different models, community bikeshops have one thing in common: the tools belong to the community and stay in the hands of the visitor. Participants learn by doing, with guidance and advice from knowledgeable volunteers.

The benefits

A well-maintained bike is a happy bike, and happy bikes create happy cyclists. Many repairs can be easily learned. In a big city, it can sometimes be tough to find places nearby to fix a flat tire. Some rural areas have a lot of cyclists and used bikes, but not quite enough population to support a local commercial bikeshop for even simple repairs.



Step one: Find some tools.

Even starting with a pump and a basic set of wrenches, pliers and screwdrivers can be helpful.



Even without a budget you can try:

- asking friends for extra or 'underused' tools
- applying for government grants
- writing to local bikeshops or clubs

Step two: Find a home.

Community bikeshops are often run out of otherwise unused spaces. Look around. Try asking local organizations. In its simplest form, a bikeshop can be a toolbox and pump behind the counter of a public building (like a community centre). Setting up shop takes more work, but one person with some skill hosting mobile workshops at a local event is a great way to start getting the community involved.

Step Three: Find bikes in need of repair.

In many communities, this is the easiest part. Kids move away, grow bigger. Broken bikes are thrown away or become unneeded. Municipal landfills often have a pile. Many bikes that seem "unusable" can be recycled, repaired and rebuilt. With care, it is not uncommon to see bikes and parts that are 60 or 70 years old still being ridden today!

Did you Know... that hundreds of communities around the World have a community bike shop? Visit bikecollectives.org to see the staggering list. Visit one near you!

Step four: Get started.

By this point, you probably already have the support of your community, and a few knowledgeable volunteers. Try committing to being open just one day a week, and let people know you could use volunteers - no skills needed. You might be amazed.



How to start a community bike shop near you.

