

Frequently Asked Questions about the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's
Bicycle Exchange



- *Why do you repair and give away bicycles?*
 - There are lots of good reasons for what we do:
 1. To promote the bicycle for everyday use – trips to school, work, errands, exercise and fitness.
 2. To reuse, recycle and conserve our material and energy resources.
 3. So children can experience the joy of bicycling whether their parents can afford to buy them a bicycle or not.
 4. To help young people make an informed lifestyle transportation choice when they reach adulthood.
 5. To help stop and reverse the trend of increasing childhood obesity.
 6. To provide bicycles to adults who need them to get to work.
- *Who is eligible to receive a bicycle?*
 - Anyone who is deemed eligible, based on need, by one of the SVBC's authorized non-profit partner organizations.¹
- *What level of need makes a client eligible to receive a bike?*
 - We provide bicycles to families that otherwise struggle to afford them. For most, a new bike does not cost much, so eligibility should mean having difficulty making ends meet, parents are disabled, out of the picture, or out of work etc.
- *Is the Bicycle Exchange a non-profit organization?*
 - Yes, the SVBC is a non-profit 501c(3) organization, # 77-0338658.
- *Where do the bicycles come from?*
 - Bicycles are delivered to our workshop by individuals who no longer need them.
 - We get plenty of bikes donated without advertising due to our long operating history.
- *Can I make a donation to the SVBC?*
 - Our program specializes in children's bicycles (tricycles + wheel sizes from 12.5" to 26" including Mt. Bikes). We accept adult size bikes in exceptionally good condition. Our mechanics always have lots to do and none are paid so we appreciate your effort to clean up your bike before donating it so we can focus on repairs. Of course, we also accept monetary donations.
 - All donations are tax deductible. We rarely pick up bicycles from donors.
- *Can I volunteer to repair bicycles too?*
 - Yes. Individuals under 18 should be accompanied by an adult until we determine they are ready to work independently.
 - No mechanical skills are necessary. We provide parts, tools and guidance.
 - Individual volunteers need not RSVP before coming to a workday.
 - Group volunteers (5 or more) should contact us for planning purposes.
 - You do not need to be a member of the SVBC to volunteer to fix bikes.
- *Are there other things volunteers can do for the Bike Exchange?*
 - Yes – we have no paid staff. As our organization grows we're looking for people to help coordinate our activities with other non-profits and volunteer organizations, track inventory, write receipts and thank you letters etc.
- *Where/when do I go to donate a bicycle or to volunteer?*
 - We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month (except Dec) from 10 AM to 2 PM behind BTN automotive at 2566 Leghorn Street in Mountain View.
- *How do I contact the Bicycle Exchange? Do I need to?*
 - To donate a bike, or to volunteer, no RSVP is necessary.
 - For other questions, contact us at bikeexchange@svbcbikes.org
- *How do people receive the bikes you donate?*

¹ Our non-profit partners include Sunday Friends, Sunnyvale Community Services, The Children's Fund, Big Brother Big Sister of the Bay Area, Samaritan House, Disabled American Veterans, Citizen Schools, and Hidden Villa.

- Once repaired, bicycles are either distributed directly from our workshop, or are transported by truck to other non-profit facilities.
- *How long has the Bicycle Exchange been donating bicycles?*
 - We operated since 1993 as part of a non-profit in Mountain View. In 2007 we joined the SVBC and have expanded our operations throughout the Bay Area.
- *How did this get started?*
 - This began as a holiday giving program and grew to a year-round operation, fueled by a generous donation from Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center and by enthusiasts who like to repair bikes.
- *What else does the SVBC do?*
 - The SVBC is an advocacy organization that promotes the bicycle for everyday use in a variety of ways such as providing bicycle safety education, valet bicycle parking at festivals and sporting events, advocating safe and effective bicycle routes and facilities, and supporting events such as Bike-to-Work Day.
- *How can I learn more? Can I join the SVBC?*
 - Visit our website at www.svcbikes.org
 - If you would like to become a member, see the membership page on our website.

Other facts about cycling, the environment and our health that we'd like you to know...

- Riding a bicycle 1 mile consumes 35 food calories,² the energy equivalent of getting 826 miles-per-gallon of gasoline.³
- Consuming 1 gallon of gasoline releases about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere⁴ contributing to global warming.
- A typical car emits 1 pound of carbon dioxide per mile, or about 10,000 pounds of carbon dioxide every year.
- A 10 mile bicycle ride will burn about 40 grams of fat – and get you where you're going. Instead of miles per gallon, think of a bicycle as a vehicle that goes 10 miles to the bowl of rice.
- The medical cost of obesity to states in the US in 2003 was estimated at \$75B/year.⁵
- Producing a brand new \$300 bicycle expends about 1 GigaJoule of energy;⁶ this is equal to about 1 tank of gasoline. Each time a bicycle is repaired instead of scrapped, we avoid putting about 200 pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

² Marcia D. Lowe, WorldWatch Paper 90, "The Bicycle: Vehicle for a Small Planet," Sept. 1989.

³ http://bioenergy.ornl.gov/papers/misc/energy_conv.html

⁴ <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/co2.shtml>

⁵ Yee S L, Williams-Piehot P, Sorensen A, Roussel A, Hersey J, Hamre R. The Nutrition and Physical Activity Program to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases: monitoring progress in funded states. Prev. Chronic. Dis. 2006 Jan. URL: http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2006/jan/05_0077.htm.

⁶ Calculated using the Carnegie Mellon University Green Design Institute's Economic Input-Output Life Cycle Assessment (EIO-LCA) model Available from: <<http://www.eiolca.net/>> [Accessed 20 Dec, 2007].