

Cycling Friendly Campus

The Cycling Friendly Campus programme supports colleges and universities to make cycling an accessible and affordable option for students and staff to travel.

The Cycling Friendly Campus award recognises the efforts of further and higher education institutions who take a leading role in making cycling easy, accessible and affordable for their students and staff. To help institutions meet the award criteria, the development grant fund provides up to £25,000 to address specific gaps in cycling infrastructure and services, such as installing secure cycle parking, developing pool bike hire schemes, or accessing maintenance equipment.

In 2019–20, we were delighted to award Cycling Friendly status to three new campuses: Forth Valley College, South Lanarkshire College and Edinburgh Napier University (Merchiston Campus). In addition, four of the campuses awarded in 2016–17 were able to demonstrate continued support to students and staff with improved facilities and saw their Cycling Friendly award renewed for the next three years.

The Cycling Friendly Campus development fund was oversubscribed with 23 applications requesting a total of £382,000. Following a panel review, £215,000 was distributed across 19 funded projects, in a total of 28 campuses and over 15 local authorities. This was match funded with £92,000 coming from universities and colleges.

In partnership with Bright Green Business, the Cycling Friendly Campus Internship programme supported 17 institutions with 10 Campus Cycling Officers, embedded within specific institutions to promote cycling to students.

Across the country, Officers generated £141,000 worth of applications to the development fund alone and ran 123 engagement sessions with staff and students including: free bike maintenance sessions, one-to-one route planning events, led rides, promotional stalls at freshers fairs, bike breakfasts, security bike marking in partnership with Police Scotland, and “learn to ride” sessions.

£215,000

19

£215,000 of funding distributed nationally across 19 projects

28

15

28 campuses over 15 local authorities to benefit

216,000

216,000 students benefitted

27,670

27,670 staff benefitted

Case study: West College Scotland



West College Scotland has three campuses at Clydebank, Greenock and Paisley, educating over 22,000 students.

For a number of the students attending the college, many will come from the surrounding postcode areas high in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. For some students, who may have had a negative experience at school, the college provides a stepping-stone onto further education and employment.

Cycling rates were higher in some locations than others, with one of the main barriers being lack of knowledge about facilities available. As Gillian Gray, Development Funding Executive at West College Scotland said, “there were racks where people could securely leave their bikes, but no-one knew about them”.

In 2019, West College Scotland was funded £7,380 from the Cycling Friendly Campus programme to install 20 cycle pods and prominent signage highlighting the cycling facilities at the college.

“What we have been able to do with the funds,” Gillian Gray adds “was to make a very visible presence of the availability of secure bike storage.” There was, in both Paisley and Greenock, a substantial amount of bike parking, and the funding was used to install large, bright wrappers that direct people to the facilities available. “For a new student, or visitor to the campus, it’s very clear where they can find bicycle facilities. The funding has allowed us to highlight what we have, and made it more noticeable, for relatively low-cost”.