

E-bikes could slash transport emissions and get Britons back to work

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Credit: pxfuel

New research shows that electrically-assisted bikes (e-bikes) have the capability to slash carbon dioxide emissions from transport and could offer a safe and sustainable route back to work.

University of Leeds Researchers from the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) found that e-bikes, if used to replace [car travel](#), have the capability to cut car carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in England by up to 50% – about 30 million tonnes per year.

Even replacing just 20% of car miles travelled with [e-bike](#) travel would mean 4-8 million fewer tonnes of carbon emitted each year.

The greatest impact on carbon emissions would come from e-bike use outside urban centres. In Denmark, e-bike routes are already linking cities to towns and villages.

e-bikes can help people make longer journeys than conventional cycles, and could bring new transport options to people living outside urban centres. In the post-coronavirus recovery, e-bikes could offer a safe way for people to travel.

Researchers also found that e-bikes could help to

cut the costs of travel in neighbourhoods characterised by low incomes, limited access to [public transport](#) and where many car journeys could be replaced with e-bike use.

Dr. Ian Philips, a senior research fellow in the Institute for Transport Studies at Leeds and CREDS member, led the research. He said: "The strategic potential of e-bikes as a mass-transport option has been overlooked by policymakers so far.

"The research began as a way to measure the potential carbon savings that e-bikes can offer, but as we emerge from the lockdown, e-bikes can be part of the solution to getting people safely mobile once again.

"We're recommending that governments across the UK should find ways to incentivise e-bike use to replace car journeys. As well as lowering [carbon](#) emissions from transport, [e-bikes](#) have the potential to improve the mobility options for people and communities at risk of transport poverty."

More information: E-bike carbon savings—how much and where? www.creds.ac.uk/publications/e...-how-much-and-where/

Provided by University of Leeds

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