

Dear Spokes,

Thank you very much for the cargo bike grant which we used to help with the cost of a Circe Helios compact tandem with cargo rack conversion kit.

We are in the process of selling our only family car and going car-free. We feel that owning a car in the city has become untenable due to the pollution and climate-heating caused by it, as well as the danger subjected to others. The Helios will now act as our family transport and for collecting the weekly shop

For the weekly shop, the cargo rack is fitted, shopping bought as normal and placed into reusable carrier bags, which are simply thrown on the cargo rack, just as you would loading the shopping into the boot of a car. Obviously we can also do other 'cargo' shopping or delivery/collection trips as well as the weekly shop.

Additionally, my wife and I now commute to work together, across town, on the Helios – journeys that would be difficult or impossible by car and saving around 30 minutes per day of walking for my wife.

At weekends, the kids love taking it for trips to the beach and attending their activities. They are able to ride independently on their own bikes, but with Edinburgh's lack of safe cycling infrastructure, the tandem is faster and opens up more routes and destinations.

The other cargo bike we looked at and really liked was the Urban Arrow. Unfortunately, we were not able to store it without keeping it on the street (where it would have been uninsured). So we opted for the Helios which has quick-release handlebars that can be rotated, allowing the bike to be stored "almost flat" inside our flat. The Helios is also better in terms of exercise and encouraging activity and pedalling by the stoker/passenger.

Eddie & Vicki