



E-bike Carla Trailer Grant – Impact Report

We are very grateful to Spokes for the grant towards our e-bike Carla trailer. This e-bike/trailer combination is proving to be a useful addition to our operations, allowing us to replace a number of journeys that would previously have required the use of a van.

How we are using the e-bike trailer

We are primarily using it to transport tools and equipment to and from landscaping jobs, as well as removing and transporting green waste and other materials.

Previously, these journeys would generally have been made by van. The carrying capacity of the Carla trailer means that a surprising amount of equipment and material can be transported by bike, making it a practical alternative to the van for suitable jobs rather than simply an environmental gesture.

Benefits to the company

The e-bike and trailer are helping us reduce our reliance on vans, particularly for shorter journeys and work within Edinburgh. This brings a number of benefits, including reduced fuel use, lower vehicle running costs and fewer emissions associated with our work.

It can also be a very practical way of working in an urban environment. Using the e-bike can make it easier to move around congested areas and reduces the difficulties associated with finding suitable parking for a van close to a job.

Importantly, the e-bike and trailer also demonstrate to our customers that we are actively looking for practical ways to reduce the environmental impact of our operations.

Supporting new business

We believe the e-bike and trailer are also beginning to provide a commercial benefit.

We have secured a contract relating to Christmas trees for Edinburgh schools, and we believe that our ability and intention to deliver at least some of the trees using the e-bike and Carla trailer worked in our favour.

For schools in particular, there is an additional benefit in pupils and staff seeing deliveries being made in a more sustainable way. It provides a very visible example of how businesses can change the way everyday tasks are carried out to reduce vehicle use and emissions.

Looking ahead

As we gain more experience with the e-bike and trailer, we expect to identify further journeys and activities where it can replace the van.

Our aim is not to suggest that an e-bike can replace a van for every job, but to use the most appropriate form of transport for each task. Where loads, distances and circumstances allow, the e-bike and Carla trailer give us a practical, lower-cost and lower-emission alternative.

The support from Spokes has therefore helped us make a tangible change to the way we operate. As well as reducing van journeys, the e-bike/trailer combination is helping us demonstrate our environmental commitments to customers and may already be contributing to our ability to win new work.

We are looking forward to expanding its use as part of our day-to-day operations.

Callum Ross & the team at The Cycling Gardeners