



# E-bikes: affordable and climate-friendly transportation

E-bikes make it easy for more people to make more and longer trips by bike.

The District of Saanich is encouraging e-bike riding in place of driving as a climate action.



What they're good for	Cars/ Trucks	E-bikes	Comments
Zips up hills/long distances	✓	✓	E-bikes can go from Saanich to Salt Spring on less than one charge, and can charge at any outlet.
Can carry kids	✓	✓	Kids ages 1-11 can generally be transported by e-bike. Babies and older kids need other options.
Can carry groceries and other heavy items	✓	✓	You'd be surprised what you can carry, especially in a cargo e-bike or with a bike trailer.
Exercise and fresh air	✗	✓	E-bikes provide different levels of assist, so you can get as much or as little exercise as you want.
Climate-friendly	✗	✓	E-bikes use fewer materials to build and less energy to operate than gas or electric cars, and have zero greenhouse gas emissions when operated.

What they cost	Used 2010 Honda Civic*	New 2021 Ford F150*	E-bike
Insurance	\$850	\$1,000	\$0
Licence and registration	\$70	\$80	\$0
Maintenance/Repairs	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$80-\$300
Fuel	\$1,100	\$1,800	\$10
Vehicle payments (yearly)	\$1,200	\$7,200	\$360
<b>Total yearly costs</b> (excluding depreciation)	<b>\$4,720</b>	<b>\$11,080</b>	<b>\$670</b>

\*From CAA cost calculator ([carcosts.caa.ca](http://carcosts.caa.ca)) at 10,000km/year, except for adjusted estimated insurance costs. E-bike details available from [sustainability@saanich.ca](mailto:sustainability@saanich.ca).

## E-bike incentives are available!

- No PST
- Incentives for businesses for cargo e-bikes. Visit [suvibc.ca](http://suvibc.ca).
- Incentives from Province of BC: \$350 to \$1,400 based on individual net income. Free cycling safety courses also available. [bcebikerebates.ca](http://bcebikerebates.ca).

## Before you buy:

- Test drive e-bikes at local bike stores
- Ensure you have a secure place out of the rain to lock your bike at night
- Invest in a good lock for your bike
- Consider taking a bike safety skills course (visit [capitalbike.ca](http://capitalbike.ca))
- Inquire with your home or tenant insurance about coverage for your e-bike