



Norwich Public Library to Host e-Bikes during August

Press Release — Norwich Public Library

August 7, 2019

Norwich, VT -- Electric bicycles (e-Bikes) will be hosted by Norwich Public Library beginning August 8. The e-Bikes are made possible through Burlington-based Local Motion and their program sponsors and partners. The e-Bikes are available to borrow for four-day loan periods, and Norwich Public Library will host the bikes for five weeks before the e-Bikes move on to the Hartford Public Library. Vital Communities and the Norwich Energy Committee have worked with Local Motion to bring the e-Bike lending initiative to the Upper Valley and Norwich, respectively. The library will be hosting shorter e-Bike test drives on four Wednesdays in August. All e-Bike details are available at norwichlibrary.org/ebikes

“E-Bikes are one of the best solutions to replace car trips,” said Karen Yacos, Local Motion’s Executive Director. Susan Hardy of the Norwich Energy Committee agrees: “By traveling by e-Bike instead of a car or truck you can enjoy some moderate exercise while helping to reduce traffic on our roads all while reducing your carbon footprint.”

In a rural state like Vermont, e-Bikes, which have a battery and an electric motor that provides a “pedal boost,” can be an effective means of transportation for getting around town. Where traveling ten miles, for example, on a conventional bike is intimidating to the average Vermonter, ten miles on an e-Bike is much more feasible and appealing. Everyday destinations like the grocery store, work, or school, become more accessible with an e-Bike ride.

The e-Bike hosting at Norwich Public Library complements existing bicycle initiatives at the library and in the town of Norwich. Cyclists will soon be able to fix their two-wheeled transportation at the library’s new bike repair station and park their bike at a new bike rack. A

second bike repair station and rack will be installed by the Town of Norwich at Huntley Meadow thanks to a grant by the Norwich Women's Club. "Libraries have always been a place to turn to not only for information but for initiatives that promote community and community well-being. We're thrilled to make these e-Bikes available to the public as a host" said Lucinda Walker, Norwich Library Director.

Local Motion previously hosted e-Bikes in Middlebury and Montpelier. Partners include Frog Hollow Bikes and Onion River Outdoors. Vermont State Employee Credit Union (VSECU) donated financial support for this program while Go! Vermont provides a grant to assist with this work of helping Vermonters travel more by bike, foot, and public transit. In 2018, Local Motion loaned e-bikes to more than 100 people, about 25-30 of whom purchased an e-bike and use it today to replace car trips. To make it easier to purchase an e-Bike, rebates are available to Green Mountain Power and Burlington Electric Department customers.

For more information please contact:

Roger Arnold
Community Engagement Librarian
Norwich Public Library, Norwich, VT
802-649-1184
roger.arnold@norwichlibrary.org