

# SUSTAINABILITY

## ON YOUR BIKE

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**W**ITH PETROL PRICES LOOKING QUITE COMFY IN THEIR NEW \$2+ RANGE, and post-quake traffic often moving at a crawl, there's never been a better time to bike -- as all those motorists stuck in traffic will know when they watch a cyclist speeding past them in their hi-vis gear.

As a city built on a plain, Christchurch *should* be ideal for cyclists. Yet it's not. Cycle lanes are often token or non-existent -- or shared by car doors. But we have a great opportunity now to rebuild the city with a more sustainable and useable transport system. Better cycle lanes would benefit all road users, reducing congestion with fewer cars on the road, and with bikes not holding up traffic in the main carriage way. Let the Council know what you want from your shiny new city here: [www.shareanidea.org.nz/move/](http://www.shareanidea.org.nz/move/). The more people biking now, the better our chances will be of making Christchurch into a truly cyclist-oriented city.

So get cycling! You will save money on petrol, you won't be destroying the environment, you won't have parking hassles, you may just get there quicker, and, above all else, your buns will be smokin'.

### CYCLING FOR CYCLISTS



Cycling may not sound like much fun in winter with icy roads, frozen fingers, and perpetual darkness to overcome, but all it takes is a little preparation:

**Bike:** First up is the bike itself. On Wednesdays at the Winter Wonderland Market, UC Bike's Dr Bike is there to help. Bring along your abused steel steed and they will fix it up for free, getting you back on the road in no time.

**Visibility:** It's not easy to spot cyclists at night through a rain-spattered windscreen, so make yourself visible with reflective clothes and the brightest lights you can find -- preferably more than one set (your mantra is "Christmas tree").

**Weather:** Next we need to talk about wetness. Specifically, if you're cycling on wet roads, you will soon have a corresponding wet groin. You have three choices: wear waterproof pants, take a change of clothes, or just try hardening up. Watch out for icy roads on winter mornings: it's the corners that get you. Don't be a victim.

**Cars:** Cyclists, remember that cars have rights too (no, really!) and it can often be tricky to see and navigate around unpredictable bikes. Be visible, and, unlike Jane Austin's Mr. Darcy, be clear in your intentions.

Also, remember that drivers will be judging all cyclists on your behaviour, so if you're a cyclist who likes to sneak through red lights, or a pack riding three or four abreast, you won't be helping the perception that cyclists are a bunch of road rule-breaking menaces on two wheels.

Finally, be nice to motorists. If they make it easier for you to get where you're going, acknowledge that with a smile. Not all drivers are anti-cyclists, and chances are they may also like to get on their bikes occasionally too.

### CYCLING FOR DRIVERS



Drivers, all those menaces on two wheels are actually doing you a huge favour by choosing to bike and not increase the carbon emissions that are seriously messing with our planet. By choosing not to drive a car/van/4WD/truck, they're also freeing up the roads so that you can get to where you're going faster. For this alone, they deserve all the courtesy and consideration you can give them. Besides, remember that you are wearing steel armour plate, while those poor cyclists are only wearing skintight lycra, so follow the guidelines below and avoid having a cyclist as a hood ornament!

**Cycle Lanes:** Did you know that it is illegal for cars to drive or stop in any cycle lane regardless of whether there is a cyclist in them or not? You may only cross a cycle lane when turning, so to all those lazy drivers out there who cut cycle lanes when they cut corners, get out of that habit now -- one day there might be a cyclist in it, and you'll be so used to taking the bend at that angle that it'll be too late. Great drivers can navigate their vehicles within the lane.

**Intersections:** Please leave room for cyclists when stopped at lights. Wait for them to take off first, so that you can be a barrier to other cars that might run them down.

**Doors:** This one's been drummed into us, but still drivers fail to check their rear vision mirrors before opening their door. Remember what it felt like as a kid to go arse over tit and land on your face on concrete? It's not nice, so save yourself the guilt and check every time you open the door.

**Passing:** You know what it feels like when you're doing 100km/h on the open road and you're passed by a sodding great truck so close that your mirrors are left flapping in the slipstream? Now imagine you're not surrounded by a tonne of steel and that all that stands between you and instant death is a plastic hat. Give cyclists at least 1.5m space when passing, and avoid overtaking before turning at intersections.

**Dr. Bike**

UC Bike's Dr Bike will be at the Winter Wonderland Market, Wednesday 10am-2pm, for free bike maintenance for all of your bikes and trailers at the UC zone.

[www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/transport/cycling](http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/transport/cycling)