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Bikenomics: How Bicycling Can Save The Economy (Bicycle)



Synopsis

Bikenomics provides a surprising and compelling new perspective on the way we get around and on how we spend our money, as families and as a society. The book starts with a look at Americans' real transportation costs, and moves on to examine the current civic costs of our transportation system. Blue tells the stories of people, businesses, organizations, and cities who are investing in two-wheeled transportation. The multifaceted North American bicycle movement is revealed, with its contradictions, challenges, successes, and visions.

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Customer Reviews

Elly makes a clear and cogent case for increased investment in bicycle infrastructure. The only drawback was that at times she seemed more interested in glossing over what might be inconvenient truths that undermined her case than in just acknowledging that sometimes not everything fits the narrative. Still, I thoroughly enjoyed the read and would recommend it to anyone

interested in better understanding how a multi-modal infrastructure can support a more robust economy.

Bikenomics makes the case that using bicycles for local transportation can: save our health, save our communities, save our kids, save our cities, save our suburbs, save our towns, save our food supply, and even save our lives! The author says the book is largely about people who are able to "think outside the ruts our society and our daily lives are in, to envision a better big picture and show the rest of us the way to get there." Bicycles will play a major role in this creative social change. Why? Because, unlike planes, trains, and automobiles, "they move us through our lives and landscapes, quickly but still at a human speed, where we can look around and recognize ourselves and each other." The author believes in the power of ordinary people to change lives and social norms in extraordinary ways. "Bicycles give us the power to transform our individual lives and make real, satisfying, measurable changes in our communities without waiting for anyone or anything else to show us the way." As an advocate myself of well-being on two wheels (Lua's Song: Islandy Wisdom for Mainlanders), I need no convincing of the many virtues of getting more people out of their cars and onto bikes. Mindfulness and well-being are on the rise, and bicycles have a central role to play in a cleaner, slower, and wiser world.

This is a great book for your friend who rides their bike anywhere for any reason. They may have a very strong opinion about why everyone should ride bikes or not, but chances are they don't know the extent of the economics behind a bicycle transportation sector and its effect on the economy in terms of businesses and their income, city operations costs, transportation infrastructure costs, and of course emissions into the atmosphere. This book is written in plain language and is short and easy to read. Just a pleasure and an easy gift for that person you can't think anything to get them. This is a no brainer...wonderful fun to read book with interest on every page.

Even though this book is now dated (it was published in 2011) I found it to be quite interesting to learn about the social and economical impacts bike culture has had in various communities around the world. Being a woman of color, I also appreciated the talk about how bicycling is perceived across race and gender because I feel that is an important argument that is overlooked. I used to ride my bike in NYC (around 2011-2013) and it definitely did not have the safety in numbers vibe as it does now! Here we are 2017 and I see the change the citibike systems have had including better bike lane infrastructure. More people are cruising the streets than ever, and it's pretty awesome. So

yey for bikes!!

I feel this book on an important topic suffers from cohesive organization. Topics seemed jumbled together and there is a fair amount of making the same point multiple times. Personal anecdotes are muddled together with case studies and factual discourse. That said the book takes what could be a dry topic and presents an ultimately strong case in a readable and personable form. Rich in factual support, research and resources.

This has proven an eye opening book for me. The book explains the costs of the current American automobile culture and the socioeconomic impact it has had. The concepts were simple and well laid out and have changed my way of thinking about transportation, and even shopping. I feel inspired to ride my bicycle as much as possible to run errands around town and to support the local mom and pop businesses. The costs to maintain roads for automobiles is compared to bicycle lanes, and also the cost of owning an automobile versus a bicycle were eye opening. This book was inspiring and has had a great impact on me.

I read this book and gave it to my son-in-law because he bikes a lot. Great book. It will change the way to interact with bikers on the road. And might inspire you to ride a bike.

elly blue presents The politics of biking in a digestible format. The book enlightens on the why's and how's we should all consider. And gives good info on what is unfolding nationwide. Author has an unexplained bias against Seattle (see for example criticisms of what she terms "sharrows") and Washington State and i wanted to - but could not not - follow her logic on how the Skagit River Bridge collapse related to her biking theories. Nevertheless i highly recommend the author and book. And will be discussing her thinking and insights in the weeks and months ahead.

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