BIKE READY

Uncertainty is the new normal. Let’s take a look at how mutual aid can help us address disruption in our own communities.

When disaster strikes or the grid goes down, what can bicyclers do to help?

In 2012, New Yorkers found out! Superstorm Sandy flooded coastal neighborhoods and plunged swaths of the city into darkness.

This was filmed just after the lights came on for all but Rockaways residents.

With the subways, gas stations and businesses closed, people jumped into action:

Learning from Sandy:

Organizing Bicyclists for Ongoing Emergencies

We’re here on the Fossil Fuel Disaster Relief Ride. As you can see, there’s still a lot of cars driving around here, which is basically the problem, so we are demonstrating a solution. We’re riding out here with relief aid and also with an energy bike to charge phones, and free bike repair.

We put a call out for cyclists, especially with trailers and cargo bikes to join us for a ride from the Occupy Sandy hub at 520 Clinton with a lot of goods that can be distributed here, out here to the Rockaways.

This is bikes’ breakthrough moment, in terms of being used for their ability to be very flexible, and deal with all kinds of emergency situations.

This is where the bikes make a ton of sense. *Yeah this is crazy.*

This 18-mile ride rolled past traffic jams and debris, moving food, water, medicine and blankets right to where they were needed.

*We’re going to do several things here. Today, some people will stay and do bike repair and also work with the generators for cell phone charging. And then some people will be working with Betsy and the Rockaway Taco Company here on doing deliveries. They have homebound people that they need to get specific food deliveries and supplies out to.*

Notice how the trailers were loaded? Balanced loads, bungees.

Can somebody who has a trailer take a couple of things of water up to 101st to the people who are doing demo? *Yeah OK.*
I am delivering a bunch of supplies that was requested for a family about a mile away. I brought my doggie trailer today.

Hello, my name is Barbara. I’m Carl. Carl, nice to meet you. A pleasure. Everything is messed up here. This is a disaster area. I lost my home. I lost my car. I lost everything.

That’s a blanket there. Alright. Bags are here. Do you want some diapers? Ensure? Yes. Here’s some diapers. Thank you. That’s for you, Boo Boo.

Even if you don’t know how to fix a flat, have a basic set of tools handy, including a pump, patch kits, and spare tubes.

Hey, you need your cell phone charged?

Banners, social media and word of mouth draw people who need help.

You have to plug into that strip over there. Want to try again? Yes, we’re going to try again.

Bikes provide transportation, delivery, communications and reporting, even electricity and if need be, evacuation.

Cycling is an everyday climate change measure, and bicyclers help us build resilience, so we can recover more quickly.

And as you can see right now, the boardwalk is pretty much gone. This is not a situation where you are living in a bad neighborhood and you can get rid of that problem by moving to a better neighborhood. Right. It’s not something you can stop. This is Mother Nature, you know. Whenever it happens, it happens. That’s it.

be ready: cycle daily for climate health

Now, let’s get ready! Talk about organizing for emergency response with your friends, other bike riders and groups in advance of the crisis.

Use our handy PDF to be Bike Ready in your own community

GreenMap.org/bikeready has:
1. List of bike groups & helpful people
2. Ways to communicate when disaster strikes
3. List of available resources, such as bike trailers, etc.
4. Bike repair kit for you and your emergency center

Through mutual aid, we can accomplish so much more. See GreenMap.org/bikeready

Bike Ready 2016
Filmed in the Rockaways and on the Lower East Side
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Thank you
Occupy Sandy Relief
Volunteers of Time’s Up
LES Ready

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Hello – we’re trying to survive!

More at GreenMap.org/bikeready

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