

“The Community Energy Challenge helped us decipher what needed to be done first and how we could maximize rebates to pay for our upgrades. We are saving money on our energy bills because of all the improvements we made and will easily recoup our costs.”

- Scott Kowal
Co-owner Bikesport



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS



Bikesport opened its doors in Bellingham’s Fountain District in the spring of 2014. Bikesport’s owners decided to repurpose the iconic neighborhood drug store into a bike shop that adds to the nearby community. Co-owner Andy Walker came to The Community Energy Challenge (CEC) with a desire to make the building as energy efficient as possible, but needed help finding the right contractors for the job and figuring out how to capitalize on utility rebates.

With the help of CEC, an energy assessment revealed how to transform the building into a more energy efficient one and recover most of the associated costs. The CEC encouraged Bikesport to upgrade the uninsulated concrete walls and minimally insulated ceiling. Walker prepared the walls himself for the insulation contractor. The attic was then air sealed, insulated and Bikesport was able to take advantage of a Cascade Natural Gas rebate that covered over 75% of those costs. With a tighter building envelope, Northwest Energy Systems put in a smaller high efficiency condensing furnace to heat the space.

Perhaps the most innovative improvement that Bikesport was to have Lightning Electric install LED light panels and track lights in the retail portion of the store and replace inefficient fluorescent lights in the basement. A rebate from Puget Sound Energy paid for 70% of those costs.

The Community Energy Challenge is reducing NW Washington’s energy consumption by helping homes and businesses find smart, simple ways to save. Currently operating in Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties, the program creates green jobs in our community while making energy efficiency more accessible and affordable than ever before.

Energy Saving Measures

- Occupancy sensors in restrooms
- Facility-wide efficient lighting with automated controls
- Direct-fire gas radiant heat in warehouse
- LED light panels and track lights
- 95% efficient condensing gas furnace
- Upgraded insulation and air sealing



Choose local businesses taking action for a healthy community.

