

Union of Genius

soup cafe

coffee • tea • hot chocolate

energy
saving
trust®



delivering
sustainable transport
for organisations



Union of Genius

Union of Genius, Scotland's first soup café is based in Leith, Edinburgh. They maintain an ethical approach to cooking by combining the best local food ingredients, using local suppliers, recycling and helping those in need. In 2013 they started doing wholesale soup deliveries and quickly realised that while Leith is at sea level, most of the cafes they supply are uphill, in town and that soup is heavy!

What has Energy Saving Trust's sustainable transport advice helped with?

To support wholesale delivery they considered a diesel van but decided to experiment with manual cargo bikes instead.

Their first cargo bike was built for them by the People's Utility Bike Project but Edinburgh's roads and potholes took their toll and destroyed the bike within three years. They carried on by using electric bikes and trailers. In the longer term they wanted sturdy cargo bikes with a double battery array and a powerful motor, plus a coolbox. They tested a few bikes throughout 2018 and found one which met their needs perfectly.

Outcome

They applied for the eBike Business Loan and bought 2 Riese and Muller Packsters (a Packster 60 and a Packster 80) which they've been riding since August 2018.

In total the ecargo bikes shift around 1000 litres of soup a week which helps them to deliver to 35 cafes across Edinburgh, 3 times per week. That amount of soup requires between 500-600kg of vegetables to make!

Interest-free ebike business loans of up to £30,000 are available to Scottish businesses. These loans are funded by Transport Scotland (an agency of the Scottish Government) and have a repayment term of up to 4 years.

“ The ecargo bikes are faster than a van would be as they can filter through traffic and take advantage of bike paths. ”

Elaine Mason, Owner

“ I love them. What more can I say? ”

Anna, Union of Genius rider

Get in touch

For more information call **0800 0931 669**

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Visit **energysavingtrust.org.uk/Scotland/transport**