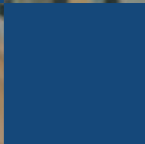


# Finding the right ecargo bike for you

Overview of the different types of  
ecargo bikes available.





eCargo bikes are a valuable investment for businesses, local authorities and other organisations looking to improve their environmental credentials, reduce costs and improve delivery efficiency.

To get the most out of this equipment, it is important to find the right eCargo bike model for you. The most suitable model for you will depend on several factors, including the expected use of the bike, as well as where you will be using the bike.

This guide will give you an overview of the different types of eCargo bikes, including their advantages and disadvantages, as well as highlighting potential use cases for each bike.

Typically, there are three main types of eCargo bikes. These are:

- Two-wheel bicycles
- Three-wheel tricycles
- Four-wheel quadricycles

In addition to these, you can purchase electrically assisted trailers which can be attached to an eCargo bike, push bike or even carried by hand; as well as bespoke eCargo bikes that can be custom built for specific purposes.





Image: © fullycharged.com

## Two-wheel

**Typical maximum payload: 100kg**

**Cost range: £3,000 – £6,000<sup>1</sup>**

Two-wheel e-cargo bike models can often be a cheap option, when compared to three-wheel or four-wheel models. These models include bikes with specifically built cargo capacity, as well as ebikes with panniers attached. These bikes are fast and agile in traffic and can easily be used in shared-use paths, such as bike and bus lanes. For many, these bikes are often straightforward to ride as they are the most similar to conventional push bikes.

However, these bikes risk becoming unstable if overloaded or loaded incorrectly. Two-wheel models could be a good option for you if you are carrying small and medium sized cargo (such as packages or groceries) as other models may only be able to carry a limited amount of cargo.



Image: © urbanarrow.com

Example use cases may include: Food deliveries, transporting packages and internal mail.

## Three-wheel

**Typical maximum payload: 250kg<sup>1</sup>**

**Cost range: £4,000 – £10,000<sup>1</sup>**

If you are looking to carry larger loads (such as maintenance equipment or even construction materials) with easy loading and unloading, you may be interested in a three-wheel e-cargo bike. There are a variety of designs for three-wheel e-cargo bikes, with options for having cargo either in front or behind of the rider. Due to the improved stability of these models, they can be easier to use for people with balance difficulties and can function as a trade stand.

However, larger models may find it difficult to use cycle lanes, potentially causing them to be slower in traffic. Remember to consider storage space for when the bikes are not in use, as a typical model can have dimensions of 275cm (length) x 95cm (height) x 110cm (width)<sup>2</sup>.

Example use cases may include: Transporting waste disposal equipment, park maintenance, transporting loose loads (for example, soil and compost).



Image: © icenicycles.co.uk



Image: © urbanarrow.com

<sup>1</sup> Energy Saving Trust, 2020. Electrifying last mile deliveries: A guide for businesses <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/EST007-01-EST%2BDFT-Electrifying%20last%20mile%20deliveries%20guide-WEB-02.pdf>





Image: © electricmotornews.com



Image: © eav.solutions

## Four-wheel

**Typical maximum payload: 250kg<sup>1</sup>**

**Cost range: £8,000 – £12,000<sup>1</sup>**

If you are looking to replace a van or car, you may be interested in using four-wheel ecargo bikes. These can often carry large, preloaded containers and can have full coverings for both the rider and the cargo, making them less exposed to adverse weather conditions. Given their higher cost, need for larger secure storage space, difficulty in using shared-use paths and need for parking, these models are often suited for consolidation and distribution hub use, where they can reduce the amount of van and car deliveries required in an urban area.

Example use cases may include: First mile deliveries, consolidation and distribution hub usage.

## Trailer

**Typical maximum payload: 300kg<sup>1</sup>**

**Cost range: £2,000 – £5,000<sup>1</sup>**

Trailers are a cost-effective option for carrying cargo. They can be easily attached to ecargo bikes or push bikes, and can even be pulled by hand. Some models may be motorised and electrically assisted, meaning that a standard push bike can carry large amounts of cargo – effectively converting it into an ecargo bike. However, it is not possible to use an electrically assisted trailer in conjunction with an electrically assisted bike. However, ecargo bikes can use non-motorised trailers to further boost their cargo carrying capacity.

Trailers come in many shapes and sizes. Open facing models allow for easy loading and unloading, though they can also expose cargo to the weather. For these models, retailers and manufacturers can provide covers or canopies to help protect cargo. Other models may incorporate lockable containers and can even have built-in chill boxes.

Example use cases may include: Transporting construction equipment, expanding ecargo bike capacity.



Image: © manchesterbikehire.co.uk



Image: © CarlaCargoMobikes



Image: © European Cycle Logistics Federation. [www.ecif.bike](http://www.ecif.bike)

## Bespoke

**Typical maximum payload: Dependent on model**

**Cost range: Dependent on model**

If you are struggling to find the right bike to meet your needs, you may be able to get a bespoke bike or box custom-built. A bespoke bike allows you to completely customise the payload and layout, though the cost of the bike will be dependent on the manufacturer. These bikes can also be built to include specialised features, such as solar panels, chill boxes or even a pedal-powered coffee machine. If you are interested in ordering one of these bikes, you will need to speak to a bespoke bike manufacturer, who can often be contacted through an ecargo bike retailer.