



# Santa Cruz eBike Guide

Ebikes are on the rise! Ebikes allow you to travel further, faster, and with less effort across varying terrain for daily transportation, commuting, errands, and recreation. An ebike can get you up a steep hill easily, making more non-driving trips in Santa Cruz County possible.

Ecology Action makes no brand recommendations, but we advise riders to weigh upfront cost, durability (longevity of the bike and battery), quality of the bike and how it rides, and battery range when choosing to buy. Spending a little more upfront may save maintenance costs and provide a higher-quality experience with a longer-lasting bike.

Ebikes come in three different classes, as shown below (all with drive systems of 750 watts or less), and are regulated accordingly, but all classes are allowed in bike lanes in California.

**Class 1:** Motor provides assistance only during pedaling, and only up to 20 mph.

**Class 2:** Throttle-actuated and pedal assist motor provides assistance up to 20 mph.

**Class 3:** Pedal-assisted motor provides assistance up to 28 mph.

## California Regulations:

Legal ebikes are regulated like conventional bicycles and do not require registration, insurance, or a license. [Click here](#) for more information on California ebike regulations and laws.

## Test Rides & Santa Cruz Bike Shops:

Santa Cruz has a high number of quality bike shops that all carry ebikes, with a variety of brand choices. We recommend you shop around at a few bike shops, take test rides, and check with any friends who own ebikes to get their input. Keep in touch with Ecology Action for updates on our test ride events and ebike online webinars.

- **Another Bike Shop**, (831) 427-2232; carries one brand from commuter to mountain bikes.
- **Bicycle Trip Santa Cruz**, (831) 427-2580, and **Bicycle Trip Capitola**, (831) 226-5050; 12 brands and many different models.
- **Family Cycling Center**, (831) 475-3883; carries one brand from commuter to mountain bikes.
- **Current eBikes**, (831) 621-2309; complete focus on electric bikes in all categories (commuter, family/cargo, speed, mountain, folding, comfort, etc.) from 10 brands and many models.
- **Cycle Works**, (831) 316-7671; 3 models.
- **Epicenter Cycling**, (Westside and Aptos), (831) 423-9000; 2 brands and a variety of models.
- **Scotts Valley Cycle Sport**, (831) 440-9070; carries one brand from commuter to mountain bikes.
- **Spokesman Bicycles**, (831) 429-6062; 3 brands and a variety of models.
- **Watsonville Cyclery**, (831) 724-1646; ebikes on order only.

## Ebike Companies Headquartered Locally:

Santa Cruz County has a thriving and substantial bike industry that includes Santa Cruz Bikes, FOX, Giro, and others. We are also fortunate to have a few ebike manufacturers located here:

- **Blix Electric Bikes**: A variety of quality and stylish ebikes.
- **Gazelle**: Models range from sporty to relaxed with a European flair.

## Makes and Models:

Ebikes are now available in commuter, cargo, cruiser, drop-bar, folding, mountain, gravel, road, fat-tire (for beach or snow), trike, and other styles. The range of makes and models is increasing yearly. Check with your local bike shop about what they have available.

## **Weight and Range:**

Ebikes currently range on average from 33 to 60 pounds. Ideal battery and motor range is 30–90 miles on “low assistance” and 15–40 miles on maximum assistance. Batteries can generally be charged at any 110-volt outlet (like those in your house), and most batteries fully charge within two to five hours.

## **Ebike Consumer Resources:**

- [People for Bikes eBike Basic Video](#)
- [The Future of eBikes](#)
- [Electric Bike Review](#)
- [Bosch eBike Systems](#)

*Contact us for upcoming ebike webinars and test ride opportunities!*



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