Argonne’s Bikeshare Program sprouted from an employee pollution-prevention suggestion and has blossomed into a successful annual program.

All Argonne employees, as well as scientific facility users, students, associates, and interns, can participate in the program. Each individual user is required to complete online training and adhere to all the Illinois rules of the road while on site. Safety is a main priority at Argonne, which is why the program requires users to wear a helmet and provides a helmet to all users for free. Since the program launch in 2008, 4,349 people have taken the Bikeshare training and participated in the program.

The program launches each year around Memorial Day, which also coincides with the start of Argonne’s busy season, when several hundred summer interns join the permanent staff to explore science and business roles at the laboratory. Users are allowed to ride the bicycles anywhere on campus to travel between buildings or for exercise and enjoyment. Argonne’s Bikeshare bicycles are distributed around the laboratory at 50 racks. A Bikeshare map is updated annually to highlight all bike rack locations, which have been strategically placed to encourage use in areas that are highly populated with employees.

In the continued spirit of pollution prevention, Argonne expanded its Bikeshare fleet in FY 2018. Originally used for transportation within the Advanced Photon Source, a set of tricycles were destined for the dumpster when a sustainability team member asked to redeploy them into the Bikeshare program. After being tuned up and cleared for the road by the Vehicle Maintenance Department, 12 tricycles were added to the Bikeshare fleet in the Laboratory’s Area 200.

In FY 2018, the Bikeshare program celebrated its 10th year of operation. A fleet of 150 bicycles provide a convenient onsite transportation option for the Laboratory’s 3-square-mile campus and improves air quality by avoiding vehicle travel at the Laboratory.
SUCCESS STORY: TRAVEL AND COMMUTING

The tricycles are each unique and the majority have a large basket or flatbed on the back. These provide additional space for users to carry their belongings. The bikeshare program is available April through October, but maintenance and operations activities continue year-round. Bike maintenance is completed on site by Argonne’s own Vehicle Maintenance Department. This allows for quick turnaround time and easy deployment of bicycles. On a weekly basis, staff rebalance the bicycle distribution to ensure that everyone at the Laboratory has the opportunity to “grab and go” and that all bicycles are in safe working condition. Once the bicycles are collected in late October, they are serviced in the Vehicle Maintenance facility and stored onsite over the winter. Preventative maintenance is performed annually in the off-season to make sure the bicycles are ready for their next deployment.

Argonne’s Bikeshare program continues to support mobility for employees and visitors alike. It provides a fun and eco-friendly option to travel around the laboratory site. It also improves local air quality, reduces fuel use, and promotes wellness in the workplace.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL
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