

Bicycle recycling project in Peking University

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Bicycle is the most popular vehicle among students in Peking University. Almost 1/2 students use bicycles traveling in the campus. When students graduate, their bicycles would be sold, be given to their friends or just simply discarded. These abandoned bicycles become a problem to the authorities and it is a waste of resource. In order to promote resource reuse and reduce wastes, the Student Services Team starts a bicycle recycling project to collect unused bicycles and then allocate them to anyone who needs. It is a great idea but in practical, it also faces challenge. First, the bicycle collecting process relies on effectiveness of propaganda in the campus, students' willingness and awareness on sustainability. Collaboration with university authorities is necessary to collect enough bicycles while individual effort has only limited effect. Second, most of the collected bicycles have rather long using life. They need lots efforts to repair the broken parts before reuse. This needs additional money and human effort. The more bicycles collected, the more money and human efforts it needs. Third, when bicycles are collected, they need room for storage. In fact, it is difficult to find a large and safe room to store them for a large number of bicycles. Some would be stolen if no protection.

No plan or projects are perfect at the beginning. This project is still on progress and welcomed and by the covered students. Similar recycling projects also can be done for books. Compared to bicycle, recycling books are relatively easier.



Figure a:bicycles around dormitory; b:abandoned bicycles on the ground; c: abandoned bicycles in the basement; d:broken bicycles in the basement.