

## E-Bikes at Play: Enhancing Sustainability and Employee Well-Being at Play Away Indoor Park

### Cost of Program

**Capital Cost:** \$15,895.61  
**Operational Cost:** \$1,000  
**Expected ROI:** 18.87%

### Cost Savings

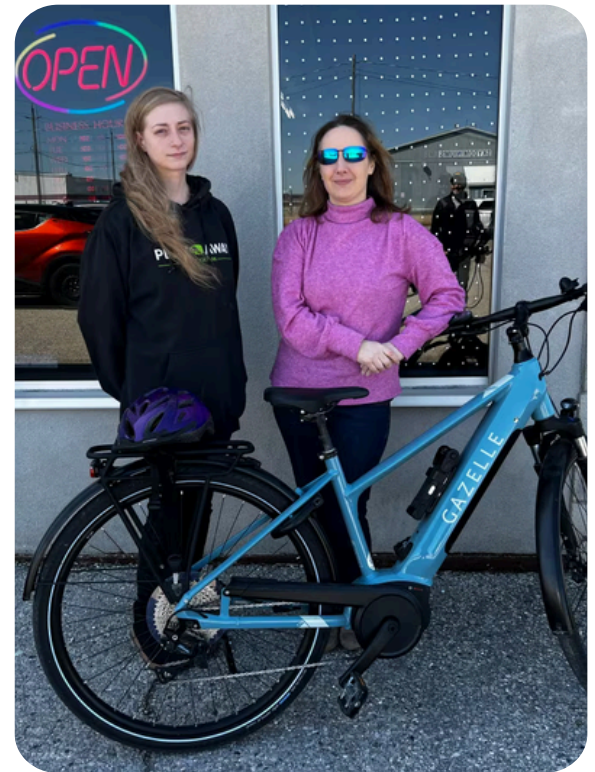
**\$3,000** in commuting costs saved in just 6 months

### Environmental Impact

Each e-bike helps avoid **0.24 tons of CO2** emissions per year

Play Away Indoor Park in London, Ontario, offers a safe and clean environment for families with active children. Established in 2016 by a family with energetic kids, the park aims to provide a healthy and fun space for children to play. In 2019, Play Away joined Green Economy London, prioritizing sustainability to ensure a bright future.

One significant challenge Play Away faces is limited public transportation serving their facility, affecting many staff members who rely on it for commuting. With bus fare totaling \$20 weekly and services ending early or not operating on weekends, commuting options are limited and costly. To address this, Play Away invested in e-bikes in 2022. These bikes enable longer commutes without needing a shower, promoting active transport and saving costs. Katie Singer, the owner, highlighted how e-bikes solved transportation and financial constraints for employees.



Often times young people feel powerless when it comes to helping the environment and this project provides the employees at Play Away with an opportunity to help and make changes in their daily routines.

- Katie Singer, Owner



With a \$20,000 Desjardins GoodSpark Grant in 2022, Play Away purchased three e-bikes from the London Bicycle Cafe equipped for secure storage, charging, and lights. Initial costs totalled \$15,895.61, with \$1,000 annually for maintenance and insurance. Safety being paramount, Play Away provided bike safety training and ongoing support, ensuring staff comfort and safety.

Since 2023, two e-bikes have been regularly used, with one becoming a primary mode of transport, covering over 600 km by October 2023. This reduced CO2 emissions by 0.12 metric tons and saved \$3,000 for one staff member, showing immediate impact. Katie Singer emphasized every kilometer biked reduces costs and environmental impact.

Beyond financial and environmental benefits, e-bikes positively impacted employee well-being. Employees reported increased happiness and productivity, attributing it to improved mental health and reduced commuting stress. In 2024, e-bikes continue playing a central role, facilitating employee commutes. The success of Play Away's e-bike initiative demonstrates how small ideas can create significant impacts, offering a model for sustainable transport solutions. It shows that even modest changes can benefit businesses of any size or industry, proving potential for positive environmental change and accessible transportation solutions.

### News Articles and Resources

- [How E-bikes Will Help Staff at London Business Commute to Work When Public Transit Fails](#)
- [Local Business Providing E-bikes to Full Time Staff with \\$20K Grant](#)
- [Desjardins GoodSpark Grants](#)

**“ This program means a lot to me from a low-income aspect. It opens a lot of doors for employees. It is so helpful to employees in providing an accessible transportation option, is a healthy activity, and is good for the environment ”**

**Jess Ecker, Employee**