PeopleForBikes.org

With an e-bike, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, e-bikes are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes and the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association are clarifying state laws governing the use of e-bikes in the U.S. Every state’s law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed e-bikes are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.

NEW HAMPSHIRE’S E-BIKE LAW FOR THE ROAD

» E-bikes are regulated like bicycles. The same rules of the road apply to both e-bikes and human-powered bicycles.
» E-bikes are not subject to the registration, licensing or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
» New Hampshire designates three classes of e-bikes:
  • Class 1: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.
  • Class 2: Bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.
  • Class 3: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 28 mph.

» A Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike may be ridden on bicycle or multi-use paths where bicycles are permitted. Class 3 e-bikes are only allowed on the roadway, unless otherwise allowed by the local authority.
» You must be 16 years or older to ride a Class 3 e-bike, unless the e-bike is designed to accommodate passengers.
» Helmets are required for riders or passengers of Class 3 e-bikes under the age of 18.
» A city, town or state agency that has jurisdiction can restrict where e-bikes are allowed. When in doubt, check for local rules and regulations.

NEW HAMPSHIRE’S E-BIKE LAW FOR TRAILS

» LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.

» STATE: The New Hampshire Bureau of Trails does not have a law or policy specifically addressing e-bikes. In general, though, e-bikes are defined as motorized vehicles. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.

» FEDERAL: The majority of public lands managed for recreation in New Hampshire are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, where eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Regional Office for more information.

GREAT eMTB RIDES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

» Rockingham Recreational Rail Trail
  Manchester | 28 miles

» Sawyer River Road Area
  Bartlett Village | 30 miles

» Green Woodlands Foundation
  Dorchester | over 50 miles

Learn more at PeopleForBikes.org/e-bikes

» Blogs and webinars
» E-bike laws around the country
» E-bike statistics and research
» Buying guide
» Retailer materials
» eMTB management resources

A map of great eMTB rides at peopleforbikes.org/emtb
eMTB “Adventures” at peopleforbikes.org/e-bikes

CHECK OUT

Green Woodlands Foundation
Dorchester | over 50 miles

NEW HAMPSHIRE’S E-BIKE LAW


* Helmet requirements:
  - Class 1 or Class 2: No helmet required for anyone.
  - Class 3: Helmets required for all riders 18 years old or younger.

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