In the March/April issue, we reported on a number of used gear programs at outdoor brands, mostly specific to apparel. Now, it appears that bike brands are getting in on the game: Trek recently announced its Red Barn Refresh program (“red barn” isn’t a non sequitur — Trek originated in a small red barn in Waterloo, Wisconsin, as the story goes).

According to Trek, this is the industry’s first such program led by a bike manufacturer. The idea is to create a circular economy: consumers can trade in their old Trek bikes at any Trek Bicycle Store in the U.S. for in-store credit toward purchasing a new bike; used bikes for sale on the e-commerce site — to be launched later this year — will undergo a 151-point inspection and come with a 30-day unconditional guarantee, as well as Trek’s limited lifetime guarantee. Bikes less than 10 years old and valued at $150 or more (according to Bicycle Blue Book), and eBikes less than two years old, will be accepted. Eventually, according to Trek, the Red Barn Refresh site will be supplied with trade-ins from independent Trek retailers as well as Trek staff, race teams, and demos.

This summer, the Adventure Cycling headquarters in Missoula, Montana, introduced a new bike repair stand right outside the building. It features a wheel stand, tire pump, assorted Allen wrenches — all the necessary tools to tune up an everyday commuter or touring rig. It may seem an odd choice to decorate the stand with an illustration of blue board shorts, but it’s a nod to former Executive Director Jim Sayer, who stepped down in 2019 after 15 years at the helm. Sayer famously (or notoriously, depending on your perspective) wore board shorts both at work and on the bike. The repair stand is available 24/7 for all Missoulians and visiting cyclists. —Sage Sutcliffe
R.I.P. All-City
QBP TO RETIRE ALL-CITY CYCLES

In August, as first reported by The Radavist, distributor Quality Bicycle Products (QBP) announced to its retailers that it would be winding down its All-City brand of bicycles. In a letter to retailers, QBP said that there would be no new product development beyond model year 2024 and that All-City “will eventually be retired in a few years.” QBP stated that it will release new All-City inventory to the market through 2024 and that it will continue to support warranty claims and supply replacement parts.

All-City was founded in 2007 by QBP employee Jeff Frane in response to the resurgent interest in fixie bikes, initially focusing on the urban cycling market but eventually branching out to offer models for cyclocross, road, touring, gravel, and mountain. You could have your All-City in any frame material you wanted, as long as it was steel (titanium was offered for the Cosmic Stallion, but acknowledging that would ruin the joke). Owners prized their All-City bikes for their unique colorways and signature details like lugged fork crowns and investment-cast dropouts.

The Space Horse and Gorilla Monsoon are two models that have been well loved among touring and bikepacking enthusiasts (and also reviewed positively by this very magazine), but we’ve seen just about every All-City model employed in some way or another for bike travel, including their track and fixie models. QBP will continue to offer steel bikes under its Surly and Salsa monikers, but whether the market holes created by the loss of All-City will be filled by QBP’s other brands remains an open question. All-City is a core brand for those of us who love steel bikes, and it will be missed.

In the May 2022 issue, we reported on the eBike battery collection and recycling program started by Call2Recycle. The goal of the program is to keep eBike batteries out of landfills and to recycle material into new batteries. With eBikes becoming more popular every day, it’s an issue worthy of attention.

Since the program began in late 2021, Call2Recycle has brought on 54 participating manufacturers and over 1,900 shops where consumers can drop off their old batteries for collection. So far, Call2Recycle has recycled over 43,000 pounds of eBike batteries. That’s a lot of lithium!

Call2Recycle has even created a consumer-facing program called Hungry for Batteries, with a mascot named Watts! He’s a blue monster who … eats batteries? We’re not sure on the logistics of that. But if you own an eBike or you’re thinking about buying one, and you want to know more about how to take proper care of your bike’s battery and what to do with the battery when it’s at the end of its life, check out hungryforbatteries.org.

In June, Kate Strong — a world champion triathlete and cycling world record holder — set off for a three-month, 3,000-mile circumnavigation of the UK by bike. But she had no intention of setting records or even going fast. Instead, her plan was to talk to people face to face about climate change and to spark a national conversation.

Along the way, Strong visited more than 30 sustainability projects, such as community gardens, eco camps, and even a seaweed farm. She also met with local communities, speaking at school assemblies and holding town halls, to have real discussions about the effects of climate change and the roadblocks to living more sustainably. Naturally, she touted cycling as both a boon to the environment and a way for people to feel closer to nature.

Instead of the race bikes she’s used to, Strong rode a bicycle made of bamboo and camped along the way, staying with Warmshowers hosts when the weather got a little too British. It was her first time bike touring, but — as she told GCN in an interview in September — it won’t be her last.