



CENTER FOR  
Sustainable  
Climate Solutions



## CSCS Climate Ride Update

Hello and welcome to the second Climate Ride Update! We are so excited you decided to subscribe and join us on this journey! (If you haven't subscribed, you can do so using the button at the bottom.)

In the two weeks since the last update, the Climate Ride leaders have been hard at work solidifying details about the route and the climate-related events along the way.

The participants have been busy as well, hunting for the 'perfect bike', gathering gear for the trip, and getting into a training routine.

---

**Meeting the team**

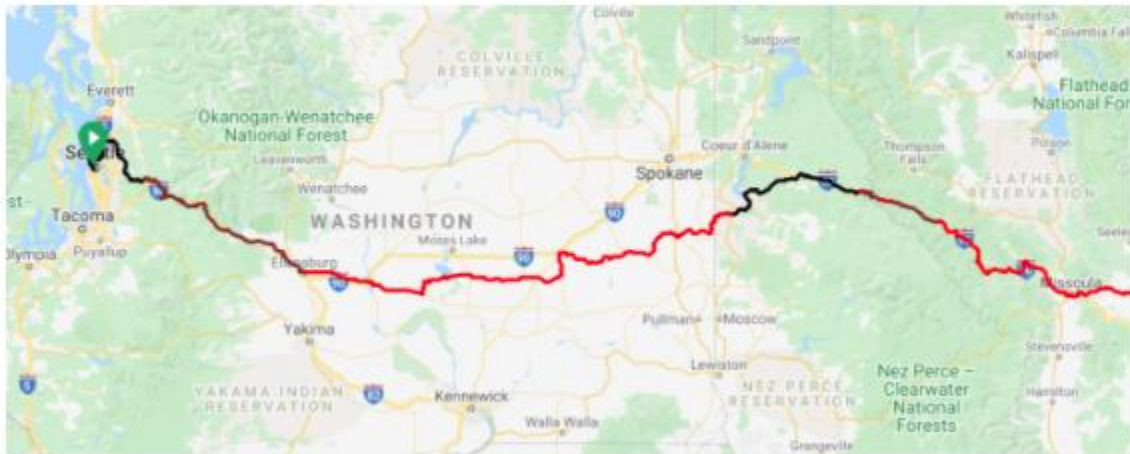


The 15 riders and two trip leaders met as a group for the first time over Zoom. The team members joined from five different locations including Harrisonburg, VA; Buffalo, NY; Fresno, CA; Goshen, IN and Winnipeg, Canada.

The group includes a mixture of college students and young adults from a variety of vocational fields. Two riders will be highlighted in each of the coming updates, starting with Micah Buckwalter and Greta Lapp Klassen featured below.

---

### **Event Spotlight: Seattle, Washington**



In Seattle, our goal will be to "Move the Needle." This is where we start our 4,000-mile journey across the United States and set the tone for the next two months.

Our first major event will be a panel discussion on May 30 put on in collaboration with Seattle Mennonite Church and Grist, an environmental media outlet that was founded in 1999 and describes itself on its website as "an independent, irreverent news outlet and network of innovators working toward a planet that doesn't burn and a future that doesn't suck." The panel will include members of the SMC congregation, Grist employees Daniel Penner (senior video producer) and Kate Yoder (associate editor) and several riders from our group.

The next morning, we will depart from Seattle in style with a community ride, joined on bike by members of local congregations, connections of CSCS and fellow climate advocacy enthusiasts. We hope to start important discussions about what it means to be climate activists both during the panel and on the community ride that will continue throughout the ride and beyond.

---



The CSCS Climate Ride is made possible by our generous financial supporters. We are especially grateful to our lead partner for the Climate Ride, Mennonite Economic Development Associates.

In our following updates, we'll be highlighting our other sponsors. Watch for those, and join the team by [becoming a sponsor/donor](#) yourself.

---

## Meet the riders



### **Micah Buckwalter**

Micah Buckwalter is a sophomore environmental sustainability major at Eastern Mennonite University. Originally from Fulks Run, VA, Micah loves being active and spending time outdoors. He is on the EMU soccer team and got into cycling and mountain biking during quarantine this past year.

What Micah loves most about his field of study are the opportunities to get outside and do hands-on research. Micah has been testing the nutrients, bacteria and water force in streams in the Shenandoah Valley since his senior year of high school. "It's a really great way to get outside and... find out new things about the areas where you're living," he said.

What gives Micah hope in the face of climate change is people doing the little things

like wasting less and using a bike instead of a car. "I think (or at least hope) that our generation will take behavior changes very seriously," he said.

Doing a bikepacking trip has been a goal of Micah's for quite some time. Besides the adventure, he said, "I'm really looking forward to this trip because of the goal of bringing awareness to climate issues."



Greta Lapp Klassen

Greta Lapp Klassen is a sophomore English major at Goshen College. Greta, who is also minoring in art and writing, is involved in the college's orchestra and choir as well as the campus newspaper and in-house publishing groups. Greta grew up in Goshen and spent a year in Bolivia through Mennonite Central Committee's SALT program before starting college.

Greta, who describes herself as a story-teller, finds hope in the power of stories to motivate and unite people and is excited about the opportunities for sharing stories on the Climate Ride. She is also excited to see new parts of the country, as she has never been farther west than Kansas.

Greta wanted to join the Climate Ride to build a deeper connection with her own body and the natural world through the physically-challenging experience. "I think there's no better way to understand what climate change is doing to our earth," she said, "than living super rooted in the earth and our bodies for two months... If we can foster positive relationships with our bodies in nature, I think we can go out and change the world."

---

---

Thank you for your support and interest in the Climate Ride! As you wait for the next update in two weeks, we leave you with this quote from one of the featured riders. Consider how Greta's words apply to your life.

**"I know from experience that I am most passionate about the things that I'm most connected to... I think that the first step in order to make positive change is to rebuild (people's) lost relationship with nature. I want to do that for myself because I think that that will make me a better steward of the earth."**

**- Greta Lapp Klassen**

[Subscribe to the newsletter](#)



CENTER FOR  
Sustainable  
Climate Solutions

[www.sustainableclimatesolutions.org](http://www.sustainableclimatesolutions.org)

Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions  
1200 Park Road, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802  
[cscs@sustainableclimatesolutions.org](mailto:cscs@sustainableclimatesolutions.org)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

*Copyright © 2018 Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, All rights reserved.*



