



## CSCS Climate Ride Update

Welcome to another update! We are 75 days out from the start of the trip, according to our [trip countdown](#).

The riders gathered again this Sunday (by zoom, of course!) to continue preparing for the trip. This week we were joined by Kristin De Mello and Clara Weybright from Mennonite central Committee's Washington Office for a briefing on the grand finale of our trip: a "hill visit."



A climate strike in Washington DC. Photo courtesy of Tammy Alexander/MCC.

Clara is this year's [CSCS Futures Fellowship](#) recipient, and is working with MCC in Washington DC to help develop [climate resources](#) to equip Mennonite congregations for political advocacy. During our meeting, Clara began preparing us for the meetings we will have with our senators and representatives when we ride into DC on July 27 after having crossed the entire country.

Clara explained the importance of sharing our stories in the Capitol:

"A member of congress' job is to feel out what their constituents care about, so you saying, 'I biked across the entire country because I care so much about climate change' is honestly really, really convincing. You have a story, you have something really human that's tied to these issues that often become really sterile and disconnected."

But that's jumping ahead, there are a lot of stops to make before reaching Washington...

---

## Event Spotlight: Yellowstone National Park



One of America's most popular destinations, Yellowstone National Park, is the location of our third event stop. While there, we will focus on how climate change impacts the landscape and how we respond to those effects.

After leaving our previous stop Missoula, Mont., we will head south through one of the most mountainous sections of our ride to arrive in Bozeman, Mont., just north of the park. Here we will get to hear from Dave Thoma, a landscape ecologist working on strategies to manage climate change and its impacts on Yellowstone National Park. Two days later we will meet with Ann Rodman, a climate scientist who works with geospatial analysis in the park.

We will have a full day in the national park to rest and explore before our route takes us out of the park and over the second-highest pass of the trip near Avalanche Peak, where the road crests at 8,588 feet. A few days later we will climb to the highest point of our trip at over 9,650 ft while crossing the Bighorn Mountains on our way to the Great Plains.

---

## Meet the riders



## Vanessa Gardiner

Vanessa Gardiner is a freshman at Eastern Mennonite University studying biology and kinesiology. Vanessa is on EMU's basketball, track and triathlon teams, and loves to exercise and challenge herself physically. She also likes to read, do yoga, paint, draw and watch anime. Vanessa, who grew up in Springfield, Va., describes herself as "a little shy at first, but I will eventually open up to everyone."

When thinking about climate change, Vanessa is most concerned about the effects on animals and other living organisms. She is worried that "we are not taking enough action together as a global community." Where she finds hope is in people who are giving their all to raise awareness for the issue.

Vanessa was attracted to the climate ride because she said, "I wanted to bring more awareness to climate change and challenge my mental and physical abilities." She is fairly new to both biking and traveling, and looks forward to developing her biking skills and seeing many new places.



## Denver Beck

Denver Beck is a junior Goshen College student majoring in sustainability studies and minoring in art. Denver is a member of the Goshen College soccer team and loves playing all kinds of sports as well as listening to music, going on “ambitious outdoor adventures” and playing his guitar. Denver is originally from Vermont, but more recently calls Archbold, Ohio home.

As someone studying sustainability, Denver believes that making changes to systems and policies is “really vital to make bigger steps towards addressing climate change.” Some recent changes that give Denver hope include the cancellation of the Keystone pipeline and the US’s recommitment to the Paris Climate Accords.

“When I first heard about the (Climate) Ride,” Denver said, “I thought it

was a great opportunity to combine two things I'm really passionate about... being outside, being active, and climate action."

What is Denver looking forward to on the trip? "I'm most looking forward to the simplicity and joy of having one goal every day, just getting up and biking."



The CSCS Climate Ride acknowledges the generous support of [ReGen](#) and [Everence](#), who each have contributed \$5000 or more towards making this trip possible.

---

Thanks for following along for another update!

If you're looking for more ways to connect with CSCS and want to dig deeper into the intersection of climate and racial justice, consider joining the ongoing CSCS webinar series "[For the beauty of the earth.](#)"

---

**Subscribe to the Climate Ride Newsletter!**

---