



## CSCS Climate Ride Update

Hello and welcome to update number six!

With a month and a half left before the start of the trip, the riders are getting down to business with their training, gathering bike shorts and other necessities for the trip and beginning to engage in conversation around climate change and climate justice (over zoom).

This week, we're excited to release our promotional video, which you can check out below.

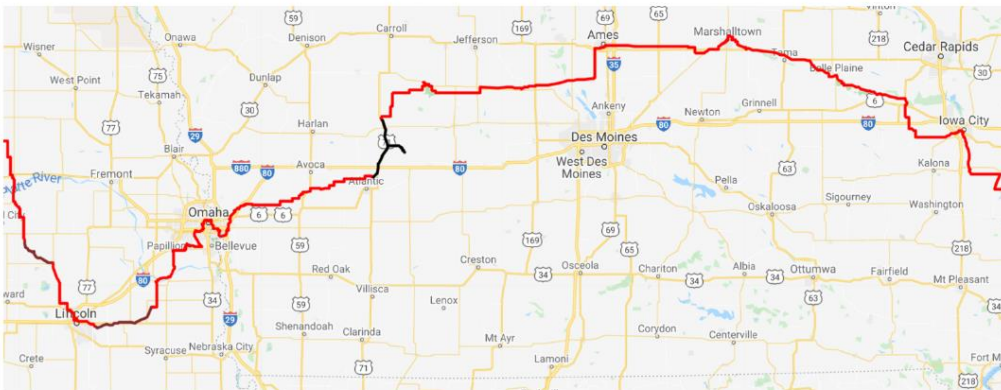


We also want to share an opportunity with you:

If you're interested in the intersection of climate and racial justice, join us for the [For the Beauty of the Earth webinar](#) put on by CSCS on April 22 (8 pm ET/5 pm PT). In the session titled "Earth Day Altar Call," Sarah Nahar will share from her experience and work on the intersection of religion and environmental justice. See her [interview with MCUSA](#) for a preview of what she will bring to this important conversation.

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### Event Spotlight: Lincoln, Nebraska



The halfway point of our trip will land us in Lincoln, Nebraska, where we will join several local organizations for conversations on racial equity. During the afternoon of July 1, we plan to gather with the congregation of First Mennonite Church in Lincoln, including a large number of church members from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Later that evening we will host our third webinar/panel of the trip in partnership with First Mennonite Church and Nebraskans for Peace, a community-level advocacy group focused on a wide range of issues including civil rights, environmental justice, and conflict prevention/resolution.

As we depart from Lincoln the following day, we will be joined for the morning by a number of local riders from the community. From there, we will make our way eastward across the plains and toward our next stop, Iowa.

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## **Meet the riders**



## Isaac Andreas

Isaac Andreas is a junior at Eastern Mennonite University studying math and computer science. Isaac grew up in Chicago and North Newton, Kansas and has spent time living in Guatemala, Spain and Israel/Palestine as well. But numbers and traveling aren't his only passions. He also enjoys creating ceramics, riding scooters, dumpster diving, eating peanut butter, playing frisbee and asking questions.

Isaac said he wanted to join the climate ride because "I saw what kinds of people were applying for it and I wanted to be more like them."

When thinking about climate change, he said, "My biggest concern is how disproportionately climate change affects the poor." Isaac is a proponent of effective altruism, which means he searches out solutions that have the potential to make the biggest positive impact with a given amount of resources, and puts his energy and resources into them.

A quote by Shantideva, an 8th-century philosopher from India, gives Isaac hope in the face of climate change: "If you can solve your problem, then what is the need of worrying? If you cannot solve it, then what is the use of worrying?"

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## **Anna Paetkau**

Anna Paetkau is a junior studying biology and environmental science at Eastern Mennonite University. Originally from Goshen, Indiana, Anna has always loved nature, and hopes to become a marine biologist someday. Anna joined the triathlon team at EMU this year.

Climate change is on Anna's mind a lot and they often ponder the systems that allow for climate change to happen. "The western way of life," Anna said, "is a lot of consume, consume, and I think a lot of people, because it's so ingrained in their minds, have accepted that as natural for humans."

"It's terrifying to think that it is," they said, "because how do we change that? But I don't think it is at all." The realization that many harmful habits, like consumerism, aren't actually human nature gives Anna hope because it means that change is possible.

Looking ahead at the bike trip, Anna is excited to learn from people with different experiences and views than their own. They believe this will help them relate with

people from a wider range of backgrounds in their field of study. They also look forward to the confidence they will gain in their body. “being able to know that my body can transport me from coast to coast is a very amazing thing,” they said. Despite what society tells us, Anna said, “there is no ideal body. It’s just your body and it’s working for you, and that’s beautiful.”

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The CSCS Climate Ride acknowledges Timothy and Ruth Jost for their generous support at the "Advocate Sponsorship" level (\$5,000 or more).

If you or your business would like to show your support for this group of passionate climate advocates, contact us at [climateride@sustainableclimatesolutions.org](mailto:climateride@sustainableclimatesolutions.org) or [advancement@sustainableclimatesolutions.org](mailto:advancement@sustainableclimatesolutions.org).

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Thanks again for following along! We will leave you with this thought from Anna:

“Obviously humans are to blame (for climate change), but we are working under the system that we were born into and have been taught to be compliant with. I think that a lot of people now are realizing that we don't have to be compliant with the system that we were given. And we shouldn't be because it doesn't work for us. That realization... is really hopeful.”

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