



CENTER FOR
Sustainable
Climate Solutions



CSCS Climate Ride Update

Week 8: Washington D.C.!



Hi and welcome to the last week of the climate ride! After five days of riding on the Great Allegheny Passage and C & O Canal trails from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the riders finally made it to D.C. this week!



The final leg

At 1pm on Wednesday, the 17 climate riders, along with a handful of guest riders, pedaled onto the National Mall in Washington D.C. They had covered almost 4,000 miles to get there and spent 2 months exploring the country on their bikes. They had finally made it!

The riders were met with many emotions when they arrived in the Capital: excitement, accomplishment, relief, sadness. But their job wasn't quite over yet. After reuniting with friends and family over lunch on the Mall, the riders split into groups for meetings with their respective senators and representatives.

Theme for the week: Policy for Just Transitions :

National policies supporting people and planet

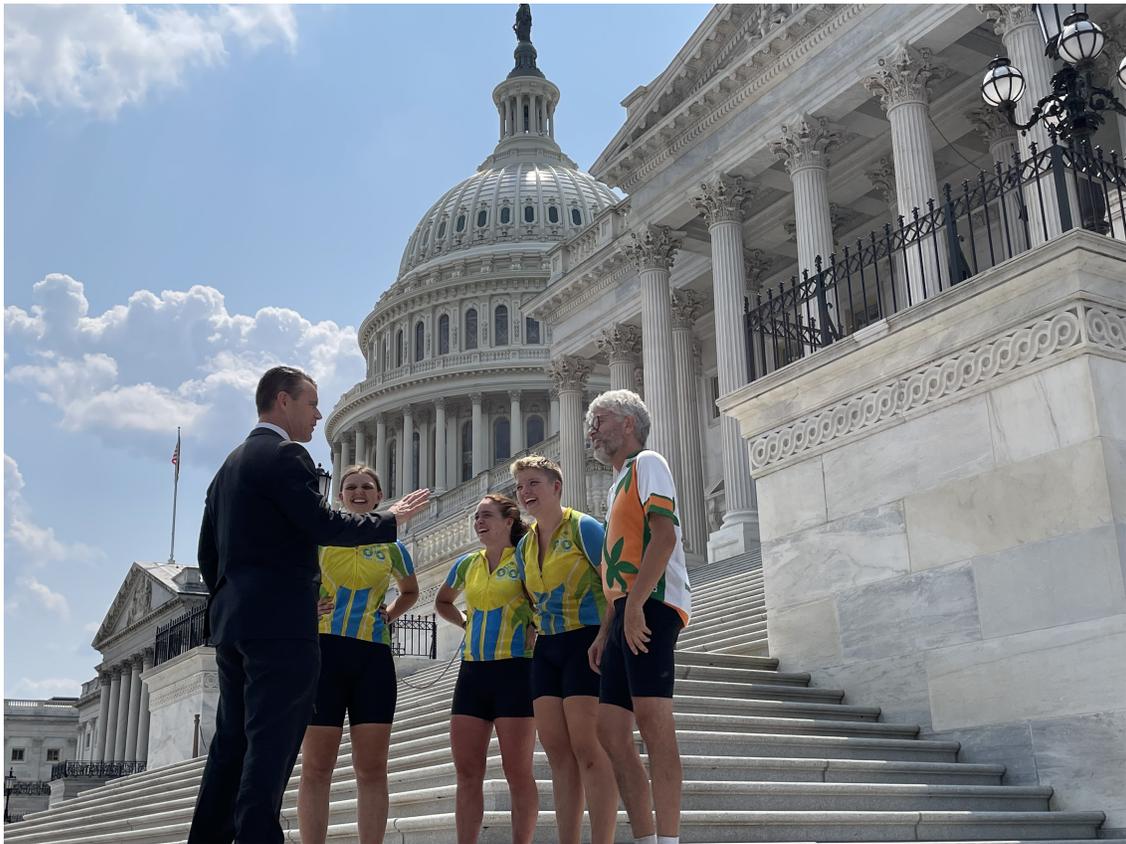


Visiting lawmakers

With the help of staff from MCC's Washington office, the riders met with senators and representatives from eight states as well as Canada to push for climate-focused legislature and to tell stories from their ride.

In their meetings, the riders presented three asks: 1) legislation to accelerate the transition to clean energy, 2) legislation to make infrastructure more sustainable and just, and 3) legislation to aid impacted workers and communities through the transition to cleaner energy.

After their meetings, the riders made their way to Hyattsville Mennonite Church for a final lasagna dinner and a townhall event in which panelists shared stories from the ride.



The group from Indiana meeting Senator Young

A video reflection

Rider Isaac Andreas created a music video reflecting on the trip and CSCS's goal of addressing climate change. Watch the video here!





Miriam Huebner:

On this trip I am known for riding off the road a lot. At least once daily I ride into the ditch, not because I am bad at biking but because paying attention to the plants beside the road feels a lot more important than paying attention to the road itself. I have spent countless hours looking at the purple petals of echinacea and wild bergamot and the splatters of mulberries on the trail that promise a tasty snack from the trees above. In order to really see the land that I am riding through, biking is still too fast and I need to slow down or risk riding off of the road.

It is strange that at the speed of a bicycle I still often long to go slower. Before this ride started, I imagined that I would be able to really pay attention to the country that I am biking through. However, I still feel like I am going too fast to truly notice my surroundings. I can see the blur of flowers but I miss the pollinators that land on them. Even though we are not going as fast as a car the desire for speed and efficiency is still built into our bodies and minds and intentionally slowing down still feels strange and uncomfortable.

I think that this discomfort with slowing down is a reflection of our broader society. We are pushed to compete with others and internalize the idea that being better or faster than others is our only way to do well in the world. Speed has become so normalized that slowing down, caring for, and deeply knowing the earth that we live on and the people that we live has become uncommon.

On this trip I have come to realize the importance of both speed and slowness. At times I want to speed down a mountain or push my body to see how fast it can go and relish in its strength, but at other times I want to ride slowly and really notice the land I am riding through, stopping when I see a particularly cool looking mushroom or wildflower. Slowing down to pay more attention to the land and the people I see is important because it is in the act of slowing down that we build community and connection to each other and to the world.

Read reflections from other riders [here](#)



The ride is finished, but the journey continues

You've seen their pictures, you've heard their stories. But there's more to say. All through the journey we've been collecting video footage. We want to put that footage together so that the journey continues to have an impact.

We are asking for your help in financially supporting the work needed to make thematic climate ride videos that will continue to move the story of climate change.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to edit the video footage we have taken and create videos that will capture the imagination and support of hundreds of people just like you.

[Read more and support Climate Ride videos](#)



Finally, thank you...to so many people!

It would take an entire update for CSCS to properly thank all those involved with the climate ride. We'll settle with a quick list, and we know longer thanks are passed on to these folks in other places!

So thanks to:

....those that had the vision to convince us that we needed to do the climate ride

....our financial sponsors, including our lead partner MEDA

....the 16 riders who took on this challenge!

....Dan and Mary Ann Conrad for volunteering 2 months of their summer to provide support

....folks at all the stops who took time to arrange events, meals, conversations,

etc with the riders

...leaders Joanna Friesen and David Landis, who expertly handled all the details while remaining resolutely upbeat. May they get deserved rest for the remainder of the summer!

...and you, for being a part of this journey in many ways!

*Doug Graber Neufeld (CSCS
Director), on behalf of all at CSCS*



**"Congratulations, you just sat for two months... on a
bike."**

David Landis, co-leader of the trip

Follow us on social media! (#CSCSClimateRide)



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