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## Montanan's Non-Profit Grants Over \$4.5 Million to Combat Climate Change

**Missoula, Montana, 2018-1-9** – Caeli Quinn is just getting started. In the ten years since founding Climate Ride, she's guided the Missoula-based nonprofit from a small organization that ran one event a year into an international force for the planet. **In 2017, Climate Ride granted \$765,000, which has been distributed to organizations across the country** to help them combat climate

change.

Caeli graduated from Northwestern University and then hit the road on two wheels. Her interest in languages and culture led to ten years traveling the globe, working for Backroads, the active travel company. On a bicycle trip through China and Burma, Caeli resolved to marry her love of adventure bicycling and her passion for the planet in order to address sustainability and environmental issues. After moving to Whitefish, Montana, she was inspired to help propel the US to a green economy, which led to co-founding Climate Ride.

Today, Climate Ride organizes outdoor adventures in some of the world's most beautiful yet at risk landscapes in order to highlight the impact of climate change for participants, who agree to raise money for nonprofits. These are once-in-a-lifetime events that create connections between communities and people interested in taking action for the planet. Quinn has big plans for 2018 to mark the tenth year of Climate Ride, including a brand new adventure in Bhutan.

Quinn writes, "In 2008, I helped found Climate Ride to make sure there would be a future for the generations that will inherit this planet. That year, we did one ride in D.C. with just about 100 people biking to Capitol Hill to meet with Members of Congress. Little did I know that in 10 years we would raise over \$4.5 million for organizations that are directly fighting climate change and funding sustainable solutions that benefit everyone, like bike paths, solar installations, and conservation projects."

Since 2008, Caeli and her team have run more rides and hikes, including Glacier Ride in Glacier National Park, which has funded solar panels at Logan Pass and at the Apgar Visitor Center, and a bicycle shuttle system to reduce congestion and pollution in the park. The 2017 ride to D.C. brought riders from across the country including a team from Florida who had just lived through the devastating impact of two hurricanes made worse by climate change. Climate Ride participants put actionable strategies to address climate change into the hands of Senators and Representatives from both sides of aisle.



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Climate Ride has organized cycling events along the California Coast to highlight climate impact and raise sizeable operating funds for bicycle coalitions. In 2017, they hosted a Climate Ride in Iceland to learn about renewable energy and to see Europe's largest glacier. And this year, for the tenth anniversary, Climate Riders will head to Bhutan in the Himalaya. There we will meet with experts like [Tashi Dukpa](#), Director of the Bhutan Foundation, which works on [snow leopard conservation](#) and [climate change education](#) in Bhutan. Quinn says, "Our goal in the next ten years is to expand our rides and hikes, and create a channel for citizens to combat climate change and support sustainability, even if our government won't."

The coming year will bring three new rides in [Colorado](#), [Nova Scotia](#), and [Bhutan](#) – all multi-day fundraisers. In Bhutan, participants will ride through the challenging terrain of the Himalaya and meet with local climate experts and university students studying sustainability. The Bhutan Ride will take place in April, and Caeli will join other cyclists who each will have raised at least \$5,000. Proceeds benefit Climate Ride outreach and event programs, which generate grants for more than 100 organizations including [National Parks Conservation Association](#), [350.org](#), [Vote Solar](#), [Food and Water Watch](#), [People for Bikes](#), [1% For the Planet](#), and dozens of active transportation coalitions throughout the U.S.

Climate Ride, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is a grassroots movement to protect the planet. By creating immersive, charitable events around the world, it inspires, educates, and generates powerful grants for the environment, climate, conservation, and bike advocacy. Since 2008, Climate Ride has donated more than \$4.5 Million to sustainability and active transportation nonprofits. Those interested in a multi-day bike ride or hike can register for a Climate Ride event at <http://www.climateride.org/>.

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If you would like more information about Climate Ride, please visit [www.climateride.org](http://www.climateride.org) or email [info@climateride.org](mailto:info@climateride.org).

**Photo:** Climate Ride Blue Ridge to DC arrives at the US Capitol after riding 200 miles. 110 cyclists met with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island in September of 2017.