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Climate Ride Grants More Than \$100,000 to Environmental Action Nonprofits

Missoula, Montana, 3-30-2021 — Climate Ride, the national charitable organization for sustainable solutions, has announced that it has granted \$100,467 to 95 nonprofit beneficiary organizations. The funds were raised during cycling events in 2020 — a year that saw a greatly reduced roster of events due to the coronavirus pandemic. In all, 105 advocate-cyclists pedaled on 7

events across the country to raise funds for and awareness of sustainability, environmental justice, bicycle advocacy, renewable energy, and climate change solutions. Additionally, grant funds were raised on two new virtual Climate "Rise" events, where participants completed a variety of activities such as baking, gardening, and playing music, to raise money for their favorite organizations. A full list of grant recipients is below.

Climate Ride's mission is more important than ever. In the twelve years since it started, the Montana-based nonprofit has grown from a small organization that produced one event a year into an international force for the planet. In 2019 alone, Climate Ride granted over \$800,000, which has been distributed to organizations across the country to help them combat climate change, support active transportation, environmental justice, and advance clean energy. Now, with COVID-19 impacting small nonprofits, that mission is more important than ever.

Adding to the grants generated through life-changing events, Climate Ride recently announced that it will deliver four \$5,000 action grants (\$20,000 in all) to nonprofits dedicated to environmental justice. A call for nominations was put out among the Climate Ride community of previous participants, and a subcommittee of Climate Ride board members will determine the allocation of the grants this spring.

With forest fires raging out of control, plastic filling up our oceans, at-risk communities feeling the brunt of pollution, and each year breaking new records for hottest days and months on the planet, many people feel overwhelmed. But Climate Ride offers a path to create real change. Climate Ride was founded to get people moving for the good of the environment and is determined to share that sense of optimism and action.

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. Participants raise funds for Climate Ride's grants program which features over 100 nonprofits selected by the participants. The organization's executive director Caeli Quinn has big plans for 2021, including new adventures in Vermont and West

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<u>Virginia</u> and an all virtual offering, <u>Climate Rise</u> that is free to join and raised over \$80,000 in grants last year.

Quinn writes, "In 2008, I was inspired to do my part. 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 from New York City to Washington D.C. with just about 100 people biking to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress. Little did I know that in 12 years we would raise over \$6.2 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, Climate Ride has produced more rides, hikes, and runs including <u>Glacier Ride</u> in Glacier National Park, which has funded solar panels throughout the park and a bicycle shuttle system to reduce congestion and pollution in the park. A recent 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. After arriving in D.C. by bike, Climate Ride participants put actionable strategies to address climate change into the hands of Senators and Representatives on both sides of the aisle.

Climate Ride has organized cycling events along the California Coast to highlight climate impact and raise sizeable operating funds for bicycle coalitions. In 2018, they hosted a Climate Ride in Bhutan to learn from experts like <u>Tashi Dukpa</u>, Director of the Bhutan Foundation, which works on <u>snow leopard conservation</u> and <u>climate change education</u>. Participants bicycled and hiked in the foothills of the Himalayas, and many described the event as life-changing. Quinn says, "Our goal in the next ten years is to expand our advocacy adventures, and build a global network of people who prioritize environmental giving and advocacy."

Proceeds benefit Climate Ride outreach and event programs, which generate grants for more than 100 organizations including <u>National Parks Conservation Association</u>, <u>350.org</u>, <u>Vote Solar</u>, <u>Food and Water Watch</u>, <u>People for Bikes</u>, <u>1% For the Planet</u>, and dozens of active transportation coalitions throughout the U.S. Learn more about Climate Ride's Grants in Action here.

Climate Ride, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, unites adventure and advocacy. Through immersive, charitable events around the world, the organization inspires, educates, and generates powerful grants for the environment, climate, conservation, and bike advocacy. Since 2008, Climate Ride has granted more than \$6.2 Million to sustainability and active transportation nonprofits. Those interested in a multi-day bike ride, hike, or run 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 or email info@climateride.org. Caeli Quinn is available for interviews, as are many Climate Riders across the country.

Photo: Climate Ride Glacier participants stop to take in the view. Additional photos can be found at https://www.climateride.org/photos/.

Recent press:

- Bicycling's list of top charity rides:
 https://www.bicycling.com/rides/g19842618/awesome-charity-bike-rides/
- The Ground is Hot Lava: Interview with Climate Rider and founder of Bike Curious Ian Heimlich: https://www.thegroundishotlava.com/2019/07/09/climate-ride-with-ian-founder-of-bike-curious/
- Medium: Review of our California Central Coast Ride by Colleen Proppé: https://medium.com/@cproppe/climate-ride-california-central-coast-9fdad29f3baf
- CBS interview with Climate Rider Tim Oey on his coast to coast ride:
 https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/biking-4400-miles-to-save-our-seas/509-dfb22b0c-b360-40

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