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To: Sandy Cameron <sandy@zebra84.plus.com>, carlisle2paris@gmail.com
Subject: Cycling from Carlisle to Paris for a fair deal on climate change

Hiya

Do you want to see world leaders make a deal which actually tackles climate change and prevents our global temperature rising more than 2 degrees?
Do you want to see a world where making the green choices in life easier and cheaper for everyone?

If so please read on (and particularly look at the section below on how you can offer help).

From Nov 30th - Dec 11th the UN Climate Conference (COP21) is being held in Paris. Its getting increasingly urgent that a legally binding agreement is put in place which prevents us reaching a tipping point in global warming which leads to runaway climate change. Over the past 20 years the UN conferences have not achieved this and as things stand the pledges being made by governments are going to lead to a 2.7 degree rise in temperature (source: Cumbria Action for Sustainability). Any deal signed with these pledges would effectively commit the world to irreversible climate change and leave a frightening legacy for future generations.

There will be thousands of people at the conference including many corporate lobbyists who want to persuade governments that continuing to burn fossil fuels and our lifestyles of endless consumption is fine. The lead sponsor for the event is BMW!!

So to counter this ordinary people who care about proper action being taken on climate change will also be going to Paris, taking messages with them from their communities urging governments to act for people and planet, rather than in the interests of money and big corporations.

I am going to be joining a group of five cyclists from Edinburgh at the border and will cycle with them to Paris from Sun 29th Nov to Thurs Dec 10th. We are all joining a group of about 100 cyclists from London. Cycling to Paris in December is a huge challenge for me and I am getting increasingly anxious about the weather forecast and strength of wind. But I feel cycling at this time of year is the strongest way that I can get the message to world leaders that I am taking climate change seriously, and I want them to too. Cycling might not be the easiest choice but it is the most practical low carbon method I can take to get to Paris. Choices leaders need to make on climate change may also not be the easiest for them politically but they can be done .. we have the skills, resources and technology to move to a zero carbon future. And ultimately measures taken would lead to a better, safer more secure world and benefit our health and wellbeing.

How you can offer support:

If you too want to see decisive and bold action on climate change there are various things you can do, linking to this ride or participating in other local events in relation to the conference. If you can support this ride I would really really appreciate it.

1. Write a **simple positive message to world leaders at COP21** and we will deliver it

for you.

The best way of doing this is to write the message on a piece of paper and then get a photo of you proudly holding it up. Then please email it to me at carlisle2paris@gmail.com and I will forward it on to the Time to Cycle website. For examples go to www.lensmob.com/a/timetocycle

If the technology to do this is too much for you (as it is me!) please just email me your message at carlisle2paris@gmail.com

2. Rather than asking for sponsorship money we are asking people to **make a pledge to reduce your carbon emissions** by taking simple actions in your life.

To pledge to do this please go to <http://edinburgh2paris.org/how-you-can-support-us/> and click on the link to make a simple pledge. Although only cycling from Carlisle I am joining in with the Edinburgh groups pledges.

3. **Join us for a bit of the ride or just come and wave me off!**

We would very much welcome people joining us for some of the ride as we come through your area.

This **Sunday 29th November** the cyclists are coming from Moffat. We are encouraging people to meet the group at **Carlisle Castle at 1.30pm** with the aim that we will set off at absolutely no later than 1.45pm for Penrith. You could just cycle with us out of Carlisle, or join us for more of the ride to Penrith. Do also bring (water proof) banners about action on climate change for the photo opp. Border TV are coming along so the more people there the better. Its an opportunity for Carlisle to show the Paris conference it cares about climate change.

On Monday 30th November we are travelling from Penrith to Lancaster via Shap and a reception in Kendal with the mayor. If you want to join us for some of this bit please contact me on 07939 196 441.

The rest of our route can be found at <http://edinburgh2paris.org/the-route/> if you would like to join us for any other sections.

4. **Take part in other local climate march events - part of the global climate marches**

Friday 27th November. A showing of the film based on Naomi Klein's acclaimed book: "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs Climate" which poses the question "what if climate change is the best opportunity that we will ever have to create a better world for us all?" Tickets are **free** but you need to book so we know about numbers.

<http://www.cafs.org.uk/events/tce/>

Saturday 28th November. Noon. Lakeshore at YHA Ambleside. Bring banners and placards to demand action on climate change. Big photoshoot with Windermere as backdrop to send a strong message to local and national media and world leaders. Rally will be addressed by Nick Dearden, national director of Global Justice now.

Sunday 29th November. 1pm Kendal Market Place. Join together to show governments we care about the future of the planet. Gather with home-made banners, placards etc. Event could last an hour so please wear warm clothes.

For info on other events over the weekend check out globalclimatemarch.org/en

5. Please spread the word as widely as possible

Please forward this email to anyone you think would be interested, share in your networks and share our stuff on social media and through talking to people about the climate conference.

There's a facebook page:

www.facebook.com/carlisle2paris

I hope to keep a blog on here during the journey too - depending on internet access over the trip.

For those who tweet my account is @helendavison1

If you have got to the bottom of this thanks so much for reading all through this. I appreciate there is a lot of info here, but there are lots of ways you can support the ride and show world leaders that you too care. And politicians won't change things unless the people let them know they want change.

Warm regards

Helen