

A guide to organising a 'Pedal on Cop' feeder ride to a COP26 event

The UN COP26 climate summit is being hosted in Glasgow at the start of November and is a crucial moment to tell governments that we need more support for cycling as part of action to tackle climate change.

We are keen to give you and your group the opportunity to get involved with COP26 events wherever you are in the UK.

We have produced this guide to organising a feeder ride to one of the COP26 events happening around the UK, but you can also use it for a climate themed ride to raise awareness.

To help enable everyone who wishes to organise a Pedal on COP ride to do so, we are hoping to be able to offer free public liability insurance for all feeder rides registered with Cycling UK. Keep your eye on our main [COP26 landing page](#), where we'll be releasing more details shortly.

We will update [information about COP26 activities](#) as plans develop, and provide more advice and suggestions about how to influence your local politicians. If you want to plan a ride, please let us know via campaigns@cyclingsuk.org

1. **Find your nearest COP26 event.** Look at the COP26 Coalition website for a [map of all COP26 events](#) on the 6 May – the day of global action. These are being added to all the time. If there are no hubs close to you, no problem, just hold a climate action themed ride or organise a local COP26 Hub.
2. **Decide on a date and time for the ride.** The [day of global action](#) is on 6 November but your ride can highlight the need for climate action and support for cycling at any time between 30 September and 14 November.
3. **Plan your route.** Creating a pre-determined route can help people to join you along the way - try to make it a pace and route which is welcoming to novice cyclists. Work out the timings at various points to avoid missing people.
4. **Legal stuff!** The COP26 marches and rallies will be fully organised with marshals, police cooperation and council agreement etc. Feeder rides should be similar to regular group rides so not need these, however, you should appoint an experienced ride leader and be covered by group insurance. [Our Ride Leader's toolkit](#) contains everything you need to plan your ride. [Contact Cycling UK](#) if you are unsure or need any advice. We hope to offer all registered feeder rides with free public liability insurance – check our main [COP26 page](#) for updates.
5. **Contact your nearest COP26 Hub.** Tell the organisers of the COP26 march, demonstration, or rally, that you are cycling to the event. They can then liaise with you about times, locations, road closures and other logistics. They may also be able to help advertise the feeder ride to a wider audience.
6. **Create an online event and invitation.**

- Set up a webpage, Facebook page, or Eventbrite page about the ride so that you can advertise it and invite people. Your group may already have a system for this.
 - Explain that you are riding to call for more support from Government for cycling at COP26 – find reasons why it's important in our [blog post](#)
 - There are images and [resources](#) available from our partner organisation Pedal on Parliament (PoP).
7. **Advertise the ride.** Spread the word to members of your group and to other local clubs and organisations. Invite everyone you know – it will be more impactful to get a wide variety of people joining you! COP26 is going to get huge media attention, with many local groups and organisations rallying around the themes of climate action and COP26. Because COP26 is being hosted in the UK we expect many people will feel inspired and want to join some sort of action. Keep spreading the word through your social media channels.
8. **Let the local media know.** Tell local papers, radio and tv that you are going to be riding for climate action and investment in cycling. Ask if they would send a photographer to the ride or to the destination (make sure you also get your own photos too). Here's [media advice](#) to get you started and a [guide to writing to your local paper](#).
9. **Invite politicians.** Ask your elected representatives including councillors to join you or meet with you at your destination. Here's a [guide to meeting politicians](#).
10. **Let us know!** We can help to promote your ride so please let us know your plans. We're here to provide advice too. Email us on campaigns@cyclingsuk.org to tell us your plans.

On the day

- Take lots of pictures, preferably of people on the ride looking happy – climate change is a serious issue but have fun. Also take pictures of you and your bikes at the destination, amongst the crowds. If you're featuring anyone in your photographs, make sure they're happy with it (or their parents/guardians if they're children). It's legally okay to use photographs of adults at a public event, but it's polite to ask and respect their wishes. For children, always make sure you have consent of their parents/guardians if they are identifiable (e.g. if they are facing the camera).
- If you have a club banner or flag take it along to wave and look colourful.
- Post your photos and messages on social media. Please use the hashtag #ThisMachineFightsClimateChange and #PedalOnCOP26