

## Bike for Climate!



**Bikestrike in Bangladesh, September, 2020**

Some climate groups are starting to hold biking events, where people get together and bike through town as a way to protest for authorities to declare a state of climate emergency, or take any other climate action, for that matter. This is an excellent way to raise awareness about the climate crisis. A biking event can also be used as a way to add variety to whatever else you're doing, like the "shoe strikes", or as an event to mark an important occasion or anniversary, like World Science Day for Peace and Development. Be sure to demand action on climate change or a declaration of a climate emergency!

All interested groups are encouraged to start hosting Bike to Declare A Climate Emergency events.

Logistics:

When?

Any day you like, possibly a few times a month. Just be consistent. (For example, every first Sunday of the month at 1pm.)

Where?

Anywhere. If you plan to close down or use most of a road, check with local authorities as you may need a permit. Or you could just get a permit to hold a demonstration.

Pandemic caution!

Remember to minimize the risk of spreading covid-19. Be sure to prioritize your own safety and follow all Coronavirus-related (and other) guidelines, including keeping a safe distance from others and following the rules of the local, regional or governmental health authority.

How?

Get together a group of friends or anyone else who wants to participate. Posting on social media is a good way to advertise - you can also use other ways to get the word out. Be creative! Then bring signs. Bike slowly or walk your bikes in a large group.

About signs and banners when biking:

It is harder to hold on to signs and banners when biking, especially if it is windy. It can be unsafe as the wind might make you lose your balance. Be creative when making your banners and signs. They need to be light and not catch too much wind. You could also make wearable banners by painting slogans on your clothes. If you happen to have a cargo bike that would be useful for holding a flag, banner or a larger sign.

Be heard!

It may be harder to shout slogans when biking. To get noticed and to be heard, you might want to use a megaphone or loudspeaker and connect that to a music player or your cell phone with a previously recorded message playing on repeat. Cargo bikes can also carry a musician if local traffic rules allow that.

Traffic regulations

Remember to check the local traffic regulations on how your group of bikes will be viewed. In some countries, a group of bikes travelling together in a social event or demonstration is considered one vehicle. That means that no other vehicles are allowed to pass through or break up the group, for example when the group changes lanes, makes a turn or goes around a roundabout. In some countries it is also mandatory for younger people and children to wear a bicycle helmet when biking.

Go ahead and register here! Register your event on the right. Or if you want to write your own posting go [here](#). In either case, we will put it on the global map.

Some things you could demand are:

- ❖ **Put people and the environment first.** Prioritize policies that encourage new jobs in clean energy sectors. Our action on the climate crisis should help, not hurt, the economy. Try demanding safety nets/measures for training and to help people get jobs in sustainable industries, etc.
- ❖ **Leave the fossil fuel economy.** Demand that all financial policies/Corona relief packages, etc, help work toward the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Global Sustainability Goals. End all fossil fuel industry subsidies, tax breaks, and investments.

- ❖ **Encourage sustainable transportation.** Some cities are great for biking, others not so much. Ask your local authorities to make your city friendlier for bikers (for example, build bike lanes, enforce any laws relating to the minimum distance cars have to give bikes when they pass, etc. Whatever works best in your area. Also, don't forget other methods of sustainable transportation).
- ❖ **Declare a state of climate emergency.** After it's declared, hold your leaders accountable!

Other Ideas of slogans:

Have a sign reading "Honk for climate action!"