

# "Bike for Change" Community Bike Ride and Rally

## Final Report

By Jen Hiebert, Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute

On Saturday, September 24, 2011 over 20 local organizations and businesses and 100 individuals participated in the "Bike for Change" Community Bike Ride and Rally as part of "Moving Planet: A Day to Move Beyond Fossil Fuels". The event was organized by the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, the University of Idaho Sustainability Center, and other local organizations and individuals to promote cycling as a healthy, fun and sustainable form of transportation.

Participants rode their bikes along Paradise Path to the rally at the western head of the Latah Trail. Local organizations such as the City of Moscow Sustainable Environment Commission, Paradise Path Task Force, and Friends of the Clearwater were present to share information about local and global issues related to cycling and climate change.

Attendees took part in interactive surveys, gave feedback on bike paths and rack locations, and pledged to commute more sustainably. The highlight was a group photo with bikes laid out in the shape of the number '350'--the parts per million (ppm) of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> we need to get back down to ASAP to avoid runaway global warming.

Many thanks to Paradise Creek Bicycles and B & L Bicycles for the free tune-ups, to Safe Routes to School for providing children's activities, and to those who helped organized the event, especially Adria Mead and Ryan Hague from the UI Sustainability Center and Margaret Dibble from the Paradise Path Task Force.

The event was followed by a Bike to Work Day on September 28, 2011 at Friendship Square in Moscow, Idaho to help participants kick start their pledge to commute more sustainably. Pedestrians and cyclists were rewarded with coffee donated by Sisters' Brew, breakfast goodies from Panhandle Artisan and bicycle cookies. Many thanks to Margaret Dibble and Karin Clifford for organizing this event.

For more information and to view the full list of supporters, visit [www.pcei.org/bikeforchange](http://www.pcei.org/bikeforchange).



This is the photo submitted to [350.org](http://350.org) showing participants' bikes laid out in the number "350" representing the parts per million (ppm) of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> we need to get down to ASAP to avoid runaway global warming. [View more photos online.](#)

## “Bike for Change” Interactive Survey

Participants in the “Bike for Change” event were asked to participate in a fun, interactive survey – they used colored dots (blue for male, green for female) to choose their answers to 5 questions, including “other” where they could write a response that differed from the ones provided.

While participant demographics were skewed towards dedicated cyclists, the results were similar to the results of more scientific surveys, such as the [City of Calgary cycling survey](#). Health and enjoyment were the main reasons for cycling, the weather and other obligations discouraged cycling, more and better pathways would encourage cycling, and female participants were more likely to feel unsafe cycling in traffic.



NOTE: "for transportation" = commuting to work/school, shopping, appointments, social purposes)

<b>1. How often do you cycle for transportation? (Pick 1)</b>			
	Males	Females	Total
<b>5-7 times a week</b>	20	15	35
<b>At least once a week</b>	9	7	16
<b>At least once a month</b>	2	3	5
<b>At least once every 2-3 months</b>	3	2	5
<b>At least once a year</b>	1	5	6
<b>Other (written comments below)</b>			
3 times a week	2	1	3
3-5 times a week	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>71</b>

<b>2. Why do you cycle for transportation? (Pick top 2)</b>			
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Exercise/Health</b>	23	21	44
<b>Enjoyment</b>	22	14	36
<b>Less harmful to environment</b>	15	11	26
<b>Save money</b>	13	10	23
<b>More convenient</b> than walking, driving or public transit	9	7	16
<b>Other</b>			
<i>no licence</i>		1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>146</b>

<b>3. What prevents you from cycling for transportation more often? (Pick top 2)</b>			
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Bad or unpredictable weather</b>	18	13	31
<b>Other obligations</b>	11	8	19
<b>Feel unsafe cycling in traffic</b>	3	12	15
<b>Bike routes are out of my way</b>	2	6	8
<b>Worried bike will get stolent</b>	2	1	3
<b>Other:</b>			
<i>snow not cleared from sidewalks or shoulders</i>	4	2	6
<i>too many groceries/too many things to carry/potluck dish too hot/awkward to carry</i>	2	3	5
<i>lack of time</i>	1	3	4
<i>children</i>	1	3	4
<i>nothing!</i>	2	2	4
<i>I find walking easier</i>		2	2
<i>broken bike</i>	2		2
<i>I have a motorcycle</i>		1	1
<i>distance/time</i>	1		1
<i>auto need</i>		1	1
<i>distance/Lenville hill</i>	1		1
<i>I have a car</i>	1		1
<i>drive on weekends for camping</i>	1		1
<i>no winter bike parking</i>		1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>110</b>

<b>4. What would help you cycle for transportation more often? (Pick top 2)</b>			
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>More designated bike lanes</b>	22	20	42
<b>More mulit-use pathways</b>	9	7	16
<b>Separate pathways for cyclists and pedestrians</b>	5	9	14
<b>More or better bike parking</b>	7	6	13
<b>More signs and maps that show bike routes</b>	4	8	12
<b>Other:</b>			
<i>better road shoulder and sidewalk snow removal</i>	7	4	11
<i>better weather/I need to be less wimpy about the weather</i>	4	1	5
<i>if it was all downhill/if I didn't have to go up hills</i>	1	2	3
<i>more time in the day</i>	2		2
<i>I need to plan my schedules better</i>	1	1	2
<i>cleaned bike lanes (glass, seeds, cars)</i>		1	1
<i>smoother road shoulders, safer car driving</i>		1	1
<i>if I could bike 60mph</i>	1		1
<i>if there were less vehicles on the road in our community</i>	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>124</b>

<b>5. Which phrase best describes you? (Pick 1) "I will cycle for transportation..."</b>			
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>"any time, anywhere"</b>	23	17	40
<b>"if there is little traffic or a designated bike lane"</b>	2	3	5
<b>"on a bike path separate from traffic"</b>		4	4
<b>"if the weather is good"</b>	9	7	16
<b>"I am unable to cycle due to health or physical reason"</b>	1		1
<b>Other:</b>			
<i>"as much as I can, grocery shopping take car or many miles away"</i>		1	1
<i>"if I don't have a fancy fancy function far away (high heels and helmet hair and +30 minutes of cycle) :-)"</i>		1	1
<i>"if I had a bicycle in Pullman"</i>		2	2
<i>"as much as possible because I believe in the 350ppm movement"</i>	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>71</b>

See next page for additional comments...

## Additional Comments:

### Suggested Bike Path/Lane Locations:

- *An additional bike lane on other side of Sixth Street through campus!*
- *Bike lanes east and west bound Hwy 8 between Hwy 95 and Mountain View (someone added that "These are painted now from Styner/White east to Mt. View. Nice")*
- *Main street North bound until where the Hwy turns to one lane*
- *Connecting lane from north side of town (McKinley & Morton Streets towards SW part of town)*
- *Patty's Kitchen*
- *East bound on Sixth Street b/w Blaine and Hwy 95*
- *East and westbound on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (especially Hayes to downtown)*
- *North and southbound on Hayes (6<sup>th</sup> to F Street)*
- *Connect state Hwy 8 to 3<sup>rd</sup>*

### Suggested Bike Rack Locations:

- *More on UI Campus near Commons (others added: "2<sup>nd</sup> that", "map where bikes are now illegally parked to determine placement", "locked boxes")*
- *Latah County Courthouse/Jail*
- *More on Main Street for all businesses ("X2!", "3<sup>rd</sup> that", "\*")*
- *Eastside Marketplace ("Get UPS to stop blocking the one @ Kinkos")*
- *Village Mall*
- *Palouse Mall*
- *Staples*
- *Put more like the ones by the Forestry Bldg and Post office on UI campus (∩, not ⊔)– ∩ work great, take up less space*
- *At my office (aka everywhere 😊)*

### Other bike ped facilities:

- *Great to have enclosed, secure bike parking at University of Idaho*
- *Install ped. controlled cross lights like the ones on WSU campus on the campus intersections particularly 6<sup>th</sup> and Deakin*
- *Program to educate drivers how to interact with cyclists on the road (someone added "and for bicyclists to properly share the road too 😊")*

### Commuting Tips:

- *Headlamps work awesome!*
- *Signal when turning!*
- *Provide notice when passing!*
- *Wear a helmet!*
- *Lights needed always after sunset*
- *Put reflective stickers on your bicycle!!*
- *Always ride w/ traffic!*
- *\*Make eye contact w/ motorists at intersections*
- *Go slow enough not to work up a sweat – no need to change clothes when you get to work!*
- *Buy a bike with a very low "low" gear*
- *Obey traffic laws, bicycle with traffic, garner more support/respect/recognition from automobiles that cyclists have a right to the road*