



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (10 November)

COP26: Shropshire Cycle Hub joins more than 250 civil society organisations to sign open letter calling on governments to boost global cycling levels to reach climate goals quickly and effectively

An [open letter](#) by the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) and a global coalition of pro-cycling organisations urging governments to cut transport emissions by investing in cycling has seen a surge in support from all over the world.

Since it was published on 2 November, over 190 civil society organisations have added their signature to the letter, which now counts **more than 250 signatories** from all over the world, including ECF, Greenpeace and Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI). The letter calls on governments at COP26 to commit to significantly increasing the number of people who cycle in their countries in order to reach climate goals quickly and effectively.

As the global pro-cycling movement continues to grow ahead of [COP26 Transport Day today](#), which is set to focus almost exclusively on the electrification of road vehicles, governments and transport ministers will be under pressure to take cycling into account when negotiating climate commitments related to the transport sector.

Today, transportation is responsible for [24%](#) of direct CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion, with the vast majority coming from cars, and these numbers are [not decreasing](#). With global temperatures rising fast, humanity cannot afford to wait decades for fossil-fuel cars to be fully phased out and replaced by electric vehicles. To quickly cut transport emissions on a massive scale and keep 1.5°C alive, governments need to invest in much more cycling now.

ECF and its allies believe cycling represents one of humanity's greatest hopes for a shift towards a zero-carbon future. Cycling produces zero emissions, delivers far-reaching positive [societal impacts](#) and relies on technology that is already widely available today.

The more than 250 signatories to the [open letter](#) call on governments and transport ministers attending COP26 to declare commitments to significantly boost cycling levels at home and collectively commit to achieving a global target of higher cycling levels. The letter was sent to governments ahead of COP26.

Jill Warren, CEO of the European Cyclists' Federation: "The dramatic growth of this global civil society movement in only a few days sends a forceful message to governments at COP26 about the importance of active mobility. There is no conceivable way to reduce CO₂ emissions quickly enough to avoid the worst of the climate crisis without significantly more cycling."

Henk Swarttouw, President of the European Cyclists' Federation: "More people riding bicycles will reduce our transport emissions and help save our planet. It will also stimulate our green economic recovery after COVID-19 and relieve our overburdened public health systems. Investing in cycling is a low-cost, low-tech no-brainer. It is what any sensible political leader should be doing right now."

Read the open letter to governments at COP26: www.cop26cycling.com

Notes to editors:

About Shropshire Cycle Hub: Founded in 2020, Shropshire Cycle Hub is a community charity focused on improving access to healthy sustainable transport across Shropshire. We exist to help overcome barriers into cycling, and to promote development of a network of safe cycle routes to enable widespread participation in cycling. Our volunteers retrieve, repair and redistribute donated bikes to those that need them, so that anyone who wants to cycle can.

About the European Cyclists' Federation: With over 60 member organisations across more than 40 countries, the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) is the world's largest and best-known cyclists' advocacy organisation. Our aim is to improve and increase cycling by influencing policy and harnessing the power of the European cycling movements.

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