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## INTERCLIMATE NETWORK WELCOMES FOUR NEW TRUSTEES IN COP26 PUSH TO SUPPORT YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION ACROSS THE UK

(London, 28 July 2021) InterClimate Network (ICN) - the UK charity (No. [1100981](#)) which works to empower and enable young people to lead and advocate for environmentally sustainable behaviours, career choices, and societal change – is pleased to announce the appointment of [Emma Blint](#), [Rupali Nahar-Williams](#), [Catherine Sayers](#) and [Tara Theiss](#) to its board of trustees.

In the UK, InterClimate Network has been supporting youth climate action and educational initiatives for over ten years, with roots going back to 1978. Since 2015, our current flagship programme, Climate Voices, has enabled more young people across the UK, particularly from schools with higher levels of disadvantage, to have a clear route to engagement in climate action and a recognised voice in their own sustainable futures.

The Climate Voices programme is made possible primarily through funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) as part of their [Sustainable Futures](#) funding stream.

*Watch an example of one of our climate conference events [here](#)*

Today, in response to increasing demand from schools and young people for the support of the charity in supporting climate action, and to support our ambitious plans for 2021, we are announcing the expansion of the board. The four new trustees will support the charity's efforts to scale up its impact in the run-up to and after the COP26 climate conference due to be hosted by the UK in November 2021.

Commenting on their appointments, the new trustees said:

**Emma Blint, Deputy Head of Communications at London Borough of Havering:** "I passionately support ICN's approach of embedding environmentally sustainable behaviours, career choices and societal change in school curriculums across the UK, directly engaging young people who will be the next generation of CEOs, politicians, economists and legislators. I have always found working with young people to be incredibly exciting and rewarding due to their creativity, ambition and inherent sense of justice."

**Rupali Nahar-Williams, Policy Advisor for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA):** "Working in policy has demonstrated just how important it is to ensure the voices of marginalised and overlooked communities are heard in the political process. Youth voices are a key part of that, and I was drawn to how ICN prioritise and amplify their voices through every part of the charity's programme."

### Inspiring the next generation of climate leaders

InterClimate Network is the brand and trading style of InterClimate Trust. InterClimate Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales 1100981 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales 4174919.

**Catherine Sayers, Assistant Company Secretary at Premier Miton Investors:** "The charity really struck me due to the focus on supporting the next generation of climate leaders - the uprising in youth activism on climate change should be encouraged and supported and I hope to add real value to this worthy cause, using my Governance skillset."

**Tara Theiss, Paralegal at Herbert Smith Freehills in London:** "I am delighted to join ICN's Board of Trustees and am excited to contribute to the charity's continued efforts to enable and inspire young people to act on climate change. In my personal experience, I have found that when faced with the complexity of climate change, having access to the knowledge and tools that enable you to take action is enormously empowering. I am thus thrilled to be able to support ICN in delivering such resources to the young generation - a key demographic in the race to a sustainable future."

Commenting on the significance of the appointments for youth climate action in the UK, **James Streeter**, Executive Chairman of ICN, said: "We are starting a period of new growth to support young people's participation at a critical juncture for climate action in the UK and worldwide. I am delighted that Emma, Rupali, Catherine and Tara are joining the board and I look forward to working with them in the runup to COP26 and beyond".

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## Editor's Notes

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### 2. About InterClimate Network

InterClimate Network is a registered charity (No. [1100981](#)) which provides climate sustainability programmes to engage young people (primarily age 13-18) across the UK with the complexities of climate change, inspire their climate action, and promote their voices in their own sustainable future.

What problem are we trying to solve?

Climate change is the challenge of our generation. Its root cause is clear – an economic and societal model that is exhausting the limited resources of our planet. It is critical that youth are empowered to act on climate change and its root causes – but they currently lack opportunities to act across lifestyle, career and society.

We work by bringing together networks of schools, partner organisations, funders and young people. We focus on engaging with young people from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds and existing attitudes towards climate change, connecting the global reality of climate change and its effects with opportunities for local action and sustainable career choices. **Climate Voices** is our core programme to inspire youth climate voices and action through a programme of UN-style climate conferences and resources to facilitate action in schools

## 2. About the new trustees

**Emma Blint** is a strategic communications and campaigns specialist with experience across Local Government, international development, social care, education and disability rights. She has held senior communications roles at the BBC and on the board of an award-winning Top 20 Consumer PR agency and launched major environmental education programmes in Cambodia and Laos.

Emma is Deputy Head of Communications at the London Borough of Havering, driving culture change and transformation initiatives as well as high-profile public health campaigns. She has led on major community engagement programmes including the NHS vaccination volunteer drive, mental health awareness partnerships and the COVID-19 emergency response.

**Rupali Nahar-Williams** is a Policy Advisor working on G7 international environmental negotiations for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Prior to working at Defra, Rupali was the Policy Officer at the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy focusing on resources and waste legislation. During her time there, she managed and developed the strategy for the Tidy Britain All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) and launched the new Parks and Green Spaces APPG. Experience in these sectors has led to passion in inspiring and amplifying young people's voices in the political process.

She also has an academic and background interest in intersectional climate and environment issues relating to race and gender equality. She has a MA in Religion in Global Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies.

**Catherine Sayers** has spent over five years working in Governance roles within financial services, gaining practical experience supporting Boards and Committees and undertaking Governance projects. Having historically undertaken 'front of house' voluntary roles for charities, Catherine believes it would be of value now to combine the Governance skillset developed throughout her career and studies with voluntary work in support of charities and worthwhile organisations.

**Tara Theiss** Tara is a young professional working at the intersection of climate, ESG and corporate law. Her recent experience includes working on various renewable energy fund IPOs and share issuances, as well as contributing to the development of an in-house ESG financial product classification system. Tara has also assisted with the editing of a soon-to-be published handbook on energy law and ethics, and currently participates in a climate think-tank as a research fellow. Tara holds an LLM in Energy and Natural Resources Law from Queen Mary University of London and has written award-winning dissertations on directors' duties with respect to climate change, and the barrier of legal standing in climate litigation.