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**WEATHER STATIONS: AN EXPLORATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

*A ground-breaking new body of literature and creative writing, from a unique international collaboration.*

Practical Inspiration Publishing is delighted to announce a partnership with Free Word and four other international partners in Berlin, Dublin, Melbourne and Warsaw, publishing an anthology entitled 'Weather Stations' – the culmination of an 18-month project bringing together writers, scientists, artists, philosophers and secondary school students, to explore and communicate climate change in new and creative ways.

The ebook will include contributions from Weather Stations Writers in Residence and students of the Weather Stations Substations, in three languages, and will be launched as part of internationales literaturfestival berlin. It will be freely available from [www.globalweatherstations.com](http://www.globalweatherstations.com).

Weather Stations partners are:

- Free Word, London
- internationales literaturfestival berlin
- Krytyka Polityczna, Warsaw
- Tallaght Community Arts, Dublin
- The Wheeler Centre, Melbourne

Alison Jones, Director of Practical Inspiration Publishing, said: 'This is a great example of how publishing can support organisations' strategic aims: the Weather Stations ebook will pull together the creative work that has emerged from this extraordinary project; it will be an invaluable contribution to what is perhaps the most important and complex debate of our time.'

**Joint statement from Weather Stations partners:**

Climate change is one of the most fundamental and complex challenges facing humanity today. Our lifestyles, fuelled by relentless economic growth and consumption, are undermining the planet's support systems – and the earth's finite resources are rapidly being depleted. We are living beyond our means and decimating our planet in the process, and how we choose to respond will decide the fate of our species. And yet, in spite of its importance, climate change can feel so abstract, unwieldy and even boring that, for the most part, people have simply disengaged.

Literature provides an alternative framework and context within which to consider issues as complex as climate change. By creating worlds for us to explore and characters for us to empathise with, writers can help us to gain a greater understanding of each other, and to imagine how we might work together towards ecological sustainability and social justice. We



need storytellers to interpret the science for us in a way that is more relatable, to bypass the politics and to ignore the too often narrow self-interest of finance – and, in doing so, to show us how our lives could be lived differently, guided by ecological rather than economic imperatives.

**About the Weather Stations Partners:**

**Free Word** is an international centre for literature, literacy and free expression that celebrates and explores the power of words to change lives. Through our artistic programmes and public events we promote and protect the written and spoken word and provide a space for collaboration, exploration and dissent.

**The Berlin International Literature Festival (ilb)** The Berlin International Literature Festival (ilb) takes place annually in early autumn. Its purpose is to present contemporary developments in prose and poetry, with a focus on political literature from all around the world, and to let its audience experience literary diversity in the age of globalisation. Another focus of the ilb is the international children and young adult literature. The ilb is a member of the World Alliance.

**Krytyka Polityczna** (Political Critique) was set up to reinvigorate the Polish tradition of the engaged intelligentsia. We are active in three main fields: education, culture and politics. We believe they differ only in their areas of concern, but are connected by the influence and impact they have on how the society is shaped. Our main aims are to combat economic and cultural exclusion; to increase civic participation in public life and popular social awareness in public sphere; and to work out diagnoses and solutions of the current breakdown in social bonds and social imagination.

**Tallaght Community Arts** is an arts development organisation working with local communities, schools and youth groups since 1996. Tallaght Community Arts creates work in the heart of communities; in schools, community gardens, football stadiums and individual people's homes – as well as in designated arts spaces. Our work focuses on participatory arts, encouraging and supporting people of all ages to be involved in the making of art. We put people at the centre of a cultural process. Tallaght Community Arts is co-producing Dublin Weather Stations with Collective Action, a creative producing company that believes art happens through the interaction of makers and audience.

**The Wheeler Centre** was created in 2010 when Melbourne was officially designated a UNESCO City of Literature, recognising the city's international leadership in books, writing and ideas. In just five years, the Wheeler Centre has established itself as one of Australia's leading arts organisations, dedicated to making public conversation an art form. The Wheeler Centre passionately believes in the power of ideas and conversation and we have created a hub for the literary and ideas activity that defines our city.

*Alison Jones, formerly Director of Innovation Strategy at Palgrave Macmillan, is a business coach and publishing partner for businesses and organisations with something to say. She also offers executive coaching, consultancy and training services to publishers.*

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*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This press release reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*