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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NOVA “WEATHERING THE FUTURE”** **EXAMINES HOW AMERICANS ARE FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER**

***New Film Explores the Visionary Ideas, Innovative Solutions, and Ancient Wisdom Being Used to Combat the Effects of Climate Change Across the U.S.***

**Premieres Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 9pm ET/8C**

**Also available for streaming at** [**pbs.org/nova**](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/zero-to-infinity/)**,** [**NOVA on YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/user/NOVAonline)**, and the** [**PBS App**](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/)

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**BOSTON; March 29, 2023—** The **PBS science series NOVA**, a production of **GBH**, will premiere the new one-hour film **WEATHERING THE FUTURE**, **Wednesday, April 12 at 9pm ET/8C on PBS,** exploring how extreme weather in the U.S. continues to affect more people — with longer heat waves, more intense rainstorms, megafires, and droughts — and how Americans are fighting back using visionary ideas, innovative solutions, and ancient wisdom. The film introduces viewers to meteorologists, environmental scientists, and Indigenous leaders on the front lines of climate impacts and examines how new information could help us all adapt to more extreme weather in the years ahead. **WEATHERING THE FUTURE** will also be available for streaming at [**pbs.org/nova**](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/zero-to-infinity/)**,** [**NOVA on YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/user/NOVAonline)and the [**PBS App**](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/).

**WEATHERING THE FUTURE** explores how the weather patterns that have come to govern our ways of living are now shifting as our planet warms, and how communities are finding ways to adapt to the changing climate. The film focuses on five stories, taking viewers to several locations across the country to explore how Americans are fighting back against extreme weather:

**PLANTING DROUGHT-TOLERANT TREES AND RECOATING ROADS**

Atlanta is facing blistering hot summers. Scientists such as **Na’Taki Osborne Jelks** are demonstrating that the rising heat caused by climate change is often made more extreme in places like Atlanta because of the infrastructure and design of many urban landscapes. The removal of trees and plants, which absorb heat from the environment, also deprives some neighborhoods of much-needed shade. And the asphalt and concrete that often replace greenery exacerbates the problem by re-radiating the sun’s energy as heat, creating unbearably warm summer days and nights. Meteorologist **Bernadette Woods Placky** explains that even slight upward shifts in temperature over time can result in extreme heat, calling on a major lifestyle adjustment for Americans living in these areas.

To combat these issues, cities are investing in innovative solutions that are already making an impact. Phoenix is leading the way for other cities struggling with extreme heat, with a multi-million dollar commitment toward planting drought-tolerant trees throughout the city, and an innovative pilot program to recoat roads with a special sealant designed to reflect the sun’s energy. **David Hondula**, Director at the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation for the City of Phoenix, feels optimistic these solutions will create a positive impact within the community.

**RECYCLING WASTEWATER**

Rising temperatures carry another dramatic effect on areas with naturally drier climates, like California. Meteorologists have been closely following California’s descent into a mega drought: a drought that lasts two decades or longer, leading to major concerns around water shortage throughout the state, despite sudden downpours. **WEATHERING THE FUTURE** explores how one county's approach may help alleviate the crisis: recycling wastewater. The film introduces viewers to **Mehul Patel,** the Executive Director of Operations at the Orange County Water District. Patel oversees Orange County’s wastewater recycling operation, the largest of its kind in the world. At the water treatment plant, the water undergoes multiple purification processes to filter out impurities, such as raw sewage and bacteria, making it safe enough to drink. Patel believes this process can serve as a model for other states facing extreme drought.

**PRESCRIBED BURNING**

In the Klamath River region of Northern California, the community is turning to fire control methods that have existed for thousands of years. The film features members of the Karuk, a local Indigenous tribe, who have watched their land be ravaged by large wildfires with increasing frequency. To protect their land, the Karuk and other Indigenous peoples are bringing back an ancient practice: fighting fire with fire. **Bill Tripp**, Karuk Tribe Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, shows viewers how setting controlled, low-intensity fires across dry patches of land near inhabited areas clears out brush that would otherwise spread fires into the community. Although the federal government once criminalized intentional burning in the West, the US Forest Service is starting to recognize the wisdom behind this historic approach and is now applying the technique to protect more than 50 million acres of land.

**NO-TILL FARMING**

**WEATHERING THE FUTURE** also explores climate change’s effects from the other side of the spectrum: areas experiencing epic storms and historic floods. In the farmlands of Iowa, aggressive rains pelt the earth, resulting in soil erosion that harms crops and threatens the future of America’s agriculture. Viewers meet sixth-generation farmer **Elyssa McFarland**, who offers an ancient solution to crop management with a modern twist: state-of-the-art technology that eliminates the need to till the land with a steel plow. Elyssa’s precision planter leaves dead crop residue from the prior season in place, offering a layer of protection for the soil to withstand hard rains, and also building up the soil’s own capacity to absorb excess water.

**BUILDING OYSTER REEFS TO PROTECT THE COAST**

The impact of increasingly intense rainstorms across the Midwest is hard to ignore, but on the coasts, intense storms are also taking a steep toll. On the coast of Louisiana, the sea is swallowing the land where some Indigenous communities have lived for over 400 years. While more intense storms and rising seas have left the wetlands all the more vulnerable, tribal elders like **Rosina Philippe** and **Elder** **Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar** recount the critical losses that have affected the lands they call home — both at the hands of extreme weather, and from the toll that more than a century of human interference has taken on the lands. While Louisiana is undertaking several megaprojects to protect its coast — from releasing sediment into endangered wetlands, upgrading levees and seawalls, and installing new floodgates — locals have taken matters into their own hands with innovative, lower-cost solutions. The film highlights one approach that involves recycling millions of pounds of oyster shells to build breakwater reefs that slow down erosion.

“The growing impacts made by extreme weather events are challenging communities across the U.S. in a wide variety of ways,” said **NOVA Co-Executive Producer Julia Cort.** “In **WEATHERING THE FUTURE**, we’re proud not only to present the science that explains the changing weather, but also to tell the inspiring stories of resilience, innovation, and determination exhibited by American communities as they fight back against the climate crisis.”

“There’s never been a more important time to examine the state of the climate crisis, and consider what role each of us plays in shaping our future,” said **NOVA Co-Executive Producer Chris Schmidt**. “This film calls attention to the intensifying changes to our world due to global warming, but also offers an exciting, hopeful glimpse into how local communities are responding with innovations and solutions.”

**WEATHERING THE FUTURE** premieres **Wednesday, April 12 at 9pm ET/8C on PBS** and will be available for streamingat [pbs.org/nova](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/zero-to-infinity/), [NOVA on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/NOVAonline), and the [PBS App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. PBS station members can view many series, documentaries and specials via [PBS Passport](https://www.pbs.org/passport/videos/). For more information about PBS Passport, visit the [PBS Passport FAQ](https://help.pbs.org/support/solutions/5000121793) website.

**WEATHERING THE FUTURE** is a NOVA Production by Kikim Media for GBH. Producer is Kiran Kapany. Senior Producer for NOVA is Caitlin Saks. Executive Producers for NOVA are Julia Cort and Chris Schmidt. NOVA is a production of GBH**.**

Major funding for **WEATHERING THE FUTURE** and the **CLIMATE ACROSS AMERICA** Science and Society Project is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding is provided by the GBH Planet Future Fund.

Funding for NOVA is provided by the NOVA Science Trust, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and PBS viewers.

**WEATHERING THE FUTURE** is part of NOVA’s national **CLIMATE ACROSS AMERICA** initiative launching this spring — spotlighting how climate change is affecting communities across the country, and the innovative solutions being implemented to address the climate crisis. Leveraging the power of the local/national partnerships enabled by the PBS system and with major support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting — NOVA is working with 10 public media stations and with students in classrooms to produce and distribute multi-platform content aiming to engage their communities in productive conversations about climate solutions.In addition to working with 10 partner stationst to produce localized content and regional screenings, NOVA Education will provide an outreach toolkit for stations and communities throughout the U.S. to host their own events. **WEATHERING THE FUTURE** is one of two new NOVA documentaries premiering as part of the initiative, along with **CHASING CARBON ZERO** (April 26). Audiences can follow online with #ClimateAcrossAmerica beginning April 10.

The **CLIMATE ACROSS AMERICA** initiativeis part of NOVA’s Science and Society Project, with major support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The project is dedicated to telling stories at the intersection of science and society — stories that provide exceptional opportunities for audience engagement, nationally and locally, about the role of science and technology in our lives.

This programming is part of a multiyear, multiplatform initiative from PBS that explores every aspect of how climate change impacts communities, countries, and the entire planet. The comprehensive focus represents PBS’s biggest-ever commitment to the topic, providing a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding climate change and exploring its intersections with conservation, biodiversity and the ecosystem. PBS and its member stations will create a rich destination of storytelling that details the challenges of a changing climate, while highlighting examples of hope and positive impact.

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**About NOVA**

[NOVA](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/?utm_source=promourl&utm_medium=direct&utm_campaign=nova_2019) is the most popular primetime science series on American television, demystifying the scientific and technological concepts that shape and define our lives, our planet, and our universe. The PBS series is also one of the most widely distributed science programs around the world, and is a multimedia, multiplatform brand reaching more than 55 million Americans every year on TV and online. NOVA’s important and inspiring stories of human ingenuity, exploration, and the quest for knowledge are regularly recognized with the industry’s most prestigious awards. As part of its mission to make the scientific enterprise accessible to all, NOVA is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all its work, from the production process to the range of stories we tell and the voices we amplify. In addition, science educators across the country rely on NOVA for resources used in the classroom as well as in museums, libraries, and after-school programs. NOVA is a production of GBH; more information can be found at [pbs.org/nova](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/?utm_source=promourl&utm_medium=direct&utm_campaign=nova_2019), or by following NOVA on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NOVApbs/), [Twitter,](https://twitter.com/novapbs?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor) or [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/novapbs/?hl=en).

**About PBS**

[PBS](http://www.pbs.org/), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS’s premier children’s media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math, and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV — including a 24/7 channel — online at  [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org/), via an array of mobile apps, and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](http://pbs.org), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following  [PBS on Twitter](https://twitter.com/pbs), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs) or through  our  [apps for mobile and connected devices](http://www.pbs.org/anywhere/home/). Specific program information and updates for press are available at  [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pressroom.pbs.org/) or by following [PBS Communications on Twitter](https://twitter.com/PBS_PR).

**About GBH**

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH produces digital and broadcast programming that engages, illuminates and inspires, through drama and science, history, arts, culture and journalism. It is the creator of such signature programs as MASTERPIECE, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW, FRONTLINE, NOVA, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, *Arthur* and *Molly of Denali,* as well as WORLD Channel and a catalog of streaming series, podcasts and on-demand video. With studios and a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston’s Local NPR®; CRB Classical 99.5; and CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR® station. Dedicated to making media accessible to and inclusive of our diverse culture, GBH is a pioneer in delivering media to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired. GBH creates curriculum-based digital content for educators nationwide with PBS LearningMedia and has been recognized with hundreds of the nation’s premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards. Find more information at [wgbh.org](https://www.wgbh.org/).

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