

TURNAROUND FILMS

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Our world is changing. The cycles of our local weather, once familiar, are becoming unrecognizable. More and more of the world's population is experiencing climate change as the effects become widespread, frequent, and severe. The solutions to these problems are elusive and many people are left feeling helpless.

TURNAROUND FILMS, a project of [Trillium Studios Film](#), documents these changes to our environment, explores why they are happening, and introduces the people who are finding innovative ways to mitigate or adapt to them. Our goal is to provide quality, accurate videos to educators, students, legislators, and activists who need to communicate with the public about climate change. Our films are designed to be used in presentations, in classrooms, in town and city meetings, or on websites and social media — anywhere that well-told stories might motivate an audience to pitch in with a shovel, some dollars, or a vote.

TURNAROUND FILMS presents each environmental problem as a film series. In the first episode of each series, we show a problem we are facing and how it will affect us. In the subsequent episodes, we tell the stories of the individuals and organizations that are working to find solutions or a new way of adapting our lives to live with this change. In this way, we can look deeply into issues like stormwater flooding, renewable energies, education, climate justice, sea-level rise, and many more.

In our first episode, "The Impervious Problem", we take up the issue of impervious surfaces — asphalt and roofs — and how they have changed the way water moves through the environment. Andy Hyrcyna and Julie Wormser of the Mystic River Watershed Association guide us through how we have ended up so paved over. Hanna Mogensen and Aliya Caldwell, researchers at the University of New Hampshire describe how plastic trash in our waterways breaks down and ends up being consumed by birds and fish. Patricia Fabian, Principal Investigator at Boston University's C-Heat Project, and Melanie Gárate of Mystic River Watershed Association talk about how impervious surfaces collect and hold heat creating islands of heat in urban spaces.

In the second episode, "Green Roofs", Mark Winterer and Emily McKeen of the Boston area's ReCover Green Roofs demonstrate how they create living environments on rooftops and discuss how we can use green roofs to reduce the problems caused by overbuilding impervious surfaces. At the CALA apartment and office complex in Somerville, MA, architect and developer Sebastian Mariscal talks about why green roofs are attractive to a community, and how using them attracts buyers and tenants.

Our third episode, "Karen and the River", tells the story of activist Karen Buck and her efforts to clean up the Malden River. Even though the industrial businesses on the river's banks have been cleaned up, the river still receives much of the trash that is washed down catch basins in the streets of three neighboring cities. Karen found herself cleaning on foot and from boats. Out on the river, she discovered the city had installed a trash boom — a floating barrier — to stop the trash, but it had long been abandoned. Karen added the arduous task of cleaning the boom to her list and started building a coalition to clean the river.

We intend to keep the TURNAROUND FILMS project fully subsidized through donations and grants so that our films can be distributed as inexpensively as possible and that the audiences are never restricted by financial means.

