

## Newtok – What’s Next

To learn more about the film, visit:

<https://www.patagonia.com/stories/newtok/video-116909.html>

### Understanding Climate Justice:

- Climate justice works to address the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities. The consequences of climate change are felt more strongly in communities that have benefited the least from the environmental exploitation that has led to climate change in the first place.
- Indigenous environmental justice is of particular importance due to the cultural significance of the natural world to many indigenous cultures, the historic use of environmental destruction as a tool for subjugation against indigenous peoples, and the systemic human rights violations and loss of land already experienced. However, indigenous voices have often been excluded by the traditional environmental movement, a trend we must now try to remedy.

### The Emergence of Climate Refugees:

- The residents of Newtok may be some of the first climate refugees in the United States, but they will certainly not be the last, more communities will be displaced due to consistent disasters such as storms, drought, or rising temperatures.
- There are few legal procedures or precedents to support these displaced people, leaving them extremely vulnerable to not receive the assistance that is owed to them by governments and other agencies.

### What can you do?

- *Continue climate action:* Climate action such as emissions and waste reduction helps to reduce and slow the impacts of climate change. This gives more time to assist communities that are threatened. **Remember:** climate change is inherently a social justice issue. Many resources for more sustainable living can be found on the Walking Mountains Sustainability hub: <https://www.walkingmountains.org/sustainability-hub/>
- *Elevate underrepresented voices.* Supporting films such as Newtok that highlight indigenous voices is an excellent place to start. Promoting other BIPOC climate leaders such as on social media is another way to support awareness of climate justice issues. Some indigenous climate organizations can be found here: <https://nativephilanthropy.org/2021/04/22/diversify-your-feed-6-indigenous-environmental-organizations-you-should-follow/>
- *Be civically engaged.* Using your vote and pressuring politicians to protect climate refugees and create climate action is one of the best ways you can help. Check out Walking Mountain’s Community Guide to Civic Engagement for more details: <https://www.walkingmountains.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Community-Guide-to-Civic-Engagement.pdf>