



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RENEWAL TO BE FEATURED ON PUBLIC TELEVISION BEGINNING IN APRIL**

**Documentary Captures Vitality and Diversity of Today's Religious-Environmental Activists**

BOSTON (March 19, 2009) – Across the nation, Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of faith are standing up for the environment. The combined energy of these diverse activists is the driving force behind a feature-length documentary, entitled RENEWAL. Veteran film producers Marty Ostrow and Terry Kay Rockefeller crisscrossed the country to capture exciting stories of people whose passion and deep moral commitment are making a difference in a time of grave ecological threats. Beginning in April 2009, American Public Television will make this visionary film available to public television stations across the country (check local listings).

Evangelical Christians are fighting mountaintop removal, a coal mining process that is decimating Appalachia. Muslims are supporting sustainable farming. Jews are helping children experience the bond between nature and spirituality. Baptists in Mississippi are using faith to raise awareness about their community, made toxic by industrial contamination. Men, women and children are re-examining what it means to be human and how we live on this planet.

RENEWAL is the first feature-length documentary film to capture the vitality and diversity of today's religious-environmental activists. While the 90-minute film is designed for screenings and broadcast, each of its stories can also stand alone, acting as succinct vehicles for discussion in the classroom and by activist groups, religious and secular.

“The RENEWAL Project is designed to make the documentary's inspiring stories available to people and organizations who want to be a part of this growing movement,”

said producer Marty Ostrow. “When we first began working on the project, we were inspired by the religious groups that are striving to protect life on our planet and reverse the damage that humans have done to the environment.”

The eight stories in RENEWAL are:

**A Crime Against Creation:** Evangelicals bear witness to mountaintop removal and the destruction of Appalachia

**Going Green:** GreenFaith in New Jersey helps congregations take the first steps to environmental action

**Food for Faith:** Muslim tradition and charity forge bonds between urban communities and sustainable farms in Illinois

**Ancient Roots:** The Teva Learning Center in Connecticut brings environmental education together with Jewish tradition

**Compassion in Action:** Green Sangha, a Buddhist community in northern California, leads a campaign to save trees

**Eco-Justice:** The Holy Spirit inspires a battle against industrial contamination in small-town Mississippi

**Sacred Celebration:** Catholics and Native Americans embrace religious ritual in a struggle to protect New Mexico’s land and water

**Interfaith Power and Light:** Across America people of all faiths mount a religious response to global warming

The film is part of a dynamic community engagement campaign whose goal is to help advance the religious-environmental movement and to promote change. Screenings of the film have taken place across the country and earned such honors as the Official Selection of 7th Annual Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival and “Best of Fest” at Hazel Wolf Environmental Film Festival.

**For more information about RENEWAL and its community engagement campaign, please visit: [www.renewalproject.net](http://www.renewalproject.net)**

RENEWAL is presented by Fine Cut Productions, LLC and the Center for Independent Documentary, and is produced by Emmy Award winning documentary filmmakers Marty Ostrow and Terry Kay Rockefeller. It is distributed by American Public Television and presented by WGBH Boston. Partners include Active Voice, The Center for Independent Documentary, and the Forum on Religion and Ecology. RENEWAL was made possible with a generous grant from the Keneda Sustainability Fund of Tides Foundation.

\*\*\*

#### MEDIA CONTACT

Tara Rafieymehr Pettinato  
WGBH Boston  
617.300.5328  
tara\_rafieymehr@wgbh.org

\*\*\*

#### **Fine Cut Productions, LLC**

Fine Cut Productions, LLC is an independent documentary film production company, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Producer Marty Ostrow is the director of Fine Cut Productions. He has been making award winning television documentaries for more than twenty-five years. *America and the Holocaust* and *Renewal* are two of Fine Cut Productions' better known films.

#### **American Public Television (APT)**

With more than 10,000 hours of programming in its library, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations for 48 years, distributing more than 300 new titles per year. In 2006, APT launched Create – the TV channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. Known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming, APT has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules, such as *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Worldfocus*, *Globe Trekker*, *Simply Ming*, *Sara's Weeknight Meals*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Gourmet's Diary of a Foodie*, *Doc Martin*, *Lidia's Italy*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *Biz Kid\$*, *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*, *Pavarotti: Salute Petra*, *The Best of the Jack Benny Show*, *Agatha Christie's Poirot*, *Spain...on the road Again*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies. For more information about APT's programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

#### **WGBH Boston**

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer, the source of fully one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup, along with some of public television's best-known lifestyle shows and children's programs and many public radio favorites. WGBH is the number one producer of Web sites on pbs.org, one of the most trafficked dot-org Web sites in the world. WGBH is a pioneer in educational multimedia and in technologies and services that make media accessible to the 36 million Americans who rely on captioning or video descriptions. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors: Emmys, Peabodys, duPont-Columbia Awards...even two Oscars. In 2002, WGBH was honored with a special institutional Peabody Award for 50 years of excellence. For more information visit [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org).

