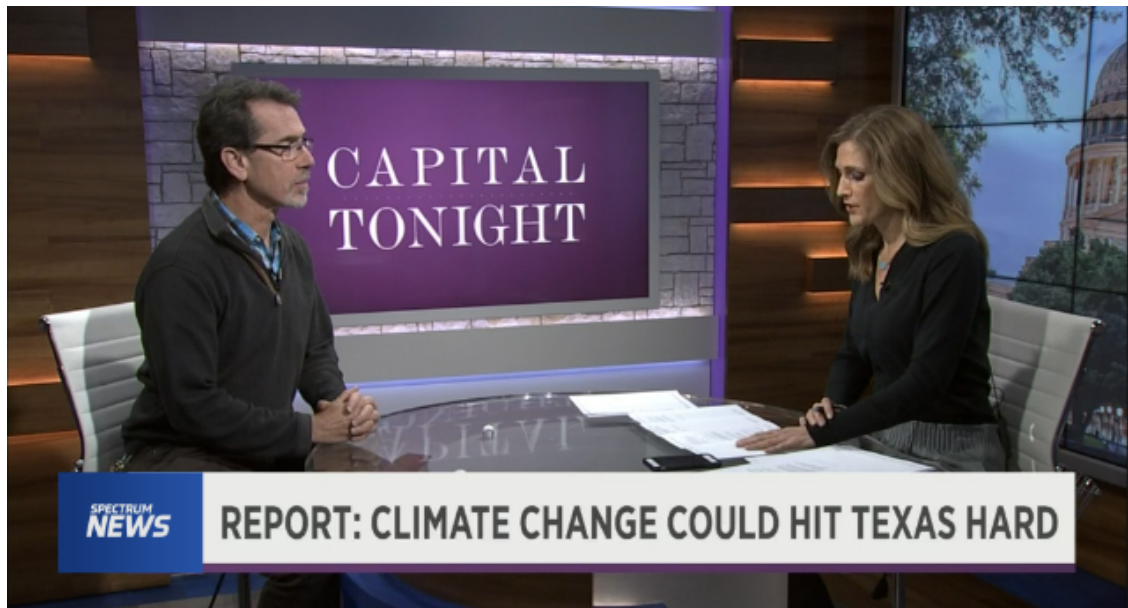


PLANET TEXAS 2050

A UT Austin Grand Challenge

Climate, Preparation, and Progress



Jay Banner, Jackson School of Geosciences professor and Planet Texas 2050 researcher, is a co-author of the [Fourth National Climate Assessment](#).

Thirteen federal agencies issued the [scientific report](#), which offers clear — sometimes dire — predictions if the U.S. and global community fail to take significant steps to address climate change. The assessment also warns that damage caused by extreme weather events and persistent changes in rainfall and temperature could reduce the American economy by 10% by the end of the century.

[Dr. Banner sat down with Spectrum News to talk about what the report means for Texas and our region.](#)



TACC's Suzanne Pierce and Katherine Lieberknecht from the School of Architecture were just two of UT's researchers on hand at this year's Orange and Maroon Day to represent the power and importance of higher ed research. (Hook 'Em helped, too.) It's a day-long, annual event that brings together volunteers from The University of Texas and Texas A&M to meet with all 181 state legislators, including Governor Greg Abbott and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. The evening culminates with a chance for representatives to meet some of our researchers and see firsthand why **What Starts Here Changes the World.**



[Planet Texas 2050 has partnered with the Austin Community Design and Development Center \(ACDDC\) to create a first-of-its-kind solutions-driven community center.](#)

What's that? Imagine a neighborhood place people can go to find help with climate- and housing-based issues: from learning how to claim a homestead exemption or apply for help to make sustainable home improvements to working with developers and the city to deal with flooding concerns. A place that has access to local organizations, companies, government offices, and scientists who can combine their knowledge and services to help residents in real ways, right away. That's our goal.



"Disasters serve as a magnifying lens that help us see where the tears and weak spots are in communities."

Dell Medical School's Lourdes Rodríguez serves as director of the Center for Place-Based Initiatives and is a founding Planet Texas 2050 researcher. She grew up in Puerto Rico where, she says, it wasn't *if* a hurricane would strike but how many and where. [Here, she talks with Spectrum News about the most important lessons she's learned, personally and professionally, about preparing for and recovering from disasters.](#)



Save the Date

Please join us Friday, April 26, for a research showcase in the Cockrell School of Engineering's beautiful Mulva Auditorium. Planet Texas 2050 researchers and community partner organizations will present work from their first year and reflect on how we're doing and where we're going as an interdisciplinary grand challenge. We'll also demonstrate tools and approaches we're developing and we'll have a mini "field trip" to Waller Creek.

This will be an interactive event with oral and poster presentations as well as discussion sessions and opportunities for feedback. We want to show you the progress we're making and meet with potential partners who might join us on future projects.

DATE: April 26, 2019

TIME: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

LOCATION: EER Mulva Auditorium

[Click here to register and learn more.](#)

Please join us.

Over the coming months and years, we hope our research will help communities and decision-makers better prepare for, recover from, and mitigate

the impacts of natural disasters. It's our boldest work yet. Please check our blog regularly for updates about each project and what we're learning.

BLOG: Fourth National Climate Assessment and Texas

BLOG: Imagining Solutions-Driven Community Centers

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