

With a high volume of media coverage in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on how government money is proposed to be spent in the rebuilding process. For more information on transparency and opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. Also, let us know how we can adjust this alert to make it better

Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars Weekly News Round-up: May 2-9

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This week's news

Disaster Relief

- HUD [approved](#) the city's plan for the use of the first \$1.77 billion in CDBG funds. Businesses can apply for aid in May, and homeowners in June. Applications will be posted at [NYC Recovery](#).
- FEMA has awarded \$12 million in grants to three New Jersey towns and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs for emergency operations and debris removal costs. [LoanSafe.org](#)
- U.S. Small Business Administration will release \$19 million in grants for counseling, training and technical advice for businesses recovery from Sandy. [Lexology](#)
- U.S. Department of Interior has approved \$18.8 million for the U.S. Geological Survey to provide detailed scientific information on coastal ecosystems and water quality necessary for rebuilding. [Marine Link](#)

ALSO: A detailed accounting of the \$475 million to be released by the Department of Interior for Sandy-related projects, as well as an overview of other federal agencies' Sandy spending is provided by [Environment News Service](#)

- New York State will use \$48.5 million in CDBG funds to pay its share of property buy-outs for over 1,000 homes in 19 counties destroyed by storms Irene and Lee. [Capitol Confidential](#) and [Times Herald-Record](#)
- Gov. Chris Christie signed a new state law that will require insurance companies to provide policyholders with a clear, one-page summary highlighting what the property insurance policy covers. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- A new report by Aon Benfield estimates total economic losses due to Sandy to be \$72 billion dollars. [Canadian](#)

Underwriter

- Extreme weather events, including Sandy, cost the insurance industry \$35 billion last year, yet the industry has not addressed the costs and risks of climate change. The New York Times
- New Jersey has launched the Stronger Business NJ Grant program with \$260 million from the New Jersey allocation of federal CDBG funds. To be eligible, a business must first apply for a disaster loan. The Star-Ledger
- Art conservators and appraisers have been busy attempting to salvage works in Chelsea galleries and storage facilities that flooded. The New York Times
- More price-gauging lawsuits were filed in New Jersey against hotels and gas stations. The Star-Ledger

ALSO: Connecticut House to vote on anti-price gauging legislation before June 5. AP via Norwich Bulletin

Rebuilding Infrastructure

- In addition to a lack of coordination in emergency planning, New Jersey officials miscalculated the projected impacts of Sandy in the process of deciding where to shelter the New Jersey Transit rail cars. As a result, over a quarter of the NJ Transit fleet was destroyed, costing over \$120 million to replace. WNYC
- Before Sandy hit, Congress mandated new, higher flood insurance premiums that will increase the cost of rebuilding. The New York Times

ALSO: An editorial in The Times-Picayune of New Orleans argues that Congress should intervene to make flood insurance more affordable. Louisiana senator Mary Landrieu is pushing to suspend planned flood insurance increases; her efforts are supported by all four New Jersey and New York senators.

- The Rockefeller Foundation is launching a \$100 million program, the "Resilient Cities Challenge" to help 100 cities that demonstrate plans for climate-change resiliency and account for their poorest demographics. CNN Money
- Based on new data of accelerated ice melt, Columbia University climate scientist Klaus Jacob predicts that sea level rise could increase five feet in New York City by

2100. [Scientific American](#)

- Gov. Cuomo proposed legislation that would allow New Jersey's PSEG to take control of LIPA without LIPA's debt burden. [Crain's Insider](#)

ALSO: With new infrastructure projects planned for New Jersey utilities, public interest groups are forming the New Jersey Coalition for Affordable Power to bring attention to new costs that may be passed on to ratepayers. [The Star-Ledger](#)

- NOAA's mapping tool, Environmental Response Management Application, helped create a clearer picture of debris dispersion used for planning and clean-up efforts. [NOAA response](#)
- Nassau county residents are demanding that some of New York State's Sandy aid be spent on the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plant, but New York State has not provided a firm commitment of financing repairs. [Newsday](#)
- An account of storm damage at the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, and lessons learned for future environmental management. [Conserving the Nature of the Northeast](#)

ALSO: Scientists work to replenish the breeding habitat of the horseshoe crab in New Jersey and of the red knot shorebird, which is endangered in the state. [The Star-Ledger](#)

- Rye Playland reopened after extensive repairs and renovations, yet some Westchester County officials are pushing for a non-profit to take over the amusement park. [CBS New York](#)

ALSO: Westchester County Board of Legislators criticizes the process and schedule of repairs at the Playland boardwalk. [Press Release](#)

- The New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects published a report on resiliency strategies for waterfront development, commercial properties, and residential zoning practices. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- The Municipal Art Society describes some of the main concerns voiced in community workshops convened by the Mayor's Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency. [MAS](#)
- [NY Eater](#) provides a detailed map that tracks the status of 37 restaurants still closed due to Sandy.

- Nassau county is investigating a contracting company, Looks Great, to determine if tree removals the company performed followed protocol. Looks Great is also the subject of an investigation by New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. [Newsday](#)

ALSO: Nassau county officials are calling for Edward Mangano, the County Executive, to return \$75,000 in campaign contributions from contractors that were awarded Sandy clean-up contracts, including Looks Great. [Newsday](#)

- A non-stop shuttle bus will take passengers from Williamsburg to Jacob Riis beach this summer, beginning on May 25. [Crain's New York Business](#)
- Residents of Seagate and Brighton Beach notice that many trees that were inundated with seawater after Sandy are not blooming this spring. [Brooklyn Daily](#)

Housing

- In response to a lawsuit, a New York State supreme court justice ruled that the 890 evacuees remaining in the city temporary hotel shelter program could remain in the hotels past May 31st. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- A new report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center reveals that Sandy displaced 776,000 people from their homes and is among the top 20 disaster displacement events worldwide in 2012. [The Hill](#)
- City Councilman Lew Fidler is requesting that the city wait longer before selling the tax liens on Sandy-damaged properties. [New York Daily News](#)
- The FAR ROC design competition envisions a mixed use development at Arverne East, and seeks best practices in design and development for vulnerable waterfront areas. [The Dirt](#)

Advocacy News

List your upcoming event here! Email elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org

Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Public Library is compiling oral histories of Brooklyn individuals, organizations, and workers who were impacted by the storm. Interviews will be scheduled by appointment. See [website](#) for details.

Staten Island

Friday May 17-Sunday May 19: The Giving Circle: Hurricane Sandy Relief Trip. To find out more or to volunteer for the trip, visit www.thegivingcircle.org

Long Island

FEMA will be holding a series of rebuilding workshops at Lowe's and Home Depot in Suffolk County from May 16-21 LongIsland.com

New Jersey

The Christie Administration [released](#) best practices for treating mold in flooded homes. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Health will offer training sessions in mold removal and assessment.

Advocacy Reports

The Alliance for a Just Rebuilding released [Sandy's Mold Legacy: The Unmet Need Six Months After the Storm](#); Other reports include: [After Sandy, Prioritizing the Vulnerable and Displaced: Fixing Major Flaws in City Hall's Disaster Recovery Planning](#)

The Sandy Regional Assembly, made up of environmental justice organizations, community-based groups, labor unions, and advocates have released [Recovery from the Ground Up: Strategies for community-based resiliency in New York and New Jersey](#). Based on input from grassroots groups identifying priority projects for the Sandy recovery process, the Recovery Agenda includes priorities of low-income people, communities of color, immigrants, and workers.

Climate Central, [Hurricane Sandy's Untold Filthy Legacy: Sewage](#)

The Pratt Center for Community Development has [published](#) a series of maps documenting the storm's impacts on low-income residential communities and Industrial Business Zones.

Enterprise Community Partners, ['Measuring the Response to Hurricane Sandy'](#)

Food Bank For New York City, [Hurricane Sandy Response: 100 Days of Meeting the Needs](#)

Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy, [Sandy's Effects on Housing in New York City](#).

Several non-profit organizations have endorsed [Post-Sandy Rebuilding Principles: Building a sustainable region and economy, creating jobs for all](#). We encourage you to sign on, too. Contact bettina@goodjobsfirst.org for more information.

Federal, State & Local Resources

NEW THIS WEEK: The NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations will be managing the disaster relief funds and will announce application information and registration in June, 2013.

Tuesday May 28, NOAA climate expert will share the forecast for 2013 hurricane season followed by disaster preparedness tips for small businesses in this free webinar. Space is limited, [registration is required](#).

New York City [Hurricane Sandy After Action Report and Recommendations](#) to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg details the city's evaluation of its response during and immediately after Sandy, and

includes 59 recommendations for strengthening performance in future storms.

New York City [response to Public Comments](#) on the Partial Action Plan A. See also Good Jobs New York's information page on [Action Plans for Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds](#)

Updated statistics from FEMA on ongoing recovery efforts and costs for New York State: [Disaster assistance to New York survivors of Hurricane Sandy](#).

[Smart Response](#) collects and shares data on relief organizations coordinating donations and volunteer support for Sandy victims.

New York State health and safety inspectors from the Department of Labor will provide inspections and assessments to businesses effected by Sandy to help firms reopen as soon as possible. Call 1-888-4-NYSDOL (1-888-469-7365) or visit their [website](#) for more information.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is conducting a [Small Business Credit Survey](#)

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is posting upcoming application deadlines, recovery resources, events, and key agency contacts on their [Sandy Information Center](#) page.

The New York City Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency [website](#).

New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development along with L+M Development Partners, The Bluestone Organization, and Triangle Equities, American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIA New York) and Enterprise Community Partners launched a two-phase design competition called "For a Resilient Rockaway" (FAR ROC) seeking storm resilient, sustainable best practices for development at the city-owned Arverne East site and other sites city-wide. Submissions are due June 14. Details in the [HPD press release](#) and [FARROC.com](#)

FECS Project Hope Crisis Counseling Program offers free crisis outreach services to residents of New York City and Long Island affected by Hurricane Sandy. [Project Hope](#)

National Grid customers can visit www.nationalgridus.com to get information about the National Grid Emergency Economic and Community Development program for business customers impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

We'd love to hear from you!

Check out our resources on Hurricane Sandy money at our website. Or follow us on Twitter: [@GoodJobsNewYork](#) [#EyeOnSandyMoney](#). Please forward your suggestions on how we can make this round-up more useful to you in your work.

Contact us

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