

With many issues still unresolved in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on government money in the rebuilding process. For more on opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. And let us know how we can make this alert better.



## Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money Weekly News Round-up: November 13-20

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### This Week's News

#### Disaster Relief

Last week, a U.S. Magistrate Judge [found](#) that a professional engineering firm hired by an insurance company to review Sandy-related claims unfairly frustrated efforts by two homeowners to receive appropriate compensation and may have done the same in many other cases. [Property Casualty 360](#)

ALSO: A Long Beach attorney is now investigating numerous cases in which homeowners were significantly underpaid by insurance companies, to determine whether original engineer's reports were altered. [The Long Island Herald](#)

ALSO: U.S. Senator Menendez (D-NJ) [called on](#) FEMA to launch an investigation into what could be a widespread manipulation of flood insurance claims through secret modification of engineering reports. [Asbury Park Press](#)

The New York State Office of Mental Health received \$3.6 million in reimbursements from FEMA for post-Sandy repairs at the South Beach Psychiatric Center in Ocean Breeze, Staten Island. It is seeking an additional \$20 million from FEMA for other repairs at the facility. [Staten Island Advance](#)

The Delaware Department of Environmental Protection announced \$566,000 in disaster relief funds will go towards rebuilding two historic sites and for shoreline restoration and habitat protection. [The Daily Journal](#)

New York City Councilman Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore) [testified](#) during a U.S. Senate hearing on tax relief in the aftermath of hurricanes and called for more permanent processes for allocating disaster relief. [Staten Island Advance](#)

In a Queens-Courier [op-ed](#), U.S. Rep Grace Meng (D-Queens) urges small business owners in Queens, especially those affected by Sandy, to make use of assistance programs available through the Small Business Administration

The Lower East Side Ecology Center received a \$1 million grant from New York State to build an artificial wetland that will provide permeable coastal protection during extreme weather events. [Inhabitat](#)

## Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Through a partnership with New York Power Authority and National Grid, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation announced the completion of a \$21 million infrastructure improvement program at Coney Island Hospital that elevated equipment and increased energy efficiency. [NY1](#)

ALSO: The Citizen's Budget Commission released a [policy brief](#) on the fiscal challenges facing the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

The Hudson River Park Trust announced plans for a floating park off pier 54 in Manhattan that would be mostly financed by multimillionaire Barry Diller. Design plans show it will be built 15 feet above the water, in accordance with new flood elevation requirements. Critics question whether Sandy recovery funds will be used for the development and criticize the Trust for its lack of transparency before announcing the plan. [The New York Times](#) and [Wired](#)

A study by the American Society of Nephrology found that 26% of dialysis patients in Manhattan missed at least one treatment session in the week following Sandy. Service at many of the treatment centers was disrupted due to power and/or water loss. [NPR](#) and [Newswise](#)

In an interview, Urban Green Council executive director Russell Unger discusses ways New York City is preparing buildings for natural disasters. [The Guardian](#)

ALSO: Prior to Sandy, many buildings in New York City had back-up generators on their rooftops, but fuel tanks and pumps were in the basement and were vulnerable to flood damage and subsequent power loss. [Electrical Contractor](#)

Citing regional cooperation between New York and New Jersey during the response to Sandy, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand (both D-NY) [are calling](#) for a combined National Guard cyber protection team for New York and New Jersey to provide increased protection during disasters.

The Army Corps of Engineers is responding to climate change by adapting its policies on infrastructure to be more inclusive of resiliency measures. In January, the Army Corps of Engineers must submit a report to Congress evaluating flood risk in the Northeast. [Engineering News Record](#)

LES Ready! released findings of a community-based research report on the progress of Sandy recovery in the Lower East Side community. [The Lowdown NY blog](#)

Many local governments have been more successful adapting to climate change than the federal government. [Resilience.com](#)

## Housing

In Monmouth County, NJ, only two homes have been completely rebuilt through the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Pathway C program, which supplies state-assigned contractors for the rebuilding work. [Asbury Park Press](#)

The New York Times [reviews](#) "By the Water," a new off-Broadway play at City Center about the experiences of one Staten Island family whose home was destroyed by Sandy.

**[Subscribe](#) to the new Build it Back newsletter for regular updates of the city's progress with housing recovery efforts.**

## Events

List your upcoming event here! Email [elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org](mailto:elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org)

### Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: [New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics](#).

Do you have a group interested in helping with the Sandy rebuild? Check out [this list](#) of ongoing service opportunities to help with hurricane Sandy rebuilding and revitalization.

### Brooklyn

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-3:00: [Jubilee Legal Clinic](#), Coney Island Gospel Assembly, 2828 Neptune Avenue. Visit website for additional hours and information including income requirements.

## Advocacy Reports

**NEW:** LES Ready!: [Getting LES Ready: Learning from Hurricane Sandy to create a community-based disaster plan for the future](#)

Center for Disaster Philanthropy; Council of New Jersey Grantmakers; Foundation Center; Philanthropy New York: [Philanthropy and Hurricane Sandy: A Report on the Foundation and Corporate Response](#). A new report looks at the role of philanthropy in the response to Hurricane Sandy and how contributions help fund community advocacy, social services and other redevelopment planning processes.

Union of Concerned Scientists: [Encroaching Tides: How Sea Level Rise and Tidal Flooding Threaten U.S. East and Gulf Coast Communities over the Next 30 Years](#)

The Center for New York City Neighborhoods: [Rising Tides, Rising Costs](#)

FloodHelpNY is a dynamic map that allows users to find out what their flood insurance rate will be when new federal flood maps are available in 2016 and provides links to information on purchasing flood insurance.

NYU Furman Center: [The Price of Resilience: Can Multifamily Housing Afford to Adapt?](#)

[Stakeholder Engagement Report: Environmental Justice Climate Change Preparedness in New Jersey](#) [to view the report, follow the link and click on 'Environmental Justice']

The New York League of Conservation Voters: [Taking Stock: Sustainability and Resiliency Progress during Mayor de Blasio's First Six Months](#)

The International Economic Development Council released a guide to help local economies recovering from a disaster: [Leadership in Times of Crisis: A Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency](#)

New York Communities for Change: [Thousands of Homeowners Still Drowning in Underwater Mortgages: How Toxic Loans Keep Fueling Foreclosures and the Need for Eminent Domain](#)

Risky Business Project: [American Climate Prospectus: Economic Risks in the United States](#)

Report from the ClimateWorks Foundation and the World Bank - [Climate-Smart Development: Adding up the benefits of actions that help build prosperity, end poverty and combat climate change](#).

Fifth Avenue Committee, [Guidelines to Building Resiliency](#)

North Star Fund, [From The Edge Of Disaster: How Activists and Insiders Can Use the Lessons of Hurricane Sandy to Make the City Safer](#)

New York League of Conservation Voters [Three Point Action Plan](#) to address New York City's most pressing environmental and resiliency challenges

Natural Resources Defense Council: [Preparing for Climate Change: Lessons Learned for Coastal Cities from Hurricane Sandy](#). This report analyzes FEMA flood maps to reveal that the maps did not account for 65% of the area that was actually inundated by Sandy.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

## Federal, State & Local Resources

**NEW:** Getting LES Ready: Learning from Hurricane Sandy to Create a Community-Based Disaster Plan for the Future.

New York City Economic Development Corporation and New York City Department of City Planning: [Water Street: Transforming Water Street's Privately Owned Public Spaces \(POPS\)](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller, [On the Frontlines: \\$129 billion in property at risk from flood waters](#)

New York City Department of Environmental Protection, [Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan\[update\]](#)

New York City Department of City Planning: [Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk](#)

Urban Justice Center's [Mental Health Project](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller, [A Green Bond Program for New York City](#)

Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General: [Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response During Superstorm Sandy](#)

Swiss Re report: "[The Big One: The East Coast's USD 100 billion hurricane event](#)"

[Government Accountability Office audit](#) outlining opportunities to enhance FEMA efficiency in operations.

The [New York Recovery Network](#) provides links to disaster relief funding programs, regional trainings and events, and other news and related information on statewide Sandy recovery. Website registration is required.

[New York City's Quarterly Performance Report to HUD, April-June 2014.](#)

U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Flood Vulnerability Assessment Map](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: [Sea Level Rise and Nuisance Flood Frequency Changes around the United States](#)

New York City Comptroller's Office: [Audit Report on the New York City Housing Authority's Section 3 and Resident Employment Programs](#)

New York City Comptroller's Office released the annual [ClaimStat report](#) along with interactive maps which reveal claims against the city as reported to five city agencies, including sewer overflow claims from 2012-13 reported to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

New York City Comptroller's Office: [Audit Report](#) on the Department of Homeless Services' Oversight of Contractors Hired to Assist Individuals and Families Displaced by Hurricane Sandy

RISE:NYC, a competition to innovate technologies that will help prepare small businesses for climate change, announced 37 finalists. To read more about the finalists and links to competition updates see the [NYCEDC blog](#)

The Canarsie Coalition prepared a [resource guide](#) including contact information for organizations and individuals involved in addressing unmet needs in Canarsie, Brooklyn.

[LawHelpNY.org](#) launched a mobile site to provide mobile access to information and referrals for low-income New Yorkers seeking help with problems in areas such as housing, family law, consumer debt and immigration.

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods in partnership with the New York State Attorney General, hosts a [Homeowner Hotline](#), a confidential service available to answer housing counseling or legal questions. 311 in New York City, or 855-HOME-456.

New York City Office of Emergency Management [Know Your Zone Hurricane Preparedness website](#).

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Final Plans are now available: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/final-plans>

[One City, Rebuilding Together](#): A Report on the City of New York's Response to Hurricane Sandy and the Path Forward.

The [Program Management Office](#) of the Hurricane Sandy Task Force released its [monthly report](#) [pdf] on how 19 federal agencies have so far spent funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

A helpful [visual guide](#) to the agencies and key decision-makers distributing federal disaster relief funds.

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (a private 501-c3) released [an update](#) of how the funds it raised for Sandy aid have been allocated.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force report, [Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy: Stronger Communities, A Resilient Region](#)

ALSO: Good Jobs New York provides a critique of the federal Task Force recommendations in a [three-part blog series](#).

For more resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

**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

Good Jobs New York  
11 Park Place, #701  
New York, New York 10007  
212-721-4865  
[www.goodjobsny.org](http://www.goodjobsny.org)