

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: September 25 - October 2

### Scroll down for:

[Regional Events](#)  
[Advocacy Reports](#)  
[Federal, State & Local Resources](#)

### Transparency Tip

New York City's Sandy Tracker now contains Build it Back contractor and subcontractor information which includes company name, amount of contract, and projected jobs associated with the contract.

[Take a look!](#)

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### Have you heard?

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### This Week's News

#### Disaster Relief

As part of a settlement of a lawsuit alleging that New York City was in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the city has agreed to make 60 shelters in the five boroughs accessible to the disabled and to develop procedures to check on vital needs of households with disabled residents in the aftermath of a disaster. [The New York Times](#) and [WNYC](#)

ALSO: Given that one in five Americans is disabled and thus at greater risk during weather emergencies, more planning must be done for the disabled. [USA Today](#)

A federal audit found serious flaws in FEMA's procedures for distributing relief supplies like water and blankets in the aftermath of an emergency. FEMA depends on other entities to distribute up to 75 percent of its emergency supplies yet is not equipped with technology to interface with partners' systems for tracking shipments. [NJ Advance](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$340 million to New York State for repairs and upgrades to the state's wastewater and drinking water treatment facilities, to make the facilities more flood resilient. [EPA](#)

The National Science Foundation [announced](#) \$17 million in grants for research in Resilient Interdependent Infrastructure Processes and Systems, specifically to explore connections between energy, transportation infrastructure, healthcare and communications resiliency.

Construction has begun on resiliency repairs at Lemon Creek Park in Staten Island, which will cost \$300,000, reimbursable by FEMA. Many of Staten Island's parks, damaged by Sandy, are still in need of repairs. [Staten Island Advance](#)

#### Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

An independent study of Amtrak's tunnels, which flooded during Sandy, recommends taking the tunnels out of service one at a time to repair significant damage caused by saltwater corrosion. Tunnel closures will especially impact NY-NJ commuters. [The Wall Street Journal](#), [The New York Times](#), and [WNYC](#)

York launched a new [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Money database](#) to help boost transparency about how much and which government agencies have allocated Hurricane Sandy funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

The EPA joined representatives from the Trust for Public Land in a community forum in Staten Island to discuss the important role of wetlands. The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers recently proposed a regulation that clarifies what waters are under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. The EPA is taking public comments on this proposal until October 20, 2014. [Dredging Today](#)

Though the MTA is making resiliency upgrades throughout the subway system, climate experts warn that due to funding challenges - specifically that the MTA depends on the state to approve funding - the pace of its efforts are not keeping up with climate risks. [Huffington Post](#)

ALSO: ILC Dover is the company in the final stages of testing a Resilient Tunnel Plug technology to protect subways against flooding. The company predicts the plug will be available by 2016. [Delaware Online](#)

Climate change is disproportionately affecting Latino communities, and more community-directed research is needed. [Smithsonian](#)

Gov. Cuomo [announced](#) a \$94 million state investment in NY-Sun, a state program to incentivize and generate more solar power. [Think Progress](#)

In New Jersey, federal disaster relief funds will be used to purchase properties to return to wetlands, and the New Jersey Meadowlands, a Rebuild by Design winning project, will build a floodable park to protect coastal communities. [National Public Radio](#)

A public hearing is planned for October 21 to consider a proposal to store nearly 5 million gallons of gasoline in Riverhead, Suffolk County as a preventative measure against gasoline shortages like the one that crippled the region after Sandy. [The Suffolk Times](#)

A study of urban heat islands, which are mainly populated by low-income individuals, reveals that risks for heat-related deaths will increase by 70% by 2050; a Harvard research professor is urging planning professionals to focus on heat islands, as well as sea level rise, in climate change adaptation. [Harvard Gazette](#)

Gotham Gazette is launching a special project to report on New York City neighborhoods at highest risk for climate change. [Gotham Gazette](#)

Though unaffected by Hurricane Sandy, municipalities in Wells, Maine are meeting with officials from Long Beach and parts of New Jersey that were damaged by Sandy to assess how to prepare for future storms. [Seacoast Online](#)

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## Housing

Twenty Staten Island homeowners in the Acquisition for Redevelopment pathway of the city's Build it Back program have

been cleared for final closing through New York State. [Staten Island Advance](#)

One family, displaced by Sandy, has been living in transitional housing at the YMCA in Flushing, Queens for nearly two years while awaiting repairs on their Staten Island home. [NY City Lens](#)

A home, built in a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's, was constructed in Times Square then disassembled and reassembled at the homeowner's property in Sea Bright, NJ as a way to raise awareness of the power of volunteerism. [NJ Advance](#)

New Jersey will host six seminars on New Jersey's housing grant program, Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation, Mitigation, or RREM. In New Jersey, 3,830 homeowners have signed grant agreements with the state, totaling over \$486 million. \$199 million has been disbursed to date. [NJ.com](#)

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### Jobs

The city's highest earner of overtime wages is a Department of Buildings inspector, who worked over 3,000 additional hours in fiscal year 2014, in part by doing extensive inspections of Sandy damaged buildings in the Rockaways. [New York Daily News](#)

## 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.

**Tuesday, October 7, 2014 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm:** [RISE : NYC Technology Demo Night](#). The New York Academy of Sciences, 250 Greenwich St, 40th Floor, New York, NY 10007

**Wednesday, October 8, 6:30 pm:** Update on Sandy Rebuilding. Prof. William Fritz, President, College of Staten Island, Noel F. Kepler, Emergency Management Methodology Partners; Seafarers & International House, 123 East 15th St., corner of Irving Place, Manhattan. Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments, program start at 7:00 \$6 Suggested donation, \$3 Students

**Thursday, Oct. 9, 8:30 a.m. - noon:** [Dig Deep for a Greener New York](#). New York League of Conservation Voters Policy Forum on Green Infrastructure, NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, 295 Lafayette St.

**Friday, October 10:** [Second Annual Long Island Water Quality Symposium](#). The symposium is open to all members of the public. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. A confirmation email must be presented at the door. To reserve a seat, please email your request to: [Llwatersymposium@rivkin.com](mailto:Llwatersymposium@rivkin.com) by no later than October 2nd. Carlyle On the Green in Bethpage State Park.

**Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 PM:** [Light the City before we light the shores](#): Sandy 2 Year Anniversary. Let's unite the city in remembrance of our loss, in recognition of our ongoing struggles,

and in celebration of communities dedicated to a recovered and more resilient NYC. We will carry our messages and lights back to "Light the Shore" vigils at our home boroughs on October 29, 2014. Bowling Green Park, Manhattan. #sandyanniversary #lightthecity #lighttheshore

## 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.

**Saturday, October 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm:** [Red Hook Frackdown](#). The Brooklyn neighborhood of Red Hook was one of the many New York communities hard-hit by Superstorm Sandy. On October 11, we'll call on Governor Cuomo to help prevent climate catastrophe by supporting a ban on fracking. This rally is part of the Global Frackdown, an international day of action against fracking ([www.GlobalFrackdown.org](http://www.GlobalFrackdown.org)). Sunny's Bar, 253 Conover Street, Brooklyn

## Staten Island

Wednesday, October 29 at 4:00pm - 8:00pm: [Light the Shore: Second Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy](#). Staten Island Long Term Recovery Organization. Picnic Area at Midland & Lincoln Ave, Staten Island NY

## Advocacy Reports

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

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/hyrcr/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.

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