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Subject: Hurricane Sandy Weekly News Round-up: Groups express concerns over mitigation bank proposal

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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: January 29 - February 5

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This Week's News

Disaster Relief

CUNY was awarded \$800,000 by the U.S. Department of Energy to design and implement a resilient solar electricity system with microgrids that could operate during power outages. The project is also being funded by the New York Power Authority and NYSERDA. [Capital New York](#) and [Inhabitat](#)

A new [report](#) reveals that less than 5% of Sandy victims declared eligible for disaster relief in New Jersey have received enough funding to complete rebuilding projects. [WNYC](#)

President Obama issued an executive order requiring federal agencies and any state and local agencies receiving federal funding to adopt stricter building standards that reflect scientific projections of sea level rise and flooding intensity due to climate change. [Mashable](#)

A New York State appellate division panel ruled that it was not unreasonable to deny paid overtime to state employees who worked more hours during Sandy. The Cuomo administration refused any overtime until workers had exceeded a 47.5 hour work week. [New York Law Journal](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

The owner of one of the last remaining wetlands on Long Beach Island, NJ is putting the property

up for sale. The developer has promised to sell the property to the Trust for Public Land in order to preserve it as open space. But neighbors are concerned that the complicated process will fall apart and result in more development in an area extremely vulnerable to flooding. [NJ Spotlight](#)

ConEd is proposing to raise rates by more than 5% to help pay for storm preparedness and other projects. [NY1](#)

ALSO: Public Advocate Letitia James is calling on ConEd to delay the increase for the foreseeable future, saying it will have detrimental effect on low-income New Yorkers. Ultimately, the increase must be approved by the Public Service Commission. [Capital New York](#)

The New York State Department of Public Service held a public hearing on its Reforming Energy Vision, a plan to reorganize the state's power grid. Many comments were submitted on the need to make renewable power accessible to low-income residents, particularly those hit by Sandy. [Capital New York](#)

The MARSHEs initiative, spearheaded by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, is a plan to turn 68-acres of Staten Island's Saw Mill Creek into a wetland mitigation bank. Under the proposal, developers seeking to build in NYC's coastal zones will purchase credits in the Saw Mill Creek mitigation bank. [Ecosystem Marketplace](#)

ALSO: Some environmental groups are strongly opposed to the proposed mitigation bank and have submitted a [letter](#) urging the Army Corps of Engineers not to approve it.

Citing the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe and the ongoing disaster recovery in New Jersey from Sandy, U.S. Senators Menendez and Booker (both D-NJ) and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) [called on](#) President Obama to abandon plans for offshore gas and oil drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.

ALSO: The Army Corps of Engineers released a [report](#) describing the increased and extensive threats faced by ten coastal Atlantic states, with highest risk predicted for Connecticut and Long Island communities. [WNPR](#)

In his State of the City address, Mayor de Blasio proposed plans to expand ferry service in some neighborhoods. [The New York Times](#)

NASA scientists are examining how air pollution from large economic centers in China and throughout Asia contributes to major storms in North America. [Mother Jones](#)

More trees in Howard Beach, Queens have been identified as being fatally harmed during Sandy and will need to be removed by the Parks Department. [Queens Chronicle](#)

Housing

The affordable housing plan unveiled in Mayor de Blasio's State of the City speech proposes thousands of units to be built in low-lying areas of the city that flooded during Sandy. Climate expert Klaus Jacob disagrees with the plan and says the city should rezone low-density, high elevation neighborhoods for affordable housing. [Inside Climate News](#)

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

Action Items

New York State is accepting comments on its proposed amendment to the Action Plan for the use of CDBG-DR funds (see below). For more information on the proposed use of federal funds, see our website, [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

New York State

Thursday, February 5: Deadline to submit comments on New York State's proposed Action Plan amendment. A complete list of public hearings, and links to the proposed amendment can be found on the [New York Rising website](#).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Monday, February 9: Deadline to submit comments on the New York City Economic Development Corporation's request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discharge fill into a wetland to facilitate a mitigation bank within the Sandy Hook-Staten Island watershed. The public notice, supporting documents and instructions for filing public comments are on the [website](#) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Events

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

Regional Events

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

Upcoming free webinars on Disaster Preparedness and Economic recovery through [RestoreYourEconomy.org](#):

Wednesday, February 11, 8:15 am: International law firm Brian Cave, LLP hosts a half-day seminar on [New York microgrid initiatives](#).

Friday, February 20, 9:30 - 11:30 am: Ready to Respond: A Disaster Staffing Toolkit. [Register](#)

Friday, April 17, 9:30 - 11:30 am - Preparing for the Future: Multifamily Resilience Manual. [Register](#)

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: Fair Share Housing: [The State of Recovery - Two and a Half Years later, over 15,000 families still waiting to rebuild. Second Annual report](#)

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development: [Social Resiliency and Superstorm Sandy: Lessons from New York City Community Organizations](#)

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.

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

Federal, State & Local Resources

NEW: The Army Corps of Engineers: [North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study Report and Related Documents](#)

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: [New York Rising 2012-2014](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [Primary Protection: Enhancing Health care Resilience for a Changing Climate](#)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General audit: [The City of New York, Office of Management and Budget, administration of CDBG -DR Assistance Funds awarded to the city.](#)

Northeast-Midwest Institute: [Building a Climate-Resilient Great Lakes: Federal Resources and Assistance for State and Local Governments](#)

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](#)

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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