

*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 30-June 6

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### Transparency Tip:

Check out the Hurricane Sandy website of [FederalTransparency.gov](http://FederalTransparency.gov) for maps and information about companies that been awarded contracts as part of the Disaster Relief Act.

Like our weekly round-up? Please forward to a friend.

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### Mayoral Forums on Sandy Recovery

Thursday, June 13, 7:30 pm: Mayoral Forum: [Reviving Our City: Mayoral Candidates Summit](#). Presented by Faith in New York, the Alliance for a Just Rebuilding, the Sandy Regional Assembly, and the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance. First Baptist Church of East Elmhurst 100-10 Astoria Blvd, East Elmhurst, NY 11369.

Thursday, June 27, 7pm: Mayoral Forum: [Sandy Recovery & The Future of New York City's Flood Zone](#). Join the long-term recovery groups throughout the city as we hear how candidates for mayor plan to address a host of issues facing the city's Sandy recovery efforts over the next decade. Coney Island Gospel Assembly, 2828 Neptune Ave, Brooklyn, New York.

### This week's news

#### Disaster Relief

- The Bloomberg Administration announced the [Build It Back](#) program to assist homeowners, landlords and tenants with long-term rebuilding efforts. A housing recovery specialist will help registrants review options and complete necessary paperwork.

ALSO: NYC Build It Back offers reimbursement for: 1) repairing or rebuilding homes, 2) receiving reimbursements for repairs already made, 3) possible buy-outs in select areas. The \$648 million program is funded by the first round of CDBG funds to the city. A separate program is planned for a public housing resiliency initiative. [NY1](#) and [AP via The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: 助珊迪災民彭博推新計畫 -

Bloomberg announces 'NYC Build it Back' plan of Sandy Recovery. Residents who need Chinese translation service may contact Greater Chinatown Association. [In Chinese] [World Journal](#)

- In response to numerous concerns raised in New York City Council hearings since the storm, the Council will review a package of 10 bills that would improve disaster relief response and help residents, businesses and infrastructure more efficiently recover from future damaging storms. [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: The City Council legislation would create a task force responsible for ensuring homebound residents are visited after a storm and that they have necessary supplies and medicine. The legislation also includes measures for streamlining traffic and transit repairs after a storm. A hearing on the legislation will be held June 18. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

- Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) and a bipartisan coalition of Representatives from New York and New Jersey introduced legislation that would provide financing for infrastructure projects in Sandy-affected areas through private activity bonds. [Council of Development Finance Agencies](#)
- New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council Members from Staten Island urged the American Red Cross to spend the remaining \$110 million in funds it raised for Sandy relief efforts. [The Staten Island Advance](#) and [New York Daily News](#)

ALSO:

保留桑迪捐款紅十字會做法遭質疑 - Critics question Red Cross's unspent Sandy aid money. [In Chinese] [Sing Dao Daily](#)

ALSO: The Brooklyn Community Foundation received a \$1.25 million grant from the American Red Cross to support community groups in Canarsie, Coney Island, Gerritsen Beach, Red Hook, and Sheepshead Bay. [Foundation Center](#)

- Gov. Cuomo announced \$17 million in federal relief aid will help gas stations install wiring for generators that would keep gas pumps operating during power outages. [CBS New York](#)
- Four farms on the east end of Long Island will receive \$2 million in state and federal funding to help recover from storm damage. The funding comes through the Emergency Watershed Protection program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Newsday](#)
- A recent [report](#) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security analyzes how the emergency response to Sandy was aided by social media, and identifies areas of improvement and best practices. [Firstresponder.gov](#)
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission awarded \$170,000 to three Hudson River communities to plan for flooding and sea level rise. [Mid-Hudson News](#)
- Two insurance brokers have been sued by businesses claiming the brokers failed to include flood insurance in their policies leaving much of their Sandy-damaged inventory uninsured. [The Star-Ledger](#)
- 防範「水浸車」出售 DMV 出招 - With 400,000 vehicles flooded during Hurricane Sandy, some have tried to sell salvaged vehicles to unsuspecting consumers. In response, the Department of Motor

Vehicles (DMV) issued a customer alert against purchasing damaged cars and provided a method for determining whether a used vehicle is a "flood car" by checking its VIN numbers. [In Chinese] [The Epoch Times](#)

- Members of the New York City Fire Department's Special Operations Taskforce and Marine Operations received a special honor from the National Association of Search and Rescue for their efforts on the night of Sandy. [Press Release](#)

## Rebuilding Infrastructure

- In August, the New York City MTA plans to shut down the tunnel for R-train service under the East River connecting Brooklyn to Lower Manhattan to repair damages to electrical systems due to saltwater inundation during Sandy. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- Amtrak officials along with Senators Charles E. Schumer and [Frank Lautenberg](#) lobbied to include \$185 million in the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, towards an 800-foot concrete tunnel that could provide an additional rail tunnel from New Jersey into Penn Station. [The Wall Street Journal](#), [Crain's New York Business](#), and [Transportation Nation](#)
- The Cuomo Administration released its plans to restructure the Long Island Power Authority. The plan would amend the contract with New Jersey's PSE&G, which would begin operating the Long Island power grid in January. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers representing National Grid workers oppose the plan, citing the lack of job commitment for Long Island residents. [Newsday](#)
- The market for "Green Bonds" or "Climate Bonds" to finance sustainable development projects has increased sharply in the past 18

months. The Cuomo Administration considers climate change a risk in the state's bond offerings. [Environmental Leader](#)

- New York State and Federal regulators are seeking a more detailed assessment of potential storm damage and flooding risks to the Rockaway natural gas pipeline from Transco, a builder of the pipeline. [Gotham Gazette](#)
- A new [report](#) by Core Logic, which provides research for finance and real estate industries, finds that the New York region has 450,000 private properties valued at over \$200 billion at risk of storm surge from future storms and faces the greatest threat of impact of any metro region in the nation. [Crain's New York Business](#)

ALSO: 颶風季開始 珊迪災區仍缺防護 - Sandy affected areas face new risks. [In Chinese] [The World Journal](#)

- Sea level rise is estimated to be about 3-5 millimeters a year. Environmental scientists reconstructed maps of the past 10,000 years of sea level rise along the New Jersey coastline. [The Atlantic Cities](#)
- A study presented at this year's Capitol Hill Ocean Week estimates potential costs of \$5.4 trillion due to disasters during the next 75 years. [The Times-Picayune](#)
- The New York City Department of Environmental Protection released plans to install 5,500 [bioswales](#) to absorb storm run-off. Most will be installed in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx as part of a 2012 settlement with New York State for discharging pollutants. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- Experts predict a particularly active hurricane season this year. This article considers the resilience measures of the New York City

subway, utilities, hospitals, fuel networks, and shoreline residential areas. [New York Magazine](#)

## Housing

- New Jersey launched [reNew Jersey Stronger](#) that will allocate \$780 million in grants to homeowners to repair or resettle in their primary residences. The program is funded with Community Development Block Grants. [NJ 105.5](#)

ALSO: New Jersey state officials are warning against a scam targeting Sandy victims. Anyone asked to pay a fee to file a grant application for the reNew Jersey Stronger should report the attempted fraud to the Attorney General. [The Star-Ledger](#)

- 房屋遭受水害發霉專家授招除黴菌  
The Greater Chinatown Association conducted a lecture about how to deal with moldy structures that were flooded by Sandy. Roughly 80 local residents attended the event. [In Chinese] [The Epoch Times](#)
- Maryland officials have agreed to spend \$1 million to buyout properties on Smith Island, yet many Smith Island residents oppose the plan. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development cites the relocation benefit as "elimination of slum and blight on a spot basis." [The Baltimore Sun](#)
- Residents of NYCHA's Red Hook Houses in Brooklyn report leaks and electrical problems and are skeptical that preparations are better for this hurricane season. [WFUV.org](#)
- Google street view has updated images of properties by Sandy. Some residents expressed anger at the lasting impact the images may have on property values. Google is archiving the images on [historypin.com](#). [The New York](#)

### Observer

- A floating eco-dome "ark" offers an idea of future adaptation of building strategies to address rising sea levels. [Pursuitistblog](#)
- A profile of several Belle Harbor, Queens families struggling to return to normalcy after devastating loss during Sandy. [The Brooklyn Rail](#)

### **Jobs**

- With \$70 million in contracts on Long Island, one contractor, Looks Great Services, is under scrutiny from the Attorney General, New York State Department of Labor, and Nassau County officials for possible wage violations, and the contract awarding process. Some politicians warn that too much scrutiny may dissuade other firms from offering emergency clean-up services after future storms. [Newsday](#)
- A social action coalition is calling attention to 23 contractors that gave more than \$144,000 in campaign contributions to Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano in the weeks following Sandy and were subsequently awarded Sandy cleanup bids. [Newsday](#)

### **Advocacy News**

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

Hurricane Sandy relief volunteer opportunities in New York City are listed at [New York Cares](#)

### **Brooklyn**

Thursday June 13, 6:30-8:30 pm. [Sandylore Symposium: Cultural Knowledge as a resource for disaster response](#). The Actors Fund Arts Center 160 Schermerhorn Street (Downtown Brooklyn)

Friday June 14, 5:30 pm. Occupy Sandy debrief. [RSVP encouraged](#), but not required.

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.

### **Queens**

[Asian Americans for Equality](#) offers several programs to help small

businesses and emergency home repairs. Deadline for home repairs application is June 30, 2013.

## Long Island

Wednesday June 12, 6-8 pm: Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano presents a disaster preparedness workshop for businesses. [RSVP](#). Nassau County Office of Emergency Management, 510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage, NY

## New Jersey

Volunteers are needed for rebuilding construction teams. Details and sign-up information [here](#).

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

American Planning Association-New York Metro Chapter for the Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation: [Getting Back to Business: Addressing the Needs of Rockaway Businesses Impacted by Superstorm Sandy](#)

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.

The [2013 CoreLogic Storm Surge Report](#) ranks storm surge risk for U.S. metropolitan areas; New York metro region is ranked number 1. New Orleans is number 5.

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](#).

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](#)

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](mailto:bettina@goodjobsfirst.org) for more information.

## Federal, State & Local Resources

**NEW:** [Build It Back](#) - New York City's Housing recovery program.

**NEW:** [Repair the Rockaways](#) is a crowd-source funding site for Respond and Rebuild.

[Community Resource Exchange](#) lists many nonprofit disaster relief resources for individuals, communities and small businesses.

The [NYC Home Repair Consortium](#) seeks to repair 600 homes that have non-structural damage with unmet needs.

The (华埠服务社) [Greater Chinatown Community Association](#) provides translation assistance in Mandarin and Cantonese for business owners wanting to apply for FEMA and SBA funding. Phone: 212-374-0032.

A new report from the Democrats of the House Committee on Small Business Committee, [Despite Reforms, SBA's Sandy Response Lags](#), finds that SBA has approved fewer than 25 percent of applications and that New York's businesses are facing significant challenges obtaining disaster relief through the SBA.

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.

The [New York Recovery Resource Center](#) provides links for applying for Housing and Business Recovery Assistance through New York State.

The Recovery Accountability & Transparency Board has created [FederalTransparency.gov](http://FederalTransparency.gov) which will post spending data for Sandy recovery. All [contracts](#) awarded since Sandy are currently posted.

NYC Housing and Preservation Department has issued a [Request for Qualifications](#) to identify and select developers to rebuild damaged 1-4 unit buildings through the city's NYC Houses Reconstruction Program. Submission deadline is June 12.

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](#)

FEGS 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](http://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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