

Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars

Weekly News Round-up: December 27-January 3

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.



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Advocacy News

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.

This week New York Communities for Change issued a report: [Forgotten: How the City Has Failed Sandy Victims in The Rockaways](#) [pdf]

[Sandy Regional Environmental Justice Assembly Saturday](#) [pdf], January 26th 12:30-6:00. A gathering intended for the most impacted communities hit by Sandy is being organized by environmental justice organizations and allies to discuss the impacts and aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Weekly news round-up

Disaster Relief

- The House fails to vote on a full Sandy relief bill before the end of its session. [The New York Times](#), [Roll Call](#), and [Associated Press](#) (via Salon.com)

ALSO: Some say House Republicans abandoned the Sandy relief bill not wanting to vote for a spending bill so soon after the vote to raise taxes in the fiscal cliff deal. [Atlantic Wire](#)

- House Speaker Boehner reacts to the anger of local Congress members by promising a vote on \$9 billion worth of the relief bill by tomorrow and the remainder on January 15th. [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The Hill](#), and [Reuters](#)

ALSO: New York officials react to claims that House Republicans delayed a vote on the Hurricane relief bill because of unrelated "pork" spending for projects outside of the immediate disaster area. [City & State](#)

ALSO: The New York Times summarized [some of the items being criticized](#).

- Last Friday, the Senate passed its version of a Hurricane Sandy relief bill. After debating several [amendments](#) that would have reduced it, the Senate passed the full \$60.4 billion supplemental relief package. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: One amendment to the Sandy relief bill that passed the Senate prevents the dead or anyone with "serious delinquent tax debts" from collecting relief funds. [The Hill](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure

- Commissions reviewing how New York State can be better prepared for future natural disasters presented preliminary reports to the Governor. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

ALSO: Governor Cuomo responded to preliminary recommendations from NYS Ready and NYS Respond in a live webcast. More information may become available [here](#).

- Federal officials estimate that Hurricane Sandy created 16 million cubic yards of debris in New York and New Jersey, and more than half of it still must be transported to landfills. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- An agency by agency break down of where Sandy aid is expected to flow. [The New York World](#)

Housing

- Uncertainty about the cost of repairing damaged homes is spurring some homeowners to drastically reduce the prices of their properties to sell them quickly. [The New York Times](#)
- [New York Communities for Change](#) issued a report based on its canvassing of the Rockaways neighborhood. The report finds that one-third of residents have no heat, 10% have no power, and 80% still have wet wallboard or have paid out of pocket to have it removed. [New York Daily News](#)
- New York City Council members sent a letter to district attorneys and judges demanding that those convicted of theft and looting in the aftermath of the hurricane would be subject to the strictest penalties. [New York Daily News](#)

Jobs

- Day laborers, many immigrants and some undocumented, have found new work opportunities in rebuilding homes destroyed by Sandy. [The New York Times](#)

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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