

## Keeping an eye on Hurricane Sandy recovery dollars Weekly News Round-up: January 10 - January 17

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.



### Advocacy News

The [New York City Council](#) and [New York State Assembly](#) will hold hearings over the next several weeks to evaluate emergency response and disaster planning efforts.

At a community rally in Staten Island dubbed "Walk a Mile in Our Shoes," Hurricane Sandy victims urged Congress to act quickly on the emergency spending bill. Simultaneous events occurred in other parts of the City devastated by the Hurricane. More about the events are found [intherealnews.com](http://intherealnews.com)

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.

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.

[Sandy Regional Environmental Justice Assembly](#) [pdf] Saturday, 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

- This week, the House finally approved the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act. The emergency spending bill will help finance storm repairs to homes, businesses, and regional infrastructure projects. The bill is structured into two parts--the main bill allocates \$17 billion for disaster relief, and an amendment provides \$33 billion for infrastructure and long-term storm mitigation. An amendment that would require spending cuts to pay for the bill was defeated. [The New York Times](#),

ALSO: *The Associated Press* provides a break down of the main provisions of the base bill (\$17 billion) and the amendment (\$33 billion).

ALSO: *Before approval, the bill faced contentious debate. Some House Republicans proposed an amendment that called for spending cuts to pay for parts of the emergency relief bill. [The New York Times](#), [WNYC](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#) blogs.*

ALSO: *Before voting, conservative groups griped about earmarks in the \$50.7 billion storm relief package for what they consider efforts other than disaster recovery. [Huffington Post](#), [The Hill](#), [Politico](#)*

ALSO: *Numerous praise for the House passing the relief bill [New York Daily News](#), and AP via [The Wall Street](#)*

## Journal

- A report submitted to the New York State Inspector General questions some purchases as well as procurement and billing practices after the hurricane. [Times Union](#)
- According to The Food Bank of New York City, due to rising food prices and federal cuts food pantries and soup kitchens have been struggling to meet demand for several years. Now, demand on food pantries and soup kitchens spiked to even greater levels after Sandy left 40,000 homeless and 33,000 unemployed. [Wall Street Journal blogs](#)

*ALSO: More families are requiring food assistance in the wake of Sandy, including observant Jewish and Muslim populations which require kosher and halal food options in food pantries. [Gotham Gazette](#)*

## Rebuilding Infrastructure

- In the first in a series of New York City Council hearings examining the City's response to the disaster, Deputy Mayor Caswell Haloway acknowledged the city wasn't entirely prepared for extensive power outages that left people stranded in their high-rises for days after the storm. [WNYC](#)

*ALSO: See the calendars for New York [City Council](#) and New York [State Assembly](#) for upcoming hearings.*

- In the first of a two-part series of interviews with Klaus Jacobs, the renowned climate change expert and advisor to New York City and New York State discusses strategies for surviving long-term sea level rise. [Gotham Gazette](#)
- Debris from Sandy will total 12 million cubic yards which will mostly be landfilled; less than 3% of what has been collected in New York State has been recycled. Sustainability advocates are encouraging more debris to be salvaged. [WNYC](#)
- The restoration of the Bronx River was a crucial factor in protecting the area from the impact of Sandy. [Crain's New York Business](#) (*opinion*)
- Displaced beach sand must be cleaned before it can be replaced. [The New York Times](#)
- The NYS 2100 Commission has made recommendations to help the region best adapt to climate change. [The Atlantic Cities](#)
- A profile of some of the businesses in Red Hook, Brooklyn reveals the struggle to make repairs and re-open before spring. [The New York Times](#)

## Housing

- Most Oakwood Beach, Staten Island residents are calling for a federal buyout of the neighborhood due to frequency of storm damage. Any buyout plan would require approval from Mayor Bloomberg. [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- The treasury department has been asked to clarify how the future tax-exempt financing of affordable housing projects will be handled in the Hurricane Sandy and National Relief Act

of 2012. [Duane Morris blog](#)

ALSO: *Lawmakers seek to increase availability of tax-exempt bond financing for affordable housing in wake of Sandy.* [The Bond Buyer](#) [subscription required]

## Jobs

- A report by NYS Comptroller DiNapoli's office lists contracts and payments made in the two months since Sandy hit. The list is available on comptroller's [website](#). [WNYC](#)

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### 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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