



Sandy Regional Assembly RECOVERY AGENDA

Recovery from the ground up:
Strategies for community-based
resiliency in New York and New Jersey

April 2013

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Sandy Regional Assembly

The Sandy Regional Assembly Recovery Agenda has been endorsed by the following participants:

- 32BJ SEIU
- ALIGN
- Coalition to Preserve Community
- Concerned Citizens Coalition of Long Branch
- El Puente
- Environmental Task Force of the Congregation of Saint Saviour
- Friends of Brook Park
- GOLES
- Good Jobs New York
- Ironbound Community Corporation
- LiUNA! Local 78 Asbestos, Lead & Hazardous Waste Workers
- Morningside Heights West Harlem Sanitation Coalition
- NJ Environmental Federation
- NJ Environmental Justice Alliance
- NJ Work Environment Council
- North Shore Community Coalition for Environmental Justice
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island
- NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- NY Lawyers for the Public Interest
- Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation
- Pratt Center for Community Development
- South Bronx Unite
- Sustainable Long Island
- Sustainable South Bronx
- The Point CDC
- Transportation Workers Union Local 100
- UPROSE
- VOCAL-NY
- WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Weequahic Park Association
- We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc
- Workers Justice Project
- Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

Sandy Regional Assembly Planning Committee:

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- Jake Carlson (WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Northern Manhattan)
- Elena Conte (Pratt Center for Community Development)
- Bettina Damiani & Elizabeth Bird (Good Jobs NY)
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Recovery Agenda

What is the Sandy Regional Assembly?

The Sandy Regional Assembly is an association of environmental justice organizations, community-based groups, labor unions and our allies from Superstorm Sandy-impacted and storm surge-vulnerable areas in New York City, New Jersey and Long Island. Nearly 200 participants representing over 40 organizations participated in a January 2013 meeting to assess the aftermath of Sandy and the role of local communities in the Sandy Recovery process. Together we are advocating for a grassroots-led recovery that includes priorities of low-income people, communities of color, immigrants, and workers.



What happened?

Superstorm Sandy devastated local communities and resulted in billions of dollars in damages. Coastal areas were particularly vulnerable to the unprecedented storm surge while communities located outside of the immediate impact areas experienced massive power outages, interruptions in food and transportation networks, gas shortages, hospital evacuations, and fires. Vulnerable coastal areas in New York and New Jersey are home to low-income, communities of color. As the Post-Sandy NYU Furman Center analysis revealingly reported, most of Sandy's victims were low income New Yorkers. Sandy impacted nearly 20% of all NYCHA properties, (i.e., 402 buildings with over 35,000 units) and "nearly one-third of owners (29.9%) and two-thirds of renters (64.9%) directly impacted by Sandy had household incomes of less than \$30,000 per year."¹ Given those statistics, it is likely that further demographic analysis will show that people of color were disproportionately impacted by the storm. Sandy showed that when disaster hits, our communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather and climate change, like flooding, storm surge, erosion, high winds and sea level rise - which are increasing in both frequency and severity.

What is the role of community-based organizations & why do they need to be part of the planning process moving forward?

After Sandy, community-based organizations, neighbors, volunteers, and low-wage workers served as first - and last - responders and provided critical post-disaster support in impacted areas. Community-based organizations in NY/NJ have long demonstrated the capacity to work collectively to support neighborhoods from the ground up. Our resilience is built on decades of work establishing ties with our local communities, longstanding networks of volunteers, and effective organizing strategies. Sandy showed how communities that were resilient and organized before Sandy, were also the most resilient after disaster hit.

It is imperative that low-income and communities of color be an integral part of the Sandy Recovery decision-making process and help hold recovery projects accountable after funds are allocated. This means having a place at the table when recovery plans are made and funds are allocated; working to ensure that recovery efforts are coordinated locally and regionally; and demanding transparency from elected officials and appointed task forces. Low-income communities of color are on the frontline of climate change impacts - but we are also leaders in making our communities, homes, and workplaces safe and resilient now and in the future.

¹ NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, 2013. Sandy's Effects on Housing in New York City. [online] Available at: <http://furmancenter.org/files/publications/SandysEffectsOnHousingInNYC.pdf>.

Recovery Agenda

The Sandy Regional Assembly has identified the following common Goals and Recommendations in order to make sure that the priorities of vulnerable communities in the NY/NJ region are included in the Sandy Recovery process:

GOAL 1: Integrate Regional Rebuilding Efforts with Local Resiliency Priorities

Develop local and regional scale solutions that align climate adaptation and disaster planning as part of an inclusive planning process. Ensure that the recovery process answers the needs of all communities, especially those that are vulnerable to future storms.

Recommendations:

- a. Develop community-based green infrastructure and climate adaptation projects.
- b. Reduce vulnerabilities in critical energy, transportation, and food distribution networks by creating redundant, distributed, sustainable systems that serve the needs of our communities.
- c. Strengthen resiliency in public housing, expand affordable housing, and reduce displacement.
- d. Secure local recovery jobs that pay wages and benefits at the established industry standards.
- e. Create community oversight and inclusive decision-making.

GOAL 2: Strengthen Vulnerable Communities & Address Public Health Impacts

Maintain the health and safety of residents, workers, and first responders before, during, and after disasters as the highest priority.

Recommendations:

- a. Prevent environmental hazards after disasters.
- b. Assess environmental health impacts.
- c. Mitigate industrial waterfront threats and update NYC's Waterfront Revitalization Program.
- d. Address the needs of vulnerable populations (communities of color, low-income communities, seniors, children, youth, persons with disabilities, patients requiring permanent medical assistance, immigrants, linguistically-isolated households, etc.)

GOAL 3: Expand Community-Based Climate Change Planning, Preparedness & Response

Support community-based organizations' efforts to address disaster response, climate change adaptation & mitigation, and resiliency education & research, through funding and resources to help build local capacity to plan for and respond to future emergencies.

Recommendations:

- a. Improve evacuation and disaster response planning.
- b. Train volunteers & local CERT teams.
- c. Support community hubs for climate resiliency planning & disaster response.
- d. Support local climate resilience and community-based planning initiatives.
- e. Support comprehensive community-based disaster preparedness plans using ground-up grassroots planning principles.

Community Priorities: Capital Projects & Plans

The Adaptation/Resiliency Capital Projects listed in Table 1 will increase disaster resiliency in waterfront areas and build on pre-existing community-based initiatives and partnerships with local governments. These capital and infrastructure projects will help protect vulnerable populations in areas that are at risk of future storm surge, flooding, and other disasters. We urge the federal Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, Governors Cuomo and Christie, Mayor Bloomberg, and the New York City Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resilience (SIRR), to consider these projects as the Sandy Recovery continues.

Assembly participants did not rank or prioritize projects in our initial deliberations. We used the following criteria to recommend the Capital Projects in Table 1:

- 1) Projects must be in storm surge-vulnerable waterfront communities and have adaptation/resiliency benefits, either as green infrastructure (GI) or increased buffers for upland communities;
- 2) Projects must be in part supported/planned previously with City/State government; and
- 3) Projects should have already received some previous government financial support, either through design work or actual construction in earlier phases.

Finally, the italicized text throughout the document reflects potential Sandy recovery federal appropriations.

Table 1: Adaptation/Resiliency Capital Projects for Storm Surge Vulnerable Communities	Cost Estimate	Affected areas
Build green infrastructure (GI) to mitigate potential flooding and storm surges: Increase climate adaptation by increasing the amount of permeable surfaces along the waterfront, buffering adjacent communities from storm surges, and mitigating the impacts of extreme weather along the coast.	Total greenway cost for 3 projects below (a-c): \$152,075,000. <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of Agriculture/Watershed Protection Program (\$180M); Department of the Army/Army Corps of Engineers if areas need flood control to reduce future flood risk.</i>	Sunset Park, Brooklyn & South Bronx
a. Sunset Park Greenway-Blueway: - Continue build-out of 25 acres of green space, to facilitate access to the waterfront and improve mobility.	\$50,000,000	Sunset Park, Brooklyn
b. South Bronx Greenway:	\$67,075,000 (rounded)	South Bronx
- Randalls Island Connector	\$2,802,002	South Bronx
- North Market Loop	\$5,612,566	South Bronx
- South Market Loop	\$9,714,126	South Bronx
- Food Center Drive	\$11,587,984	South Bronx
- Ryawa-Viele Connection	\$13,313,156	South Bronx
- Willow Ave Connection	\$11,649,068	South Bronx
- Bruckner Blvd green street	\$12,395,894	South Bronx
c. Bronx River Greenway:	\$35,000,000	South Bronx
- 3 pedestrian bridges for “bridge the gap project”	\$20,000,000	South Bronx
- Parkland improvements (earth work, trail construction, planting, lighting, etc.)	\$15,000,000	South Bronx

Community Priorities: Capital Projects & Plans

Table 1: Adaptation/Resiliency Capital Projects for Storm Surge Vulnerable Communities	Cost Estimate	Affected areas
<p>Create Sunset Park Upland Evacuation Connector Project: Connect Sunset Park to the waterfront, improving local mobility and GI storm-water infrastructure in an area vulnerable to storm surge and flooding. Existing funding includes \$600,000 from NYS Regional Economic Development Council leveraging funding awarded to the NYC DOT by a City Council Member - amounting to a total of \$1.2 million.</p>	<p>\$6,000,000</p>	<p>Sunset Park, Brooklyn</p>
<p>Implement Sunset Park 4th Avenue Redesign: UPROSE, Community Board 7, NYC DOT and the Brooklyn Borough President’s office worked on this redesign, most of which has been completed - with the exception of adding large potted plants. The cost of the pots is \$200.00 each and with the need of at least 50 - the sum (not including the soil and plants) would be \$10,000. These plants will serve as GI components to help stormwater from running into N/R subway lines.</p>	<p>\$10,000 <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of Transportation/ Federal Transportation Administration.</i></p>	<p>Sunset Park, Brooklyn</p>
<p>Incorporate Climate Adaptation measures into Bush Terminal Piers Park: After over a decade of advocacy for the Bush Terminal Piers Park to be built, phase 1 is almost complete - but the project requires a \$30 million dollar investment in order to incorporate climate adaptability measures.</p>	<p>\$30,000,000</p>	<p>Sunset Park, Brooklyn</p>
<p>Rebuild the Gansevoort Marine Transfer Station in the West Village (next to Hudson River Park): This facility is slated to barge Manhattan’s metal, glass, plastic and paper recyclables to the new Sims Recycling Plant opening along the Sunset Park waterfront - reducing the capacity of sub-standard land-based waste transfer stations vulnerable to storm surge.</p>	<p>\$50,000,000 <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: CDBG; Department of the Army/ Army Corps of Engineers.</i></p>	<p>West Village, Manhattan; South Bronx; Sunset Park, Brooklyn</p>
<p>Finish construction for Bushwick Inlet Park: Increase permeable surfaces to mitigate storm water runoff and potential flooding & storm surge at the park.</p>	<p>\$5,000,000</p>	<p>Bushwick, Brooklyn</p>
<p>Upgrade NYC DEP Port Richmond Sewage Treatment Plant: Assess and repair potential infrastructure damages after Sandy, and eliminate potential hazardous emissions.</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>	<p>North Shore, Staten Island</p>
<p>Build rain garden and swale on NYCHA property: Increase permeable surfaces to mitigate storm water runoff and potential flooding through the creation of a rain garden on NYCHA property.</p>	<p>\$550,000 <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of the Army/Army Corps of Engineers, Construction for reduction of future flood risk: \$2.9B; HUD, CDBG: \$16B; EPA Environmental Programs and Management: \$725,000.</i></p>	<p>Lower East Side, Manhattan</p>

Community Priorities: Capital Projects & Plans

Table 1: Adaptation/Resiliency Capital Projects for Storm Surge Vulnerable Communities	Cost Estimate	Affected areas
<p>Reconstruct the Long Beach Boardwalk: This was completely destroyed by Sandy and generates millions in tourism revenues.</p>	<p>\$25,000,000 <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: First Installment of CDBG funds include \$100 in infrastructure needs in Business Recovery Zones.</i></p>	<p>Long Beach, Long Island</p>
<p>Create Minish Park/Passaic Riverfront: Provide critical green infrastructure, open space, waterfront access, and flooding/storm surge mitigation through the creation of bulkheads, a park and wetlands.</p>	<p>\$5,000,000 <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of the Army/Army Corps of Engineers construction funds, Phase 2.</i></p>	<p>Newark, New Jersey</p>
<p>Repair/upgrade Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission: Address damage to equipment, labs, administration, and security buildings left by severe flooding and storm surge from Sandy resulting in the discharge of billions of gallons of untreated sewage and water into the river/bay over three weeks. This caused \$250 million in damage. FEMA has provided PVSC \$11.2 million so far to offset this loss, but they may have to borrow to cover other aspects of the project.</p>	<p>\$239,000,000 <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: EPA Clean Water funding through SRF.</i></p>	<p>Newark, New Jersey</p>
<p>Creation of Newark Riverfront Park: Acquire and remediate up to 11 properties (nearly 23 acres) adjacent to the river to provide resilient waterfront access and soften the river's edge, complement park development and provide health and recreation benefits in a very under-served city. This is part of "Newark's River: A Public Access & Redevelopment Plan" & part of the City's Master Plan.</p>	<p>\$3,000,000 <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: CDBG.</i></p>	<p>Newark, New Jersey</p>

Table 2 indicates additional initiatives that the Assembly has identified regarding Capital, Planning & Other Priorities.

Table 2: Capital, Planning & Other Priorities	Cost Estimate	Affected areas
<p>Support Community Resilience Centers in Vulnerable Waterfront Communities: Build on UPROSE's proposal of a Sunset Park Climate Justice and Community Resiliency Center and Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice's proposal for an Environmental & Climate Resilient Research Center, to create a replicable model for community-led facilities. Centers will serve as meeting spaces to engage and train the community, carry out research, and distribute emergency preparedness guidelines and supplies, and information on potential threats, efforts & initiatives to reduce community vulnerability.</p>	<p>\$10 million (3 centers total) <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of the Army/Army Corps of Engineers, Construction for reduction of future flood risk: \$ 2.9B; HUD, CDBG: \$16B; EPA Environmental Programs & Management: \$725,000; Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health & Social Services Emergency Fund, \$500M per Social Services Block Grant.</i></p>	<p>Sunset Park, Brooklyn; South Bronx; and North Shore, Staten Island</p>

Community Priorities: Capital Projects & Plans

Table 2: Capital, Planning & Other Priorities	Cost Estimate	Affected areas
<p>Industrial Waterfront study for NYC’s Significant Maritime and Industrial Area’s (SMIA’s) as well as NJ’s industrial waterfronts in Newark and Elizabeth: Regional study to identify opportunities for “best management adaptation practices” for industrial firms, and to reduce flooding and increase resiliency. Complete revision to the NYC Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP).</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>NYC SMIA’s, Newark and Elizabeth Industrial Waterfronts</p>
<p>Encourage technical assistance grants for policy and planning networks and community-based organizations with histories of effective advocacy partnerships promoting environmental justice, resiliency and sustainability with the most vulnerable communities: Federal Sandy funding to support planning should not be dedicated exclusively to local or municipal planning agencies. Federal funding should also support community-based initiatives to reduce vulnerability through research, training, and emergency preparedness.</p>	<p>TBD <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Possible \$1.2B in Sandy Recovery funding available for technical assistance and planning.</i></p>	<p>Sandy-impacted and storm surge-susceptible waterfront communities with industrial clusters, and vulnerable populations</p>
<p>Expedite/prioritize remediation of Superfund sites and badly contaminated brownfields in waterfront areas vulnerable to storm surge: Prevent the exposure of contamination and other hazardous substances that can create negative public health impacts.</p>	<p>TBD <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: EPA Leaking and Superfund programs and Department of the Army/Army Corps of Engineers.</i></p>	<p>NYC SMIA’s in Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island; Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn</p>
<p>Rebuild sand dunes in vulnerable waterfront neighborhoods: Technical assistance and implementation to install sand dunes and green infrastructure to mitigate flooding on barrier islands, inlets, and waterfronts along beaches and bays - including Long Island, Rockaways and other sections of Queens, Coney Island and other sections of Brooklyn, and the North Shore of Staten Island.</p>	<p>TBD <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of the Army/Army Corps of Engineers: Flood control.</i></p>	<p>Long Island; Rockaways, Queens; Coney Island, Brooklyn; North Shore, Staten Island</p>
<p>Provide emergency generators for all NYCHA properties in vulnerable waterfront areas: Make sure elevators still work with backup generation or solar panels in all NYCHA project-based or subsidized properties in flood plains.</p>	<p>TBD <i>Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: First round of CDBG funds include \$120M in NYCHA resiliency measures for emergency energy back-up, \$40M in utility “race to the top” for liquid fuel and other energy networks and telecommunications.</i></p>	<p>NYC</p>
<p>Assemble, store and distribute “go bag’s” for emergency evacuation: In advance of major storm events requiring evacuation, prepare kits to be stored in key distribution centers (such as the Community Resiliency Centers identified previously) near vulnerable waterfront areas.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Regional</p>
<p>Relocate Vernon C. Bain Prison Barge: Develop permanent safe location for inmates, and facilities that are vulnerable to flooding and storm surge.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>South Bronx</p>

Sandy Recovery: Goals & Recommendations

GOAL 1: Integrate Regional Rebuilding Efforts with Local Resiliency Priorities

a. Develop community-based green infrastructure and climate adaptation projects

Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Homeland Security – Science and Technology, Research. Department of the Army – Army Corps of Engineers, study for flood and storm damage reduction. This is supposed to be moving quickly with a report out within two years. If any of the impacted beaches are part of the National Park Service there is money for construction “related to the consequences” of Sandy. Design contests: For NYC – First round of CDBG programs include: \$120 million for NYCHA “resiliency measures,” \$5 million for “race to the top” competition for resiliency technologies, \$40 million for “race to the top” for resiliency measures in liquid fuel, other energy networks and telecommunications.

- Increase funding for green infrastructure projects in vulnerable, low-income communities of color that mitigate climate change impacts and incorporate: increased permeable surfaces, trees, rain gardens, enhanced tree pits; low-impact development technologies; storm water retention and improved storm drainage; and restored, reclaimed, rebuilt wetlands and salt marshes.
- Increase funding for the NYC DEP’s Green Infrastructure Program with federal Sandy appropriation “match” grants.
- Prioritize green infrastructure projects and waterfront parks in storm surge vulnerable communities and implement projects that have been scheduled for construction and/or capital improvements. In addition to projects listed in the capital projects section of this document, consider funding & support for:
 - Staten Island Greenway running 5.2 miles along the North Shore from St. George to Arlington;
 - Soccer Fields at Commercial Street in North Brooklyn;
 - Bioswales in North Brooklyn areas vulnerable to storm surge;
 - Green roofs to divert storm water from CSOs in North Brooklyn - 1,500,000 square feet of green roof space would divert 20% of CSO capacity;
 - Increased permeable surfaces through the construction of 10 new community gardens on publicly-owned property in the Southside of Williamsburg and Bushwick;
 - Williamsburg Bridge Park, and the conversion of 4 acres of asphalt to waterfront park to provide much needed green space and absorb rainwater and storm surge;
 - P.S. 84 Greenhouse in North Brooklyn – partial funding has been secured by El Puente’s Green Light District;
 - Redevelopment of the abandoned Marine Transfer Station (MTS) in Hunts Point neighborhood of the South Bronx. As part of the Hunts Point Vision Plan, the Task Force recommended that the MTS site be reused to leverage its waterfront location. However, proposals should be subject to community visioning process;
 - Mitigate climate change impacts on residential waterfront areas in the South Bronx (including those directly adjacent to Harlem River Yards within the South Bronx Significant Maritime and Industrial Area) through development of 7 independent open space/park projects, including the Park Avenue Waterfront Project and Lincoln Avenue Waterfront Project. The total estimated cost is \$50,000,000.

Sandy Recovery: Goals & Recommendations

- Acquisition, remediation and development of 10 waterfront properties for the Environmental Justice Communities of Port Richmond, Elm Park and Mariners Harbor, to expand public recreation space and increase climate change resilience through GI, such as wetlands, oyster reef/barriers, etc. These properties would become an extension to NYC Faber Park and Pool, at an estimated cost of \$35,000,000; and
- Design and implementation of green infrastructure projects in Newark, NJ. Based on a successful pilot project, funds would be used to replace turf; create tree pits and gardens; and retrofit sites to absorb storm water and reduce impacts on watershed. These projects will also provide educational opportunities for students.
- Support sustainable, green, climate resilient buildings in low-income communities of color:
 - Rebuild and retrofit buildings for climate adaptation in low-income communities; and
 - Create “design contests” for affordable green rebuilding.
- Integrate climate adaptation & resiliency into Sandy Rebuilding and Long-Term Building Standards:
 - Use sustainable building materials and environmentally safer materials in reconstruction; and
 - Urge the Green Codes Task Force to include climate adaptation strategies and resiliency strategies.
- Mandate that future developments take climate change into account and require that expert panels (including climate scientists) review the adaptability/resiliency of large development projects and public infrastructure in storm surge zones (such as Columbia University’s Manhattanville campus expansion). Include analysis of toxic hazards and safety measures.
- Moratorium on new infrastructure still seeking authorization/approvals (e.g., the pipeline in the Rockaways) and new development until new standards are in place.

b. Reduce vulnerabilities involving critical energy, transportation, and food distribution networks by creating redundant, distributed, sustainable systems that serve the needs of our communities

- Build energy security
 - Distribute solar-powered wireless and cell phone charging stations in vulnerable areas prior to severe weather events.
 - Decentralize energy infrastructure and create distributed networks of sustainable energy sources.
 - Create back-up power systems in vulnerable areas that will maintain critical building systems (elevators, heat, hallway lights, and water) in the event of power outages.
 - Reduce dependency on fossil fuels (e.g., encourage expansion of alternative fuel vehicular fleets, expedite conversions/switches of cleaner heating fuel for large buildings, expedite repowerings for dirty electricity-generating “peaker” units, etc.)
 - Assess utility failures and site future power plants and related infrastructure (such as transformers) on higher ground.
 - Create/deploy solar energy projects that will generate power when the electrical grids go out in storm surge vulnerable areas. Implement the North Brooklyn Community Solar Initiative to generate back-up power for First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Williamsburg: This can serve as a model for solar back-up power in critical facilities (schools, nonprofits, churches, etc.) near vulnerable waterfront areas. The total estimated cost is \$250,000.

Sandy Recovery: Goals & Recommendations

- Create a resilient transportation system

Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of Transportation: Federal Transit Administration's public transportation relief program and/or Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program and/or Federal Railroad Administration as applicable.

- Expand public transit (public buses and Bus Rapid Transit) in underserved, vulnerable coastal areas.
- Develop local emergency transportation plans and inform local communities about evacuation protocols in partnership with local environmental justice and community-based organizations.
- Implement regional transportation improvements that respond to community priorities regarding mobility needs, pollution reduction, and the need for increased capacity in underserved communities.
- Create a plan for access to fuel, mandating access during and after emergencies.

- Build food security

Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of Agriculture: Food and Nutrition Programs, Commodity Assistance Program.

- Ensure access to food and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) after a disaster: Post-Sandy those without power/Internet did not receive information about food sources and local residents were unable to use EBT cards in areas without power.
- Protect regional food distribution systems: The Hunts Point Food Distribution Center (the nation's largest, handling 70% of the Tri-State area's produce alone) is located in a Significant Maritime and Industrial Area and is vulnerable to storm surge. If impacted, the entire region's food supply could be seriously disrupted. Another food distribution center should be created – without losing any of the jobs currently active in Hunts Point - so the region's food distribution system can become more decentralized and redundant.
- Identify local resources for food preparation and distribution (existing assets, such as food trucks, soup kitchens, etc.)
- Promote locally grown food, by supporting current farming activities and the creation of additional community gardens: El Puente's Green Light District has identified 10 publicly owned properties in North Brooklyn that should be converted into community gardens.

c. Strengthen resiliency in public housing, expand affordable housing, and reduce displacement

Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: HUD: annual reviews and amendments to Section 8 Voucher program.

- Strengthen resiliency in NYCHA and NJ public housing

Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: For NYC – First round of CDBG programs include: \$120 million for NYCHA "resiliency measures" & NYCHA back-up energy measures.

- Install energy back-up systems in public housing developments in flood plains (elevate generators and electrical equipment; install battery operated lights in NYCHA and NJ public housing hallways and basements; install back-up generators for elevators; and equip public housing developments with solar panels).
- Conduct risk assessments of existing conditions in NYCHA and NJ public housing properties in storm surge areas.
- Identify vulnerable buildings and conduct building-by-building resiliency audits.
- Improve evacuation planning in collaboration with private landlords and NYCHA and NJ public housing.

Sandy Recovery: Goals & Recommendations

- Create a NYCHA and NJ public housing registry of elderly or disabled residents (while maintaining privacy rights).
- Conduct objective evaluation of NYCHA and NJ public housing response by an independent analyst, along with recommendations for improvement and constituents' observations.
- Implement energy retrofits and green infrastructure in public housing developments.
- Move NYCHA HVAC systems out of the basements for NYCHA developments in flood plains.
- Eliminate displacement
 - City/state/local municipalities must certify that any project or program initiated after a disaster should not lead to a reduction of the supply of housing affordable to low and moderate-income residents in any neighborhood in the locality. If such certification is violated, said municipality should be subject to funding recapture.
 - Make the shelter system more sustainable and plan for long-term housing for those displaced.
 - Ensure tenants are guaranteed the right to return post-evacuation (via legislative or regulatory actions).

d. Secure local recovery jobs that pay wages and benefits at the established industry standards

Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Labor training for dislocated workers, For NYC - First installment of CDBG \$180 million for Business Recovery and \$100 million for infrastructure in Business Recovery Zones and underserved communities.

- HUD Section 3 opportunities for local hiring/contracting should be maximized for the Sandy Recovery.
- Employ local businesses & workers at prevailing wages for recovery and rebuilding – maximize Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) opportunities.
- Create a Sandy Recovery WPA-style public works/jobs program: train and employ local workers in clean energy, disaster preparation, and green infrastructure jobs.

e. Create community oversight and inclusive decision-making

- Guarantee that City, State, and Federal planning authentically includes local/neighborhood/grassroots involvement beyond “invitation-only” style meetings:
 - Require that NYC’s Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resilience (SIRR) and successor plans/processes be more participatory; and
 - Require that government and task force decision-making be transparent, including any amendments to the recovery plans.
- Ensure community oversight of CDBG and other funding decisions:
 - Direct CDBG-DR funding, federal funds, and philanthropic funds to community-based groups to implement adaptation/resiliency strategies in vulnerable areas;
 - OSHA and Land Use review standards must be upheld via this process; and
 - Obligate local officials to keep track of federal funding expenditures.
- Reform FEMA’s funding structure to include greater consideration of tenants’ losses, particularly in high-rise residential buildings.
- Create community fund to provide short-term, more accessible grants (not just loans) for those not otherwise eligible for funding through FEMA or SBA loan programs.

Sandy Recovery: Goals & Recommendations

Goal 2. Strengthen Vulnerable Communities & Address Public Health Impacts

a. Prevent environmental hazards after disasters

- Train recovery workers and first responders on protocols for hazardous materials and contaminants.
- Create handbooks to educate community members about hazardous materials and contaminants.
- Create a Mold Remediation Plan and pass Mold Legislation (similar to existing lead legislation).
- Install and/or store potable water dispensers prior to severe weather events to protect communities in cases of water contamination.

b. Assess environmental health impacts

- Conduct a Community Health Investigation to determine health impact of post-Sandy contamination and health hazards. Include analysis of the impacts on immigrant recovery workers.
- Conduct mental health assessments and provide resources for displaced residents.
- Address long-term health impacts including PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).

c. Mitigate industrial waterfront threats and update NYC's Waterfront Revitalization Program

Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: Department of the Army, Army Corps of Engineers, reduce future flood risk. For NYC - First installment of CDBG \$185 for business recovery, Small Business Administration disaster loans and resiliency efforts.

- NYC must complete its update of the Waterfront Revitalization Program (or the WRP, also known as the City's Coastal Zone Management Plan) begun 10 months prior to Sandy's landfall. Such reform must address the vulnerability of NYC's Significant Maritime and Industrial Areas to climate change impacts through the following policy recommendations: 1) Require risk assessment to climate change impacts in planning/design of all industrial projects on the coastal zone; 2) Mandate safe & responsible use of hazardous materials and toxic chemicals; 3) Protect local industrial jobs and businesses discouraging any actions that reduce land zoned for manufacturing and introduce non-industrial, non-water-dependent uses; 4) Protect & restore wetlands and other ecologically sensitive areas located inside or immediately adjacent to the South Bronx, Sunset Park and Newtown Creek SMIA's; and 5) Require waterfront public access, unless proven infeasible and unsafe.
- Provide funding for industrial communities in NY and NJ (including NYC's Significant Maritime and Industrial Areas) to engage in community-based participatory planning for climate adaptation and community resiliency and to convene meetings with local stakeholders that includes local community-based organizations, government agencies, and local industrial businesses.
- Conduct an Industrial Waterfront study of NY and NJ (including NYC's Significant Maritime and Industrial Areas; and industrial waterfronts in Newark and Elizabeth, NJ). The analysis should identify climate change risks; facilities that store, transfer, and handle hazardous substances; vulnerable populations (residents and workers); risks to public health associated with potential exposures to hazardous substances and toxic chemicals; as well as climate adaptation, best management practices, pollution prevention, and resiliency strategies.
- Require health impact assessments that incorporate climate change impacts and cumulative impacts analysis, to understand the impact of Sandy and any future climate change impacts in vulnerable industrial waterfront communities.

Sandy Recovery: Goals & Recommendations

- Provide technical and financial support to local industrial businesses to implement climate change adaptation, best practices, and pollution prevention measures.
- Reform zoning and land use regulations to address storm surge, flooding, high winds, and other climate change impacts in industrial areas.
- Update NYC's performance standards for manufacturing districts.
- Reduce vulnerability and create adaptation strategies for sewage treatment plants.
- Expand waste reduction and recycling programs, while prohibiting “waste-to-energy” incineration technologies – which according to the NYC Zoning Resolution can only be sited in storm surge vulnerable environmental justice communities.
- Promote sustainable growth in waterfront communities. Recruit new-tech or bio-tech industries that prioritize the hiring of local residents and support “eco-industrialization.”
- Prioritize Superfund and extreme brownfield remediation in storm surge vulnerable communities.

d. Address the needs of vulnerable populations

- Support disaster plans focused on the most vulnerable population, including people with disabilities, residents in long-term care facilities, immigrant communities, seniors, youth, people with limited English proficiency, people with language access plans or disability plans, and residents of industrial waterfront communities vulnerable to storm surge.
- Include vulnerable populations in planning and outreach activities.
- Hold multilingual meetings and create multilingual outreach materials.
- Identify low income communities and communities of color that were affected by the storm. Assess the needs of these communities, and make sure that any rebuilding efforts do not exacerbate cumulative impacts in low income communities and communities of color.

Goal 3. Expand Community-Based Climate Change Planning, Preparedness & Response

a. Improve evacuation and disaster response planning

- Expand public education and outreach to inform vulnerable communities about evacuation plans, community resiliency, climate change impacts, and disaster preparedness.
- Better publicize multilingual Crisis and Disaster Relief toolkits.
- Provide community-based registries/lists of local resources, distribution sites, and evacuation centers.
- Make information accessible by translating all materials into many languages.
- Distribute information at a variety of locations that are accessible and contextually appropriate.
- Use “Old school” communication methodologies to share information with communities instead of relying on Internet or phones alone.
- Increase access to local emergency evacuation centers.
- Include youth in planning and make plans accessible to youth.

Sandy Recovery: Goals & Recommendations

b. Train volunteers & local CERT teams

- Train and certify local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in collaboration with community-based non-profits. Local CERT teams led by CBOs would supplement NYC OEM's CERT teams. CBOs should receive funding to train community members and barriers to entry should be analyzed and addressed to ensure that people are able to participate.
- Expand access to training - many people don't have time to take off work and get trained; mandatory time off from work for public employees should be encouraged to receive disaster response training.
- Create a Youthcorps of First Responders (coordinate with local youth programs like NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program).

c. Support community hubs for climate resiliency planning & disaster response

- Support Disaster Relief/Evacuation Coordination/Climate Centers where people can get help & information before and after storms. Give funding to existing community-based centers to undertake this work.
- Support community climate research centers (see Capital Projects and recommendation "d" below).
- Fund Community-based organizations to retrofit existing facilities as evacuation centers.
- Link local stakeholders with scientific community and information.

d. Support local climate resilience and community-based planning initiatives

Potential Sandy Recovery Appropriation Stream: \$1.2 billion in Sandy Recovery funding available for technical assistance and planning. For NYC - Mayor Bloomberg's Business Recovery Zones.

- Encourage technical assistance grants for policy and planning networks and community-based organizations with histories of effective advocacy partnerships promoting environmental justice, resiliency and sustainability with the most vulnerable communities: Federal Sandy funding to support planning should not be dedicated exclusively to local or municipal planning agencies. Federal funding should also support community-based initiatives to reduce vulnerability through research, training, and emergency preparedness.
- Create Interagency Climate Adaptation Teams for each Community Board. All agencies (City, State, Federal) that work in those communities must participate.
- Create permanent FEMA offices in communities to coordinate planning before disasters occur.

e. Support comprehensive community-based disaster preparedness plans using ground-up grassroots planning principles

- Support Comprehensive Community Disaster Preparedness Plans built around community driven planning and local priorities.
 - Utilize community plans that already provide adaptation/resiliency strategies, such as Sunset Park's & Williamsburg's 197-a plans and the Hunts Point Vision Plan.
- Community Asset and Vulnerability mapping: provide support to community-based organizations to identify local assets and vulnerabilities.
- Engage community knowledge of disaster and include immigrant populations that experience these issues. For example, immigrant populations may be familiar with strategies from Caribbean islands (i.e. Puerto Rico's resiliency plan for Mayaguez, and Cuba's plan for storm response).

