

THE RESILIENCE DART

Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience Disaster Awareness Report

January 14, 2015

The Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience DART (Disaster Awareness Report) summarizes key developments related to resilience planning and design across the US, including the region affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Parsons Brinckerhoff's Resilience Information Center: A website established by Parsons Brinckerhoff allows users to track congressional, regulatory, and federal agency funding developments pertaining to Superstorm Sandy and resilience programs. The site provides links to the final Sandy bill, notices of funding availability and funding allocations, Federal Register notices, fact sheets on agency Emergency Relief programs, testimony from Sandy implementation hearings, etc. The website can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.pbtransportationupdate.com/legislation/resiliency_issues_and_hurricane.aspx

State of Affairs:

Washington, DC/National/International

- A group of engineers at Johns Hopkins University have developed a computer model showing how power grids in major metro areas along the Atlantic seaboard and Gulf Coast could be at risk from hurricanes (links below).

<http://releases.jhu.edu/2014/12/15/how-climate-change-could-leave-cities-in-the-dark/>

<http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2014/12/us-climate-extremes>

- A new report from Canada's Centre for National Security looks at lessons learned in response and recovery from Sandy, and how they can help Canadians facing weather-related emergencies (links below).

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1466863/canadians-can-plan-better-to-respond-and-recover-from-weather-related-emergencies>

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=6684>

- A new study explores the growth in sea level rise, establishing the metrics for a "tipping point" that indicates that coastal cities will likely experience frequent flooding (links below).

<http://mashable.com/2014/12/20/washington-dc-sea-level-rise/>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1002/2014EF000272/>

- Climate scientists are using mathematical models of hurricanes to predict storm surge levels over the next century, to guide resilience plans (for Atlantic City, Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island, Jamaica Bay in New York, and Norfolk, Virginia) and to develop a vision for landscapes that can handle periodic flooding (link below).

<http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S41/83/22A21/index.xml?section=featured>

- With partial funding from the post-Sandy Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is significantly upgrading its supercomputing capacity, which will allow it to provide more detailed and accurate forecasts (link below).

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/20150105_supercomputer.html

- FEMA's *Resolve to be Ready* campaign has been launched for 2015, focusing on seasonal preparedness for all climate-related hazards (link below).

<http://www.ready.gov/ready2015>

Regional (New York/New Jersey/Connecticut/Boston)

- New York City has exceeded 2014 goals for the Build it Back Sandy reconstruction program, with work started on rebuilding 1,002 homes and 2,014 reimbursement checks issued (link below).

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/city-beats-de-blasio-hurricane-sandy-reconstruction-goals-article-1.2067079>

- Using funds provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), New York City will provide financial assistance to homeowners who need temporary housing as their homes are rebuilt through the Build it Back program (link below).

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2014/12/hurricane_sandy_damaged_areas.html

- The State of Connecticut has allocated \$30 million for 21 restoration and resilience projects in 11 communities impacted by Sandy (link below).

<http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?A=4010&Q=558590>

- The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities engaged a GE Energy Consulting team, through Rutgers University, to review the resiliency plans of the state's regulated electric distribution companies and provide recommendations (link below).

<http://finchannel.com/index.php/technology/item/39831-ge-study-helps-assess-resiliency-of-new-jersey-s-electrical-grid>

- The State of New Jersey will spend its final round of post-Sandy Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds to complete home repairs and to expand financing of affordable rental units for low-to moderate-income families (link below).

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/552014/approved/20141216c.html>

- The New Jersey Economic Development Authority, in response to the fuel supply crises experienced during Sandy, has developed new guidelines allowing gas stations across the state to have more reliable access to backup power during emergencies (link below).

<http://www.cspnet.com/fuels-news-prices-analysis/fuels-technology-equipment/articles/nj-backup-power-program-goes>

- Boston has been recognized by the Obama administration as a model for other urban areas around the country because of its climate change initiatives, and it has also been selected to join the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Network (links below).

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/12/03/obama-administration-recognizes-boston-for-efforts-climate-change/gkcZP1Y7YOb21WqrJwVDOL/story.html>

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/news/Default.aspx?id=17892>

Contact:

Parsons Brinckerhoff provided immediate support to help clients and communities in the New York metropolitan area recover and rebuild after Superstorm Sandy, and is currently participating in a range of projects to mitigate the effects of extreme weather and build resilience in the region. For information on the firm's activities and capabilities, please contact:

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