

THE RESILIENCE DART

Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience Disaster Awareness Report

November 7, 2014

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

- Two years after Sandy, there is still an urgent need for a national strategy to mitigate the effects of future natural disasters (link below).

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/221818-applying-the-lessons-of-sandy>

- The USDA's Emergency Watershed Floodplain Easement Program complements traditional disaster recovery funding with proactive investment to protect land vulnerable to flooding (link below).

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/11/06/two-years-after-sandy-usda-continues-to-aid-in-recovery-and-disaster-prevention-efforts/>

- A range of issues related to energy, climate, and the environment—including “fracking,” water conservation, and mining operations—appeared on ballots throughout the country in Tuesday's election (link below).

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/voters-weigh-in-on-fracking-water-measures-18281>

- Miami's outdated flood control system makes its metropolitan area highly vulnerable to storm surge—second only to New York City, which has the most exposed property in the country (link below).

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/10/18/miami-hurricane-flood-control/13170817/>

- Meteorologists at the National Weather Service note that 2014 is likely to be the warmest year on record for California; the state needs a wet winter to deal with the severe drought caused by the hot weather (link below).

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/2014-will-be-hottest-in-california-history-18279>

- Various frameworks for developing and funding resilient power systems are being developed in many states, including those hit hard by Sandy (links below).

<http://theenergycollective.com/lewmilford/2150431/how-finance-resilient-power-emerging-models-post-sandy>

<http://www.cleangroup.org/assets/Uploads/CEG-Financing-for-Resilient-Power.pdf>

- FEMA liaisons help to coordinate and support the activities of long-term recovery groups such as those formed by community organizations after Sandy, and to connect these groups directly to FEMA (link below).

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2014/11/04/firc-local-organizations-team-long-term-recovery-efforts>

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

- FEMA guidelines designed to make coastal beach homes flood-resilient do not adequately address the diverse building types in New York City, including row houses and high-rise buildings, and complying with the guidelines could cost the owners of these buildings more than \$5 billion dollars (link below).

http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20141019/REAL_ESTATE/141019865/get-ready-for-a-5-billion-bill-ny

- Two years after being damaged by Sandy, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty are open and receiving record numbers of visitors (link below).

<http://www.myfoxphilly.com/story/26883220/visitors-flocking-to-ellis-liberty-islands-two-years-after-hurricane-sandy>

- Princeton University's microgrid, which is linked to the main public grid but is capable of powering the campus independently, helped make the campus an oasis for surrounding communities when power was knocked out in the area after Sandy (link below).

<http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S41/40/10C78/index.xml?section=featured>

- The New Jersey urban retreat and property buyout program "Blue Acres" has assisted numerous residents in inland areas whose properties were damaged by Sandy, but the program has not been as successful in coastal areas (links below).

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/nj-hurricane-sandy-blue-acres-18275>

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/weather-extreme-events/new-jersey-buys-sandy-flooded-homes-but-not-on-coast-141104.htm>

- Two years after Sandy, New York City continues to grapple with the problem of how to live with extreme weather and rising tides, individual residents continue to struggle with their recovery, and vulnerable communities find the ties that bind them (links below).

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/26/nyregion/after-hurricane-sandy-new-york-rebuilds-for-the-future.html?_r=0

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/years-sandy-red-hook-rebounds-article-1.1985563>

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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