EJNYC All In: Invest, Integrate, Involve

Draft for Public Review

FALL 2026



NYC
Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice

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Letter from the Chief Climate Officer

Greetings, New Yorkers!

We are excited to introduce New York City's first-ever draft environmental justice plan that proposes concrete actions the City can take to ensure that communities who have long faced the burdens of climate and environmental pollution are healthier, greener, and more resilient. The City developed these recommendations based on feedback from two thousand New Yorkers from surveys and community meetings across the five boroughs. In consultation with the Environmental Justice Advisory Board, the City identified recommendations to invest equitably in all of the City's neighborhoods, integrate practices in City governance which proactively address environmental justice issues, and involve New Yorkers in meaningful decision making to address issues within their neighborhoods.

Over the next six months, the City invites New Yorkers to share feedback on the proposed actions in the draft plan intended to address issues identified in the 2024 EJNYC Report. The City will be conducting public meetings across the five boroughs and 30 in-depth community consultations to inform the final plan.

Undoing and repairing decades of disinvestment and environmental harms that have disproportionately impacted communities of color is not something that can happen overnight. But change must start with a clear commitment to advancing environmental justice. This draft plan identifies approaches to make equitable investments in environmental justice neighborhoods, along with systemic changes to the City's decision-making processes.

An expensive energy bill, a commute disrupted by flooding, or living near a polluting last-mile facility are just some of the ways that climate change compounds the affordability crisis. These challenges are particularly pronounced for environmental justice communities. We can't make decisions to improve New Yorkers' lives unless we reckon with this truth.

As Chief Climate Officer, it's my responsibility to make sure that decision makers inside our government are making policy decisions, investments, and process improvements across the dozens of City agencies tasked with serving you, with a clear and sharp focus on advancing environmental justice. Our success requires deep partnership, and to the Environmental Justice Advisory Board: I am thankful for your thoughtful input, leadership, and guidance throughout this process. Shaping a just and equitable climate future will take all of us. We look forward to hearing your feedback as we finalize New York City's first-ever Environmental Justice Plan.

Louise Yeung,

Chief Climate Officer

OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) is pleased to release this draft of New York City's first Environmental Justice Plan, ***EJNYC All In: Invest, Integrate, Involve*** (*EJNYC All In* or draft Plan), in partnership with the Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group (IWG) and the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB). It is the first citywide, cross-agency plan that outlines the City's proposed commitments to address documented disparities in environmental burdens and benefits across the five boroughs. *EJNYC All In* is the crucial third and final element of the EJNYC Initiative, which is required by local law and directs the City to measure, illustrate, and address issues of environmental justice.

Through the EJNYC Initiative, MOCEJ, the EJAB, community partners, and City agencies have identified environmental burdens, documented findings in the EJNYC Report, and illustrated those issues through the EJNYC Mapping Tool. The EJNYC Initiative also called for a robust plan for the City of New York to tackle those disparities head-on and make commitments to address longstanding disparities detailed in the EJNYC Report, through investment, process changes, and greater collaboration with impacted communities.

MOCEJ convened more than 30 agencies to address the disparities documented in the EJNYC Report. Those disparities are concentrated in Environmental Justice Areas (EJ Areas), which cover 44 percent of the city's census tracts and nearly half of all New Yorkers.

This draft Plan is being released for public review and feedback, building on the thousands of New Yorkers who have already made their voices heard during five borough-based events and 12 feedback sessions between 2025-2026, and online via a citywide questionnaire. It is also a larger response to decades of organizing by the environmental justice movement whose leadership continues to push local officials to close the gap between resource-rich neighborhoods and communities left behind by decades of disinvestment, and to the many more New Yorkers struggling with the stress of extreme weather, the cost of living crisis, and poor environmental conditions in their neighborhoods.

To address the environmental inequities identified in the EJNYC Report, MOCEJ developed a solutions framework organized around three guiding principles:

distributional equity (where resources are allocated); structural equity (how the City's systems operate); and procedural equity (how communities are involved).

These principles are the foundation for each chapter, which covers public programs (Chapter 1: Invest in EJ Communities), planning (Chapter 2: Integrate EJ into City Systems and Processes), and partnerships with communities (Chapter 3: Involve EJ Communities Meaningfully and Transparently). Each chapter outlines several proposed commitments that address specific disparities.

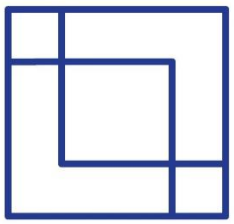


CHAPTER 1

Invest

Programs

Distributional equity: where resources are allocated

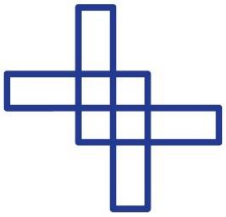


CHAPTER 2

Integrate

Planning

Structural equity: how City systems operate



CHAPTER 3

Involve

Partnerships

Procedural equity: how communities are involved

Major Report Findings

The EJNYC Report and other analyses underlying this draft Plan identified a consistent pattern: environmental and climate burdens fall disproportionately on environmental justice (EJ) communities, and so do gaps in access and affordability. These disparities are the legacy of generations of systemic racism and discriminatory actions like 'redlining,' a term describing the historic practice of grading neighborhoods' perceived mortgage-lending riskiness based in part on its racial and ethnic composition, which severely restricted access to economic opportunities amongst marginalized communities.[1] The cascading impacts of redlining, such as disinvestment and increased exposure to polluting infrastructure, remain visible to this day and underpin many of the following key findings from the EJNYC Report:

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE BURDENS

Heat

Heat is the leading cause of extreme weather deaths. Black New Yorkers had heat-stress death rates three times higher and Latino New Yorkers had death rates two times higher than white New Yorkers. Historically redlined neighborhoods tend to be the most heat-vulnerable and have the lowest rates of air conditioning access. Most neighborhoods that are most affected by extreme heat are EJ neighborhoods.



Flooding

Most residents living in areas projected to flood from coastal storm surge and future high tides live in EJ Areas. The NYC Health Department recently identified flooding as an important emerging public health hazard to address in emergency preparedness for New York City.



Air Quality

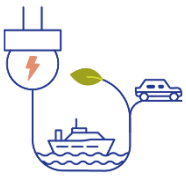
EJ communities, including areas of the South Bronx, Central Brooklyn, and Northern Manhattan, carry disproportionately high rates of pollution-related heart and lung disease. As a legacy of restrictive zoning and redlining, many residents of these neighborhoods live near expressways, truck routes, and/or industrial facilities.

ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY GAPS



Energy

Seven of the ten neighborhoods with the highest share of families facing high energy cost burden were predominantly located in EJ Areas. Energy cost burden is considered high when energy bills take more than 6 percent of a family's gross income.



Transportation

One in five New Yorkers find public transit unaffordable. Compared with other American cities, New York City has both the highest poverty rate and the lowest income cut-off threshold for eligibility for its reduced-fare program.



Food

More than a third of New Yorkers are at risk of food insecurity, and Black and Hispanic or Latino New Yorkers carry a disproportionate share of food insecurity and diet-related disease. Predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods have more fast-food establishments than predominantly white ones. Bronx residents experience the highest rates of diet-related disease in the city.



Open Spaces

Residents of EJ Areas have access to 19% fewer acres of park space per 1,000 residents compared with residents of non-EJ Areas.

Turning Findings into Actions

Environmental burdens in New York City are not randomly distributed: they track closely with neighborhoods left behind by decades of disinvestment and discriminatory actions. The City concludes that reducing these disparities requires coordinated action at scale, across investment, City processes, and partnership with affected communities.

EJNYC All In includes 38 proposed commitments developed by the Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group (IWG) to address environmental inequities identified in the EJNYC Report. Once the public has had an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Plan during the public review period, the City will refine its

commitments for the final Plan release. Proposed commitments in *EJNYC All In* are organized into the following three chapters:

Invest

The City will invest first where the need is greatest, directing cooling, flood protection, clean energy, food access, and open space resources to the communities carrying the heaviest environmental burdens. Proposed commitments are organized into the following categories:

- Address disparities in climate hazards for frontline communities
- Reduce pollutants and prioritize overburdened communities in the renewable energy transition
- Strengthen food security in communities across the city
- Explore opportunities to expand access to open space in EJ Areas

Integrate

The City will build environmental justice (EJ) into how it budgets, designs, and delivers capital projects, including through the Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines and a citywide EJ Project Framework. Proposed commitments are organized into the following categories:

- Identify and prioritize projects that advance EJ
- Deliver EJ projects more quickly and efficiently

Involve

The City will involve EJ communities more in its decision-making, through clearer information, accessible data, and real pathways for community input. Proposed commitments are organized into the following categories:

- Improve access to the information New Yorkers need to prepare for a rapidly changing climate
- Collaborate and build capacity between community-based organizations (CBOs) and City agencies

The City will report annually on the delivery of EJ projects to hold itself accountable for investments long overdue to these communities. Recognizing that EJ is a long-term commitment, *EJNYC All In* begins turning documented disparities into measurable actions.

Introduction

EJNYC All In: Invest, Integrate, Involve (*EJNYC All In* or the draft Plan) is New York City's first Environmental Justice Plan, and the third element of the EJNYC Initiative that Local Laws 60 and 64 of 2017 set in motion. Those laws directed the City to complete three things in sequence: measure environmental injustice across the five boroughs, make the data publicly accessible for New Yorkers, and develop a citywide plan to address it. The Initiative's three deliverables correspond to those three tasks.



Measure

The EJNYC Report (2024) is the measurement of the issue; the City's first comprehensive account of environmental injustice across all five boroughs. The Report traced the history of the disparities, defined the city's Environmental Justice Areas, or EJ Areas, and examined present-day conditions across six areas of concern: access to resources; exposure to polluted air; exposure to toxic and hazardous materials; access to safe and healthy housing; exposure to polluted water; and exposure to climate change.



Illustrate

The EJNYC Mapping Tool (2024) is the illustration, an interactive online platform that consolidates more than one hundred data layers and lets any New Yorker see the environmental benefits and harms in their own neighborhood, from proximity to parks and peaker power plants to harbor water quality and access to air conditioning. It makes the Report's findings visible and usable for residents, advocates, and City agencies alike.



Respond

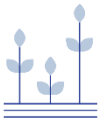
EJNYC All In (2026) is the response and picks up where the Report left off, turning its findings and recommendations into the City's first cross-agency set of proposed commitments to reduce environmental burdens in EJ neighborhoods, improve access to essential services, and reform the systems that shape outcomes. Every New Yorker deserves to thrive where they live; *EJNYC All In* is the City's plan for closing the gaps the Report documented, so no neighborhood is left behind as the city makes progress.

Ultimately, this draft Plan outlines the City's proposed commitments to improve the lives of all New Yorkers, empower those most in need of a voice in local government, and make underserved neighborhoods healthier, safer, and cleaner places to live.

Background

What the EJNYC Report Found

Across its six areas of concern, the Report reached a consistent conclusion: environmental burdens in New York City are not randomly distributed but concentrated in the same low-income communities and communities of color. Many areas face multiple, compounding environmental burdens and disparities. A neighborhood exposed to poor air quality from several nearby sources of pollution may also lack sufficient investment in open space and tree canopy coverage, face greater flood risk or higher heat vulnerability, and have fewer nutritious food options. The cumulative impacts of multiple environmental justice (EJ) concerns can negatively affect residents' health and wellbeing. The findings below are the issues *EJNYC All In* is built to address.



Access to resources

When population density is accounted for, residents of EJ Areas have less open space per person than other New Yorkers, and parks that draw private funding cluster in wealthier neighborhoods. Low-income Hispanic or Latino and Black residents report the highest rates of transit hardship, and predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods have less access to fresh food and a higher concentration of fast-food establishments.



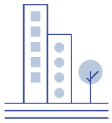
Polluted air

EJ Areas contain more stationary sources of pollution, including peaker power plants, buildings burning fossil fuels, waste-processing facilities, and hazardous-waste generators, and face greater exposure to heavy-duty diesel emissions because of the location of highways, truck routes, and fleet parking. These neighborhoods show more pollution-attributable emergency-department visits, and communities such as the South Bronx, Central Brooklyn, and Northern Manhattan carry disproportionately high rates of heart and lung disease.



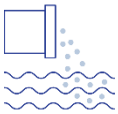
Toxic and hazardous materials

Up to 121,000 privately owned lead service lines in the city need replacement, and residents in EJ neighborhoods are the least able to afford the several-thousand-dollar cost.



Safe and healthy housing

Seven of the ten neighborhoods with the highest share of families facing a high energy cost burden are predominantly EJ Areas, and poor housing quality, a legacy of redlining, raises indoor air pollution and asthma rates, particularly in public housing concentrated in EJ communities.



Polluted water

Due to outdated sewer infrastructure, untreated sewage enters the city's waterways, with significant discharges into waterways flowing through EJ Areas. Over 455 million gallons and 1,226 million gallons of raw combined sewage enter the Bronx River and Newtown Creek, respectively, per year. Water quality, currents, and boat traffic limit many New York City water bodies for swimming and fishing. Stormwater flooding may impact housing quality of residents' safety and health.



Climate change

The most heat-vulnerable neighborhoods, those scoring 4 and 5 on the Heat Vulnerability Index, sit predominantly within EJ Areas. Black New Yorkers die from heat stress at three times the rate and Latino New Yorkers at twice the rate of white New Yorkers. Using the city's first Flood Vulnerability Index, the Report also found that EJ Areas face the greatest exposure to coastal storm surge, chronic tidal flooding, and extreme rainfall.

The EJNYC Report's Five Recommendations

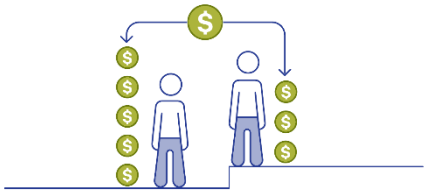
The Report closed by identifying five policy opportunity areas for the City to build on. These recommendations set the agenda that this draft Plan is organized around.

1 Invest in environmental justice communities.

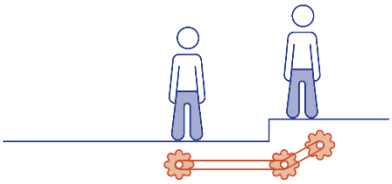
2	Integrate environmental justice into agency decisions through climate budgeting.
3	Improve accountability through greater data transparency and communication.
4	Coordinate with permitting authorities to embed equity and environmental justice in the siting and permitting of infrastructure.
5	Explore and develop new ways to collaborate with environmental justice communities.

EJNYC Report's Findings Informed the Draft Plan's Commitments

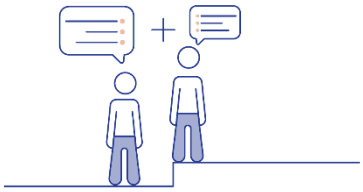
EJNYC All In consolidates the Report's recommendations into three goals, each grounded in one of the Report's guiding principles, and organizes its commitments around the findings above. The framework below shows how each goal takes up the Report's recommendations and responds to what the Report documented. These commitments are centered on advancing three areas of equity.



Distributional equity



Structural equity



Procedural equity

Advancing equity requires recognizing that past policies and actions have directly affected housing quality, exposure to environmental hazards, and access to resources for certain New Yorkers and not others. Through this lens, the draft Plan focuses on achieving environmental justice by addressing these burdens head-on and strengthening the systems that determine how protection, investment, and opportunity are distributed. As the effects of climate change intensify, this approach is essential to ensure that all New Yorkers can live in safe, healthy communities and equally enjoy the benefits of a resilient, sustainable city.



Invest in EJ communities

This goal responds directly to disparities in access to resources and environmental benefits documented in the EJNYC Report. It directs new investments in cooling, flood protection, clean energy, food access, and open space resources — benefits that should go first to the neighborhoods that carry the heaviest burdens — so that every community's needs are met. The focus of this goal is distributional equity.

Distributional Equity

Decisions made by the City influence how and where opportunities like community programs, physical infrastructure, funding dollars, and jobs that cover the true cost of living are provided. Distributional equity involves addressing disparities and prioritizing communities that need investment most, ensuring all communities enjoy the same levels of service.



Integrate EJ into City systems and processes

This goal seeks to institutionalize processes that produce fairer environmental outcomes by building EJ into how the City budgets, designs, reviews, and delivers its capital projects. It responds to Report findings across all issue areas by standardizing how decisionmakers across the City evaluate and address environmental inequities in their day-to-day operations. The focus of this goal is structural equity.

Structural Equity

Resources and opportunities are administered through policies and systems, which, historically, have created and exacerbated environmental injustices at the community level. Structural equity involves developing policies and processes that remove institutional barriers and ensure equitable outcomes persist. To advance a more just city for all, equity must be a priority in governance and a part of how laws and policies are implemented.

Involve EJ communities meaningfully and transparently

This goal aims to advance opportunities to improve accountability through data transparency and to develop new ways to collaborate with EJ communities. It responds to the Report's finding that engagement is often too time- and resource-intensive, by improving access to information and building durable partnerships between the City and community organizations. The focus of this goal is procedural equity.

> #### Procedural Equity
>
> While the City's efforts to involve the public in environmental decision-making include engagement processes that are both legally required and voluntary, participation can be resource- and time-intensive, and, as a result, inaccessible. Procedural equity involves expanding ongoing efforts to reduce barriers and design engagement processes that ensure that communities most impacted by the issues at hand are centered, prioritized, and present.

Plan Vision and Legacy

What does environmental justice look like?

Environmental justice means a New York City where, no matter the neighborhood, residents are offered the same chance to live healthy lives. It looks like breathing cleaner air made possible by tree-lined streets, fewer polluting vehicles on the road, and access to quality parks, playgrounds, and open spaces across neighborhoods. It looks like equitable access to cooling centers, resilient infrastructure, and inclusive emergency programs that protect the City's most vulnerable neighbors when extreme weather events occur.

However, as the EJNYC Report highlighted, far too many low-income and communities of color historically underserved by public investment are exposed to environmental harm — such as polluted air, sweltering streets and sidewalks, or flooded apartment buildings — at a drastically greater rate than wealthier and whiter counterparts. The historic inequitable distribution of resources and

investments was driven by decades of policy and planning decisions that are still felt today.

In response, the City has directed significant resources and policies towards improving our communities.[2] The transition to electric vehicles and renewable energy sources is helping lower air and noise pollution. Expanding the city's tree canopy, parks, and natural areas is helping provide cooler places of refuge as temperatures rise. Additionally, revitalizing the waterfront, paired with major investments in stormwater and coastal flood protection infrastructure, is helping reduce the risk posed by rising sea levels and record storms.

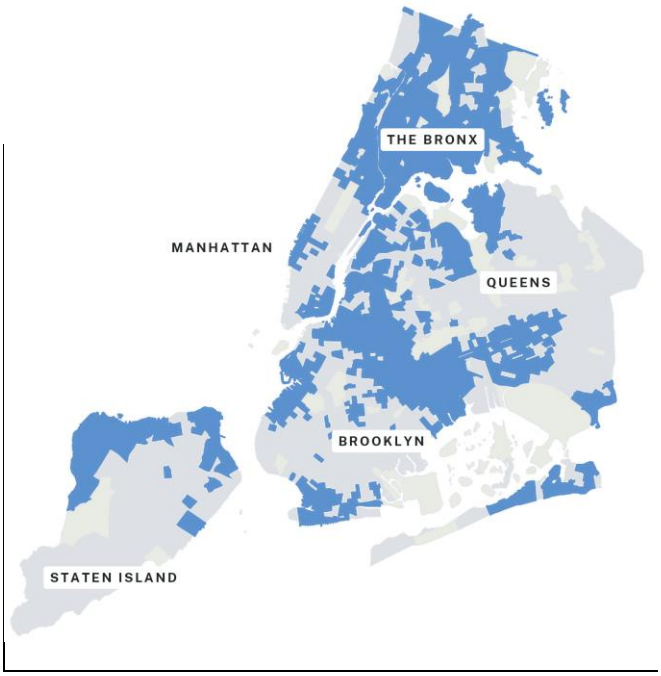
Advancing equity is closely tied to how and where public dollars are spent and whether those investments deliver measurable improvements for neighborhoods with social vulnerabilities and aging infrastructure. This means directing investment to communities bearing disproportionate environmental burdens and ensuring those most impacted can meaningfully participate in decisions about how resources are used. Through this draft Plan and beyond, the City of New York is working alongside communities, particularly those that have been impacted by environmental and health risks the most, to advance the EJ priorities New Yorkers have consistently identified over the decades.

What is an Environmental Justice Area?

An Environmental Justice Area, or 'EJ Area' for short, is a place that experiences disproportionate environmental burdens and climate change risks due to historical disinvestment and discrimination and has vulnerable populations and negative health.[3]

This draft Plan identifies the city's EJ Areas using New York State's Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) designation,[4] which is calculated using a total of 45 indicators that describe various sociodemographic and environmental conditions for census tracts statewide.[5] Based on this designation, EJ Areas account for 44 percent of all New York City census tracts, containing nearly half of the city's population.

NYC Environmental Justice Areas



44% of New York City census tracts are EJ Areas

Nearly half of the city's population lives in an EJ Area

45 indicators make up New York State's Disadvantaged Communities designation

EJ Areas Non-EJ Areas

Parks, airports and other non-residential areas

EJ Areas follow New York State's Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) designation for census tracts.

Process

To turn the EJNYC Report's recommendations into action, MOCEJ convened the Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group (IWG), whose more than 30 City agencies and mayoral offices had helped produce the Report, alongside the independent Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) and community-based partners. The work was organized around four focus areas drawn from the Report: Invest in EJ Areas and Public Spaces; Integrate EJ into City Systems and Processes; Data Transparency and Collaboration; and Healthy Homes and Affordable Utilities.



- Left: The EJNYC Report release event, April 2024. Right: A public program on climate change and environmental justice, December 2025. Photos: MOCEJ

Working groups of department leads and subject-matter experts met biweekly through the first half of 2025 to identify the commitments agencies could realistically make in each focus area; the resulting proposed strategies were then elevated to senior leadership for approval. The EJAB met monthly with MOCEJ, and community input was sought through a pre-draft engagement process during which MOCEJ held five borough-based events and twelve feedback sessions with community-based organizations (CBOs) to review the City's approach in developing the draft Plan and gather preliminary feedback and conducted a citywide questionnaire to understand priority concerns and solutions.

The following milestones trace the full arc, from the 2017 legislation to the release of this draft Plan.

Spring 2017	The City Council passed Local Laws 60 and 64 mandating that the City study environmental burdens across the city — along with developing an online portal to make this information accessible — and develop a plan to address them.
Summer 2019	The NYC Mayor's Office and Speaker of the NYC Council appointed fifteen inaugural members to the Environmental Justice Advisory Board to oversee the implementation of the EJNYC Initiative.
Winter 2020 — Summer 2021	MOCEJ and the IWG developed a draft scope of work for the EJNYC Report public scoping process, which identified EJ concerns, with input from the EJAB members and the public via a public comment period from February to April 2021.
Summer 2021 — Winter 2021	MOCEJ and the IWG finalized the scope of work for the EJNYC Report, addressing feedback submitted by both EJAB members and the public through a second public comment period and five virtual town hall events hosted by the EJAB and MOCEJ.
Spring 2022 — Spring 2024	The IWG worked in tandem with MOCEJ, with input from the EJAB, to implement the scope of work and develop the EJNYC Report and accompanying EJNYC Mapping Tool, which would serve as the foundation for *EJNYC All In*.
Spring 2024 — Fall 2026	IWG worked with MOCEJ to develop the draft Plan. The number of agencies and offices expanded from nine required by local law to more than 30. EJAB provides input on the draft Plan. MOCEJ conducted a pre-draft engagement process through a series of borough-based events and feedback sessions, and a questionnaire to obtain preliminary input and identify potential gaps in the draft Plan. Note: While some EJAB membership has changed — appointments are made on a three-year cycle — the EJAB chair has remained the same throughout the development of the EJNYC Report and *EJNYC All In*.
Fall 2026	The City released a draft Plan that proposed commitments for review and feedback by the public.

Fall 2026 — Spring 2027	The public review period will open for feedback on the draft Plan. The EJAB will hold five in-person public hearings, one in each borough, and one virtual public hearing. MOCEJ will partner with 30 CBOs to host community discussions and generate feedback for the EJAB and IWG. MOCEJ will launch a website to receive written feedback from the public.
Spring 2027 and Beyond	The public review period will close and the EJAB will submit feedback to the IWG on the draft Plan. The IWG will work with MOCEJ to respond to the EJAB's comments, update, and finalize the text for a final publication. The IWG will provide the final Plan to the EJAB, the Mayor, the speaker of the City Council, and involved agencies. The IWG will report annually to the EJAB, the Mayor, and the speaker of the City Council on progress in implementing the Plan. Every five years, the IWG will revise the most recent plan in accordance with local law.

CHAPTER 1

Invest in Environmental Justice Communities

Environmental justice starts with recognizing and addressing existing environmental and health harms. The City will use investment as a tool to undo past harms.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- Address disparities in climate hazards for frontline communities
- Reduce pollutants and prioritize overburdened communities in the renewable energy transition
- Strengthen food security in communities across the city
- Explore opportunities to expand open space in EJ Areas



Introduction

This chapter advances the draft Plan's first goal and the principle of distributional equity. It proposes finding opportunities for the City's programs and dollars to make their way into the communities that are most impacted by decades of disinvestment. Neighborhoods marked by economic hardship and chronic underinvestment have lacked the public resources needed to sustain healthy lives. The climate crisis has sharpened that divide. A zip code increasingly shapes a resident's level of risk from the next storm or heat wave. The four action areas that follow aim to address the disparities the EJNYC Report documented related to:

- Exposure and vulnerability to climate hazards of extreme heat and flooding
- Exposure to mobile and stationary sources of pollution
- Access to affordable utilities
- Food insecurity
- Access to open space and natural resources

ACTION AREA

Address disparities in climate hazards for frontline communities

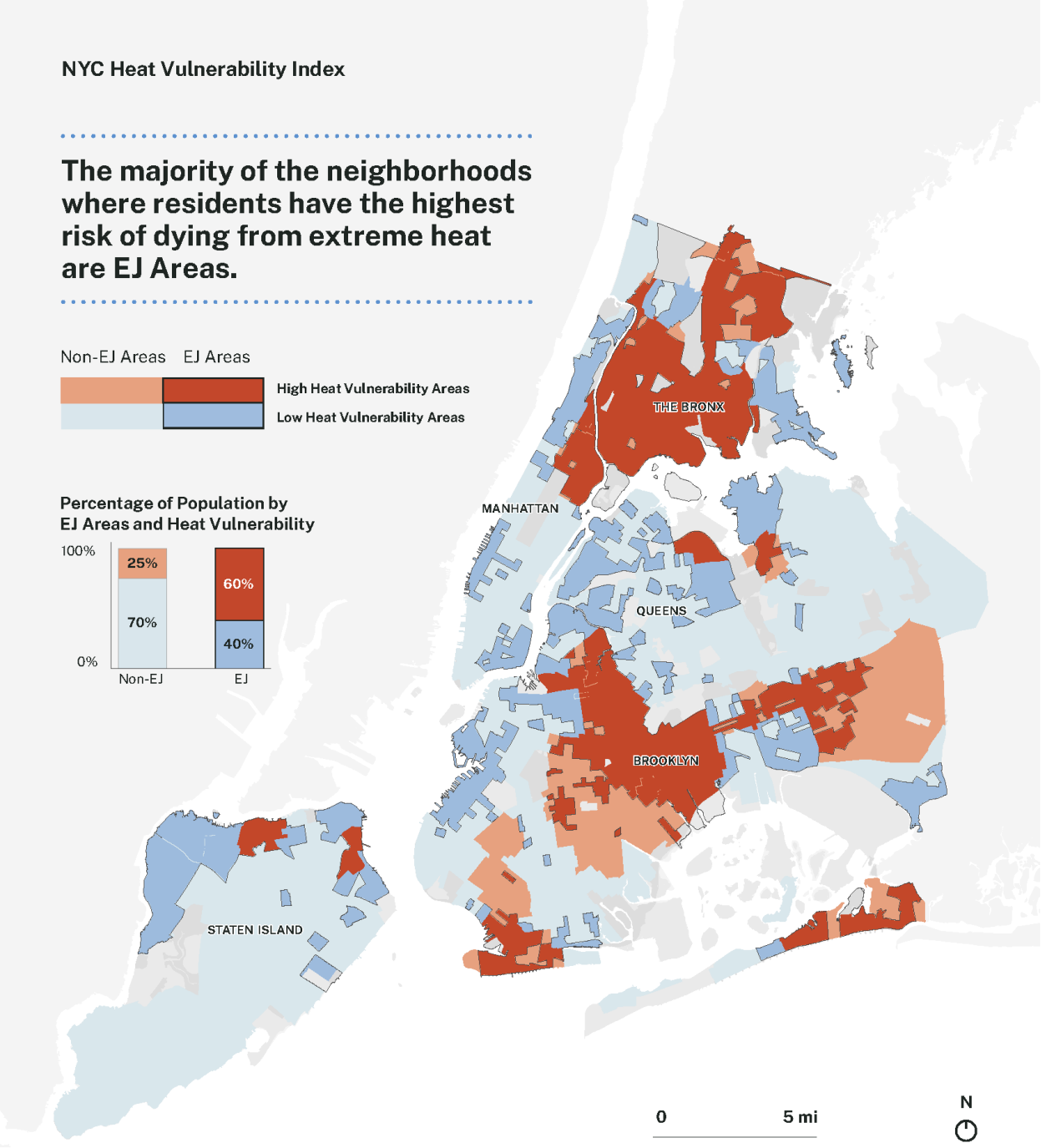
This section outlines the City's proposed commitments to better prepare all New Yorkers, especially those most vulnerable to climate hazards, for the future impacts of climate change.

As a 'sub-tropical' climate, NYC summers have gotten hotter, wetter, and longer. At the same time, sea level rise has increased New Yorkers' exposure to coastal storm surge and high-tide flooding hazards.[6,7]

COOLING AGENDA

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

Extreme Heat will worsen with climate change and people will experience its impacts differently. Communities with less access to public shaded areas will have difficulty escaping the rising temperatures.[8] The Heat Vulnerability Index (HVI) is a measure used by the City to understand heat-related risks and vulnerabilities at a neighborhood level and is mapped in this section.[9] Neighborhoods with HVI scores of 4 or 5 — the most vulnerable communities to heat — fall predominantly within EJ Areas.[10] Heat is the leading cause of extreme weather-related deaths. The rate of heat-stress deaths is three times higher among Black New Yorkers, and twice has high for Latino New Yorkers, compared to white New Yorkers.[11] Inequitable access to residential cooling and resources to run it drive health disparities in heat mortality.



The Heat Vulnerability Index (HVI) shows neighborhoods whose residents are more at risk for dying during and immediately following extreme heat. Neighborhoods are scored from 1 (lowest risk) to 5 (highest risk) using a statistical model that summarizes the most important factors of neighborhood heat risk: surface temperature, green space, home air conditioning, and income. The map above shows neighborhoods with the highest risk (HVI scores of 4 or 5) versus lower risk compared with EJ Areas.

SOURCE: *New York City Department of Health, Environment & Health Data Portal. Climate data. Heat vulnerability index (NTA). 2024.*

INVEST

The City will be taking important steps to addressing this gap with the implementation of the "Cool Homes For All" legislation from 2025, which establishes tenants' right to request residential cooling equipment from landlords.

In addition, the NYC Urban Forest Plan (UFP), in collaboration with other citywide initiatives like the Department of Parks and Recreation's (NYC Parks) *Cool It! NYC*, are key steps the City has taken to ensure the safety of all residents, particularly those most at risk, but the job is not done. In June 2026, the Mayor signed an Executive Order to protect workers from extreme heat, directing the Office of Emergency Management (NYCEM), the NYC Health Department, and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) to develop multilingual heat safety guidance for outdoor workers. The order also directs all mayoral agencies to develop and implement heat illness prevention plans for City employees and contractors.

ADDITIONAL RELATED AGENCY INITIATIVES Climate Strong Communities, NYC CoolRoofs, Cooling Centers, Pop-Up Cooling Stations, Maximum Indoor Air Temperature, Stay Cool Outdoor Worker Safety Toolkit

Expand indoor & outdoor cooling options in EJ Areas.

In partnership with City agencies, the New York City Emergency Management Department (NYCEM) will continue to recruit new partners for the Cool Options Finder map — an interactive, web-based mapping tool residents can use to locate and get information on cooling centers and other air-conditioned spaces, as well as outdoor cooling options like sprinklers and pools.

This work will expand upon existing partnerships — like those with the NYC public library systems, cultural institutions, older adult centers, and collaborating retailers — with a focus on identifying both indoor and outdoor public spaces that offer a respite from heat.

NYCEM utilizes the HVI to ensure that all vulnerable communities, particularly those with the highest surface temperatures, have access to cooling centers. Communities with high HVI often overlap with communities lacking critical cooling infrastructure. In these areas, historic and ongoing inequities have simultaneously diminished residents' access to heat relief and increased their exposure to heat.

Transform bus stops with new shelters and tree canopy to reduce the impact of extreme heat.



BACKGROUND

New York City's bus system is the largest in the U.S. Nearly 1.4 million residents ride buses every day to navigate the five boroughs.[12] This is almost half a million more than those who use the Los Angeles bus system, the country's second-largest. Its most regular riders are more likely to be older adults, immigrants, and people of color.[13]

The experience of waiting for a bus on a hot sunny day is not only uncomfortable, but it can also be dangerous for pregnant people, older adults, those living with chronic medical conditions, among other vulnerable populations. NYC's network of more than 3,400 bus shelters provides some refuge from the elements, but there are currently over 14,000 bus stops. Investing in more shade and better shelters will improve the comfort and safety of millions of New Yorkers as they travel, and will simultaneously beautify local communities.

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) will install 300 bus shelters where there is greatest need by 2031. The NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) also plans to plant 30 trees at bus stops in 2026.



- Green roof bus shelter pilot site in Brownsville, Brooklyn. Photo: MOCEJ

The locations of new shelters are informed by site conditions such as sidewalk width and bus stop demand profiles. DOT also utilizes its Priority Investment Areas (PIAs) to place bus shelters where they are most needed. Since PIAs overlap with communities facing high HVI scores of 4 or 5, these shelters will serve residents most at risk of extreme heat.

Offering some level of shade will be a minimum requirement going forward, improving rider comfort from heat while waiting for the bus. The City will also make bus shelters multi-purpose climate infrastructure. In coordination with MOCEJ, nonprofit, and corporate partners, DOT has launched two climate mitigation interventions in Brownsville, Brooklyn and will evaluate their effectiveness. These include a green roof bus shelter program, adding vegetation to the top of shelters to help lower the temperature, absorb stormwater, and clean the air, and heat reflective tape placement on bus shelters. Additionally, DOT and NYC Parks, working with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) New York City Transit, recently updated their standards to allow trees to be planted at bus stops in limited cases, providing additional shade opportunities for bus riders without impeding bus operations or accessibility. The agencies have committed to planting

30 trees at bus stops in 2026 and by 2035, will inspect all bus stops for street trees, planting as many trees as possible.

Improve climate resilience for older adults.



BACKGROUND

New York City is home to more than 1.8 million adults aged 60 and older, one of the city's fastest-growing populations. Aging adults are also some of the most climate vulnerable. Older New Yorkers make up more than half of extreme weather-related deaths.[14] During and after disasters, older adults can face particular barriers when seeking services and information — such as limited mobility and accessibility — and are potentially further hindered by higher rates of social isolation. With increasing hazards like extreme heat and storms, physiological vulnerabilities are compounded by racial and socioeconomic disparities, namely in access to safe and secure housing.

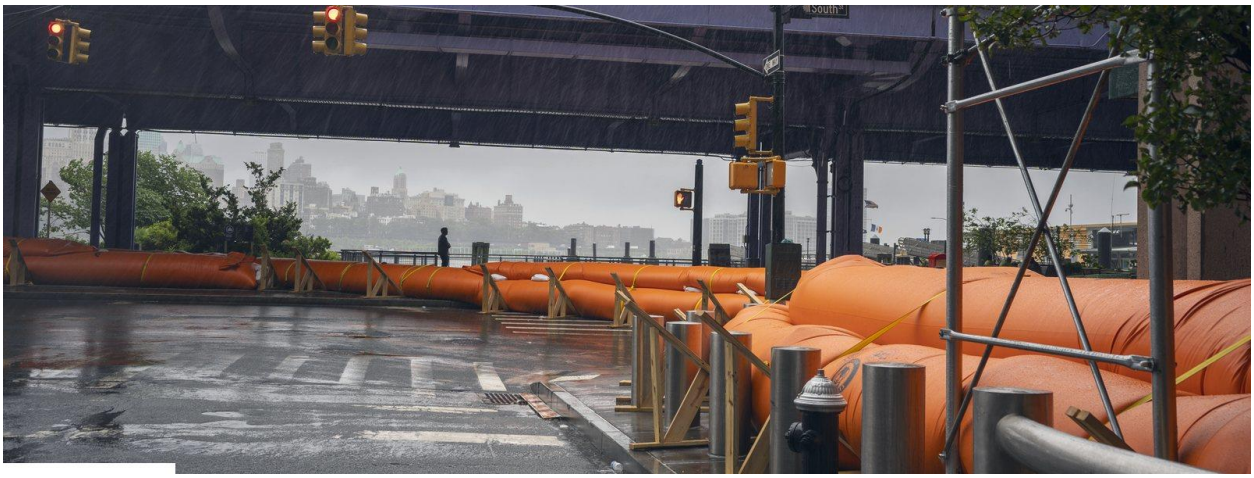
The NYC Health Department, in Year One, will lead a coordinated review of climate resiliency strategies for older adults aging in place in New York City. In Year Two, City partners will begin implementation with at least one new strategy that targets a programmatic gap identified by the review.

City agencies — including the NYC Department for the Aging (NYC Aging), MOCEJ, Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and the NYC Health Department — as well as the Cornell Institute for Research on Climate and Aging as an academic partner, will collaborate to develop approaches customized for the climate-related issues that older New Yorkers increasingly face.

This work will be complemented by engagement with older adults, particularly those living in environmental justice (EJ) neighborhoods. Connecting with older New Yorkers at older adult centers, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities

(NORCs), and other community hubs will allow for a better understanding of the specific conditions and gaps in access that residents face. These insights can help shape policies, such as the *EJNYC All In* proposed commitment to develop a citywide Resilience Hub strategy, to better reflect localized needs and ensure greater health and security for the city's older adults to stay and thrive where they live.

FLOODING AGENDA

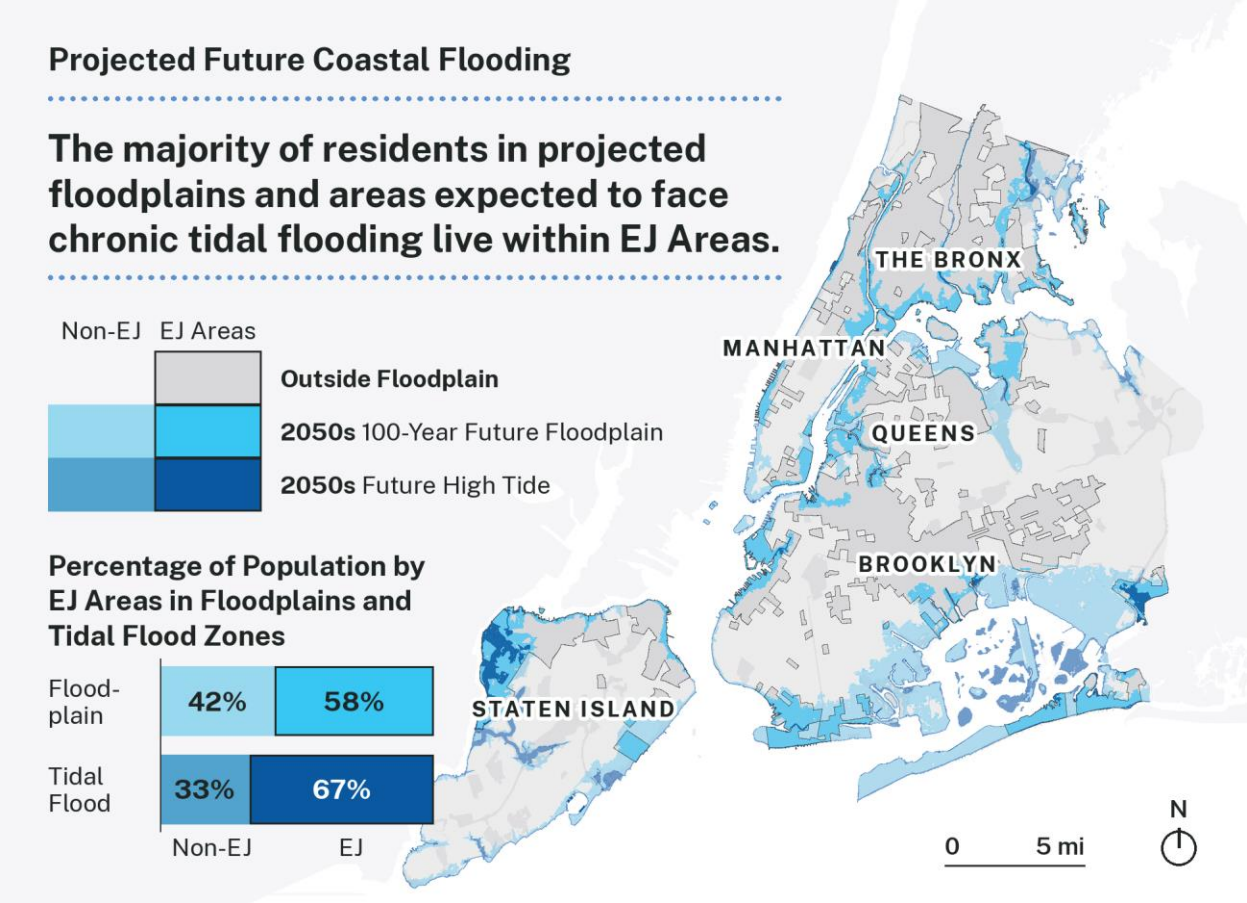


- Temporary flood barriers, August 2020. Photo: MOCEJ

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

In its 2024 Jurisdictional Risk Assessment, the NYC Health Department identified flooding as an important public health hazard for New York City to address in its emergency preparedness planning because of an anticipated increase in the frequency of flood events driven by rising sea levels and intensifying storms.[15] Flooding disrupts commutes, workplaces, and household routines. Dealing with flooding — from displacement or financial burdens to recovery from a chronic flood event — has been linked to negative mental health impacts. It threatens the livelihoods of all New Yorkers, no matter where they live. EJ Areas, often located along the waterfront, are particularly prone to rising tides and worsening storms. The map of projected flooding from coastal storm surges and future high tides indicates that most residents living within these flood-vulnerable zones live in EJ Areas. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) created a new Bureau of Coastal Resilience in 2023 to centralize the planning, design and construction of the City's coastal resilience infrastructure projects that will protect the communities most vulnerable to coastal flooding. In July 2026, the Mayor

announced a $43.2 million investment in the Bureau to hire 69 additional staff, advance multiple studies, and develop a road map for protecting all 520 miles of the city's coastline.



▪ The map highlights coastal areas projected to be vulnerable to storm surge and tidal flooding in the future decades. This includes the 100-year floodplain for the 2050s and a sea-level rise of 31 inches, as well as the projected extent of 2050s mean higher high water with a sea-level rise of 21 inches. Source: New York City Panel on Climate Change 2019 Report (NPCC3). 2050s 100-Year Floodplain; 2050s Future High Tide With Sea Level Rise. 2019.

ADDITIONAL RELATED AGENCY INITIATIVES Climate Strong Communities, coastal flood protection and stormwater management projects like the East Side Coastal Resiliency and North End Recirculation Projects.

Expand the City's new voluntary program for acquiring high flood risk homes.



BACKGROUND

Rising sea levels, storm surge, and intensifying rainfall will threaten the safety and livelihoods of a growing number of New Yorkers in the coming years, and communities in high flood-risk zones are particularly vulnerable. Residents living in coastal and low-lying neighborhoods face growing flood risks, and many residents already experience frequent flooding that damages their property and jeopardizes their safety.

The City intends to expand its voluntary acquisition program to create relocation opportunities for residents most impacted by the climate crisis, which too often overlap with disparities in access to safe and healthy housing in EJ communities.

The first *Resilient Acquisitions* pilot project launched in 2025 to support residents facing repetitive flooding damage in the Jewel Streets neighborhood on the border between Brooklyn and Queens.[16] MOCEJ, the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations (HRO), and partner agencies intend to expand the program. Resilient Acquisitions will expand to include opportunities to acquire additional high flood risk homes where homeowners are interested in the opportunity to sell their homes and relocate through partnerships with the State.

The voluntary acquisition program is designed to purchase 1-to-4-unit residential buildings that have flooded or face severe flood risk and where other options for flood mitigation are limited. This will involve both coastal and inland areas. Other property types, such as vacant lots, may also be included where it furthers the goals of the acquisition project and as funding permits. In coordination with the participating community, the program is designed to repurpose the land to better protect vulnerable residents by creating resilient gray or green infrastructure,

public open spaces like parks and wetlands, or in limited cases, new resilient housing. The program is designed to connect homeowners and tenants to relocation support services to help them successfully relocate.

The City is working to identify high flood risk areas, resident interest, funding opportunities for acquisitions, and long-term use for the land to protect residents and increase resilience across New York City.

Develop a citywide Resilience Hub strategy, to identify 50 community resilience hubs where the need is greatest across the five boroughs.



BACKGROUND

Communities across the five boroughs must be able to readily access resilient spaces with resources such as backup power, reliable heating and cooling, and information distribution in case disaster strikes. The City has defined a Resilience Hub as a publicly accessible facility that serves as a trusted gathering place and connects the local community to resources before, during, or after a climate event.[17]

The City will explore a coordinated, citywide strategy to implement a network of 50 Resilience Hubs.

As a first step, the City will explore a Resilience Hub pilot to test and refine criteria for resources and operational frameworks. The pilot phase would inform a Resilience Hub playbook that details the processes for designating and running a Hub. The pilot phase would include identifying priority public sites; developing

protocols and activation plans; exploring collaborative models with community-based organizations to help prepare New Yorkers for climate-related disasters; establishing a cohesive brand identity for a citywide Resilience Hub network; and exploring capital funding opportunities with City agency partners.

During times when there is no weather emergency, Resilience Hubs serve as vital social infrastructure, providing trusted spaces for connecting with community and engaging in resilience-based programming, an approach proven to save lives.[18] New Yorkers can expect to learn about Resilience Hub locations and programming through resource sharing and neighborhood-based communications strategies. Each Hub will be a trusted gathering space that provides climate resources and climate and community preparedness programming and training before a climate disturbance and essential resources and services during and after a climate disturbance. To qualify as a Resilience Hub, a facility must meet a baseline set of qualifications along with additional supporting features tailored to the needs of the local community.

RESILIENCE HUBS

A trusted place before, during, and after a climate event



BEFORE

Climate and community preparedness programming and training, in a space neighbors already trust

DURING

Backup power, heating and cooling, information, and essential services when disaster strikes

AFTER

Essential resources and services while the neighborhood recovers

The City defines a Resilience Hub as a publicly accessible facility that serves as a trusted gathering place and connects the local community to resources before, during, or after a climate event.

▪ Example offerings at a Resilience Hub, based on the City's definition and the pilot described in this section. Illustration: MOCEJ

The rollout of Resilience Hubs will provide New Yorkers with safe, resource-equipped spaces while strengthening localized support networks to serve communities most vulnerable to climate-related impacts.

ACTION AREA

Reduce pollutants and prioritize overburdened communities in the renewable energy transition

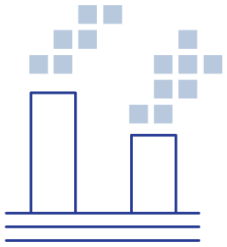
This section details the City's proposed commitments to cut emissions and speed up the electrification of how New Yorkers get around, fuel homes, and run businesses.

COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

Environmental justice (EJ) communities — like those in Central Brooklyn, Northern Manhattan, and South Bronx — often have high incidences of air pollution-related respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, particularly among older adults, children, and people with pre-existing health conditions. To address this disproportionate harm, the just transition must ensure that the shift to sustainable, cleaner energy does not leave anyone out. Citywide initiatives like the *Blue Highways Program* and the City's first Urban Forest Plan (UFP) are working to improve air quality within the city's waterfront communities and neighborhoods with the fewest trees. *EJNYC All In* seeks to build on these efforts to ensure that all can benefit from renewable energy, from reducing the city's reliance on polluting peaker plants that power the grid to electrifying buses and gas-powered food cart vendors.[19]

Develop and implement a rule that regulates air pollution associated with large warehouses.



BACKGROUND

More than 80 percent of New Yorkers receive at least one package per week, and nearly 20 percent receive four or more.[20] The boom in e-commerce delivery has landed more large warehouses across neighborhoods and, as a result, more truck traffic in the City's streets.[21] EJ communities are disproportionately exposed to emissions from trucks due to the locations of warehouses, highways, delivery routes, and fleet parking facilities.

According to the EPA's National Emissions Inventory from 2020, on-road mobile sources of pollution in New York City account for nearly 20 percent of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and 7 percent of $PM_{2.5}$ emissions. DOT is working to reduce this pollution through several programs aimed at encouraging the adoption of cleaner, safer, and more efficient fleets, like the Clean Trucks Program, which provides rebate incentives for companies to switch out older diesel trucks.

New York City runs on freight. A key component of the city's economy relies on how vital consumer goods and everyday items move around, from food and emergency supplies to everyday purchases and products. Moving freight shouldn't come at a cost to the health of the city's residents, though: there are better options the City can explore to move goods.

The City is developing an indirect source rule (ISR) for large warehouses. A warehouse ISR is a policy that reduces air pollution by

regulating large warehouse facilities that attract mobile sources of air pollution — predominantly trucks.

Large warehouses often attract mobile sources of pollution, such as truck traffic to and from the warehouse, yard trucks and forklifts, and more. An ISR implemented by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would require these facilities to take measures to reduce air pollution and related health issues associated with warehouses — but not from the physical warehouses themselves — through a range of compliance measures. To comply with the ISR, warehouse operators would select actions from a menu of options, including operational improvements such as electrifying vehicles, yard trucks or forklifts, installing anti-idling technology, and shifting deliveries to smaller transportation modes like e-cargo bikes, as well as community-focused investments such as community solar or tree planting. Implementing a robust ISR also furthers accountability for pollution from large warehouses while ensuring businesses and people receive the goods they need.

Identify opportunities to scale street vendor electrification and improve air quality.



BACKGROUND

Street vendors have long been a critical part of New York City's history, often serving as economic lifelines for immigrant New Yorkers. The operations for mobile food vending in particular can come at an environmental cost: the average portable gasoline generator used by these vendors emits in one hour as much smog-forming pollution as driving an average-size passenger vehicle about 150 miles.[22] Even the smallest gas-powered food cart can produce a discernible amount of pollution. Generators are currently the industry

standard: vendors pay daily for gas, set up the generators relatively easily, and they're seen as the most reliable technology right now.

This proposed commitment will expand upon a new pilot program to electrify mobile food vending carts, swapping out gasoline generators for batteries.





150 miles
of driving equals one hour of a gas generator's smog-forming pollution

20,000+
mobile food vendors in the city, most using generators

120,000
metric tons of CO_2 avoided if every cart went electric

10
vendors in the Flushing Meadows Corona Park pilot

The street vendor electrification pilot in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Left photo: NYC Parks. Right Photo: MOCEJ. Figures from this section.

Many vendors work 10–16 hours a day and rely on noisy fossil fuel generators that can leak fumes into their carts and drown out the sound of their customers. Electric battery options can reduce both air and noise pollution for vendors and customers alike. There are estimated to be over 20,000 mobile food vendors in the city — most of whom use generators. If the City electrified all these carts in NYC, there could be

a reduction of over 120,000 metric tons of CO_2 in greenhouse gas emissions. This is the equivalent of taking nearly 30,000 cars off the road every year.

From June 2026 to January 2027, MOCEJ is partnering with City Parks Foundation, Resilient Cities Catalyst, Street Vendor Project, and NYC Parks to electrify vendors in Queens through battery technology developed by Popwheels. Ten street vendors in and around Flushing Meadows Corona Park are switching from loud, dirty generators to rechargeable electric batteries to power their mobile businesses. Over the course of the pilot, they will have their carts outfitted with rechargeable electric batteries that can be swapped out for charged batteries in battery charging cabinets and through battery delivery services.

Building off a partnership with the Street Vendor Project, which piloted electrification with 20 vendors citywide, the *NYC Clean-Powered Carts Challenge* started in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, in coordination with NYC Parks with plans to expand to the larger Corona area. The park is popular among local vendors, most of whom are immigrants living nearby. If the pilot is successful, NYC Parks will consider future partnerships.

Pilot proactive inspections at certain large construction sites to ensure compliance with the New York City Noise Code and Air Codes.

BACKGROUND

Noise is the most common 311 complaint in New York City.[23] Noise pollution is linked to transportation infrastructure and high-traffic land uses, often located in or adjacent to EJ Areas such as highways, airports, elevated trains, and land uses such as waste transfer stations, warehousing, and industrial operations. Communities with higher concentrations of poverty have higher

rates of health conditions that are sensitive to noise pollution, making people in these communities more vulnerable to its harms.

DEP will proactively inspect construction sites of at least 200,000 square feet with a focus on locations in EJ communities.

DEP will issue summonses for non-compliance with DEP's Noise Code and rules, including the construction noise monitoring rule (i.e., having no noise monitors installed) and dust plumes or other violations of the Air Code and Rules.

SUPPORTING ACTION

Lead a North American initiative to reduce air and noise pollution and improve worker experience by promoting electric construction machinery. While necessary for constructing the buildings where New Yorkers live, work, play, and pray, construction equipment is often a local nuisance, producing loud sounds and acute air quality impacts which are especially felt by their operators. Electric equipment has been found to be quieter and cleaner for the City's air. However, as with any new technology, widespread adoption has been a challenge. That's why the City co-leads the North American Electric Construction Coalition, which convenes peer cities to identify and implement best practices. Additionally, the City has launched a pilot program to begin testing electric equipment on City agency projects in Summer 2026.

Advance clean energy infrastructure in public industrial zones.



BACKGROUND

For too long, polluting ‘peaker’ plants have existed in EJ communities. These plants come online during times of high energy demand, like heat waves, to add additional capacity to the energy grid. Many of these plants are also the oldest, least efficient, and most polluting of the city’s generation sources, causing disparate health, climate, and economic burdens to surrounding communities. Though these plants must remain online as long as they are necessary to maintain grid reliability, clean energy and battery storage technologies can help minimize that necessity. As clean energy and battery storage technologies are deployed at-scale, peaker plant operations can begin ramping down. The city's industrial areas have significant potential for this clean energy transition because they often have larger footprints, are zoned for larger-scale energy infrastructure, and are near electric distribution and substation infrastructure that may accommodate higher loads. These industrial areas can be utilized to catalyze the decommissioning of peaker plants.

New York City needs new renewable energy and infrastructure upgrades to power its future and reduce reliance on fossil fuel-powered peaker plants, including solar installations, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and the transmission and distribution systems necessary to bring energy to New Yorkers.



- Students install rooftop solar panels at Co-Op Tech in the Bronx. Photo: NYC Public Schools.

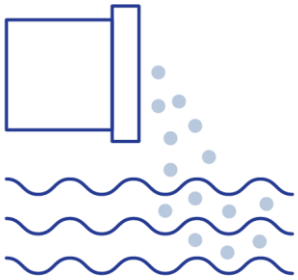
EDC is advancing clean energy projects in EJ communities in the Bronx. The first set of projects will generate over 3 megawatts (MW) of solar power across three sites at the Bathgate Industrial Park and Hunts Point Food Distribution Center. These investments will both offset building energy usage at these locations and house proposed community solar projects. Community solar is a model that is especially useful for expanding the benefits of clean energy to tenants, who cannot install solar on their own roofs, by allowing New Yorkers to subscribe to projects located offsite. Residential rate payers will be able to receive discount credits on their electric bills, either through direct subscriptions or through the Statewide Solar for All program, with benefits dedicated to low- and middle-income (LMI) subscribers.

As part of the longstanding Hunts Point Resiliency initiative, EDC is installing 4 MW of rooftop solar and carport solar canopies at the Fulton Fish Market. The solar will be paired with a 1.5 MW BESS that will provide back-up power for the Fish Market, ensuring the City's food systems remain resilient during emergencies like blackouts or brownouts. The Fish Market solar project will dedicate 60 percent of the electricity generated by the solar system to community solar subscriptions for local Bronx residents — a key priority for local leaders. This means residents and small businesses from the surrounding communities can benefit from 20 percent discounts on their electric bills.

Additionally, the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) and DEP, in collaboration with the New York Power Authority, are developing a 10 MW solar array and 10 MW BESS at the Wards Island Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). This project will provide clean energy to power

on-site City WRRF operations, employ innovative designs, and be the largest of its kind at a wastewater facility. Finally, the City will work with State regulatory partners and Con Edison to improve interconnection timelines to ensure solar and battery storage can advance quickly and efficiently to meet the City's climate, energy, and affordability goals.

Develop and model high standards of care for communities neighboring NYC's wastewater treatment facilities.



BACKGROUND

Every day, Wastewater Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs) treat 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater to remove pollutants before they enter the City's waterways.[24]

Thirteen of New York City's fourteen wastewater treatment facilities are in or adjacent to EJ Areas. Residents in these communities experience disproportionate exposure to environmental burdens, including odor, air pollution, and truck traffic associated with WRRFs' operations. Over the past decade, community complaints related to these impacts have declined significantly, reflecting DEP's continued efforts to maintain its facilities. However, as some of the City's WRRF infrastructure continues to age over time without receiving needed upgrades, the potential for operational issues and associated community concerns, including odors and air quality impacts, may increase, despite DEP's commitment to being a responsible neighbor in EJ communities.

DEP will identify, evaluate, and implement key technologies at WRRFs to enhance resiliency, improve efficiency, and mitigate emissions.

These improvements include digital technology that supports the effective operation and management of complex wastewater treatment processes. Projects that modernize treatment and improve sludge processing systems help keep DEP facilities in a state of good repair, protect water quality, and reduce community impacts associated with facility operations.

TRANSPORTATION



19 tons
of additional NOx a day from marine vessels in waterfront neighborhoods

90%
of harbor emissions come from a quarter of the 4,500 vessels in the harbor

50–90%
less PM and NOx from Tier IV engines on NYC Ferry vessels

2050
goal for carbon-neutral marine landings and vessels

- The working waterfront. Figures are drawn from the commitments in this section.

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

Even in a city where most trips are taken by foot or mass transit, transportation still makes up about a quarter of the city's total emissions.[25] Mobile sources of pollution resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels by cars, trucks, and other vehicles release fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) and black carbon, air pollutants which can impact human health. Heavy-duty vehicles, such as trucks and marine vessels, emit diesel PM which can be especially harmful to children and older adults. Each year, these mobile sources are responsible for 17% of the city's $PM_{2.5}$ emissions and 70% of its black carbon emissions.[26] The infrastructure and land uses supporting these mobile polluters, such as highways, industrial waterfronts, and warehouse facilities, are disproportionately located in EJ Areas.[27] By working towards decarbonizing the City's transportation systems, *EJNYC All In* will advance initiatives that mitigate harmful pollutants in already overburdened communities.

Mass public transit remains a critical component to reducing transportation-related pollution. In June 2026, the City secured funding to increase access to cheaper fares for more Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) riders through the Fair Fares NYC program by expanding the income eligibility from 150% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. One month later, the City released the *Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service* plan in partnership with the MTA, which committed $628 million in City capital funding to carry out street infrastructure and traffic enforcement improvements along 50 priority bus corridors. These recent actions seek to improve the accessibility and overall usage of the city's public transit options.



BUS LANE ON NOSTRAND AVENUE

50
priority bus corridors in Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service

$628M
in City capital for street and enforcement improvements

200%
of the poverty level is the new Fair Fares income limit, up from 150%

▪ The B44 Select Bus Service on Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn. Photo: NYC DOT. Figures from the Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service plan and the 2026 Fair Fares expansion described above.

Decarbonize New York City's waterways.

BACKGROUND

New York City's waterways already play an integral role in moving goods and people, with operations from the city's growing maritime freight network, NYC Ferry, Staten Island Ferry, cruises, and private recreational vessels taking place every day. In the future, they will provide an exciting opportunity to transform how New Yorkers receive their goods, relying less on heavy-duty trucks — which drive emissions, air pollution, and congestion — and more on maritime freight. While marine transport is the most efficient means of moving goods and people, it still accounts for 3 percent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions globally.[28] This pollution exposure is particularly significant in communities located near Significant Maritime Industrial Areas (SMIAs), which are designated areas of New York City where heavy industrial and maritime activities are concentrated. SMIAs overlap significantly with EJ Areas, reflecting the historic legacies of industrial and maritime land uses and the siting of industrial businesses along the waterfront.[29] A continuation of this disproportionate exposure to environmental pollutants underscores the importance of working towards decarbonization of the harbor.

The City will establish a carbon neutrality goal for the city's marine landings and vessels that it expects to achieve by 2050, with an accompanying blueprint of actions and policies.

A clean, just transition will require a streamlined method to get enough power and charging infrastructure to the waterfront and assess harbor-related transportation emissions. With a harbor decarbonization plan, the City will be able to detail potential pathways for decarbonization through capital projects, policies, practices, and procedures to better understand and mitigate emissions — for both the public and private marine fleets that rely on the City's waterways.

This work has wide-ranging implications for EJ communities. Neighborhoods along the city's waterfront are exposed to an additional 19 tons of daily NOx emissions from marine vessels.[30] With its Harbor Emissions Inventory, MOCEJ studied the levels of PM2.5 and other harmful pollutants in disadvantaged communities along the waterfronts impacted by these emissions. This plan will change future policies and decision-making, with a focus on reducing impacts for communities located near active waterfronts.

Improve harbor air quality by adopting cleaner engines on NYC Ferry Vessels.

BACKGROUND

With convenient routes, high-quality amenities, affordable access, and exceptional views, NYC Ferry has become more popular than ever. In 2025, the ferry fleet carried a record 7.4 million passengers, with maritime travel an increasingly vital piece of New York City's transportation network.[31] According to City data, a quarter of the 4,500 vessels that operate annually in the New York/New Jersey Harbor, including NYC Ferry vessels, are responsible for 90 percent of the city's total harbor emissions. The air pollution exposure from diesel PM emissions produced by NYC Ferry vessels is felt most in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the ferry terminals, which are predominantly located in EJ Areas.

The NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will continue working to transition NYC Ferry's largest vessels to lower-emission engines, which improves local air quality, protects public health, and advances the City's climate and equity commitments.

Transitioning to the reduced emissions of Tier IV engines results in a 50 to 90 percent reduction of PM and NO_x emissions from these vessels. Beyond that, EDC,

which oversees NYC Ferry, is working on a longer-term ferry decarbonization study. Offering cleaner, more affordable transit options to those most frequently exposed to pollution is a matter of addressing distributional equity — and with a cleaner waterfront, riders from Soundview to the Rockaways will benefit.

SUPPORTING ACTION

Develop Harbor Charging Infrastructure plan to support operator adoption of electric vessels. Electrification will usher in a new era of revitalization for the City's waterfront. This won't happen without robust infrastructure to power a growing fleet of vessels. A coordinated plan to deliver substantial charging capacity to the City's ports and docks is essential to scale the waterfront of the future.

Expand electric vehicle (EV) curbside charging infrastructure in EJ neighborhoods to support for-hire drivers.

BACKGROUND

Currently, most publicly available EV Level 2 (L2) charging infrastructure, where drivers can charge their vehicles while parked at home, work, or elsewhere, is in Manhattan below 60th Street, often in expensive paid parking garages. To effectively reduce transportation emissions, equitable access to convenient and affordable charging must be a priority — not just for those with higher incomes, but for all. Investing in chargers in high-emission areas where for-hire drivers tend to live can help accelerate the transition to cleaner energy, yielding both climate and public health benefits.

DOT will examine expanding electric vehicle (EV) curbside charging infrastructure to focus on creating a charging

network available to all New Yorkers and especially for-hire drivers, who drive more than the average New Yorker. DOT will examine investment areas in the coming years.



- Curbside electric vehicle charging in Norwood, the Bronx. Photo: NYC DOT.

With a goal of installing 600 more curbside L2 charging plugs in the coming years, DOT plans to concentrate installation in areas with minimal off-street parking for private residential charging and where greater proportions of for-hire vehicle drivers reside.

Many New Yorkers — especially those who drive without access to off-street parking — lack convenient or affordable options to charge an EV near their homes or workplaces. Addressing these barriers requires pairing infrastructure investments with policies that make ownership more attainable, such as financial incentives, community charging hubs, and programs that prioritize affordability and accessibility in historically underserved neighborhoods.

Research and evaluate mitigation methods of non-exhaust emissions from vehicles — in EJ Areas and beyond.

BACKGROUND

Because many of the city's EJ Areas are located near highways and high-traffic corridors—a legacy of redlining and inequitable commuter infrastructure planning to support automobile ownership for affluent suburbanites—residents there disproportionately inhale air pollutants from both exhaust and non-exhaust emissions.[32, 33] Tailpipes are not the only source of emissions from motor vehicles. The tires and brakes of any car, truck, or van wear down over time. A vehicle gradually erodes the roads themselves, too, suspending dust into the air.

All of this generates what is known as non-exhaust PM, harming air quality, and exacerbating respiratory illnesses.[34] This type of PM is released through the mechanical movement of a vehicle, making it an issue regardless of vehicle fuel type, including electric or hybrid. As tailpipe emissions continue to decline with increased mileage per gallon and alternative energy sources, non-exhaust emissions represent an increasing share of all road PM.[35]

The City will evaluate effective practices, technologies, and procedures that could reduce the harmful impact of non-exhaust emissions in New York City.

This work builds on the continued priority of investments that support accessible transit and safe routes for walking and cycling. Better understanding of how to mitigate this form of pollution helps enhance the City's structural equity by making the adverse effects of non-exhaust PM a priority for City policy and action.

RESIDENCES

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

All New Yorkers deserve access to safe and healthy housing. The legacy of redlining and historic disinvestment has left low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately exposed to environmental health hazards in their homes such as lead paint, mold, asbestos, or pests.[36] Of the top ten neighborhoods with the highest rates of renter households reporting three or more maintenance deficiencies, nine are EJ neighborhoods in the Bronx, Central Brooklyn, and Upper Manhattan.[37] Poor housing conditions like inadequate ventilation can contribute to elevated levels of indoor air pollution by trapping pollutants caused by fuel-burning appliances or other environmental hazards.[38] These health hazards faced disproportionately by EJ communities underscore why the clean, affordable electrification of housing in EJ communities is vital.

Studies indicate that building decarbonization and electrification efforts can lower levels of pollutants that are health hazards, such as nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.[39] Citywide policies such as Local Law 97 aim to limit carbon emissions from most buildings over 25,000 square feet, while HPD's Design Guidelines integrate strict standards for emissions, safety and health into all HPD-financed development projects. In addition to their Design Guidelines, HPD, in partnership with the Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants, the NYC Health Department, and NYCHA, is developing a strategic framework in the south and northwest Bronx to address the aforementioned issues. Under this strategic framework, the City will both target existing programs and launch new programs that provide enforcement, education, and preservation to address environmental hazards such as mold, pests, mildew, and lead paint in people's homes.



NYC ACCELERATOR

33,000
buildings engaged by, 2021 to 2025

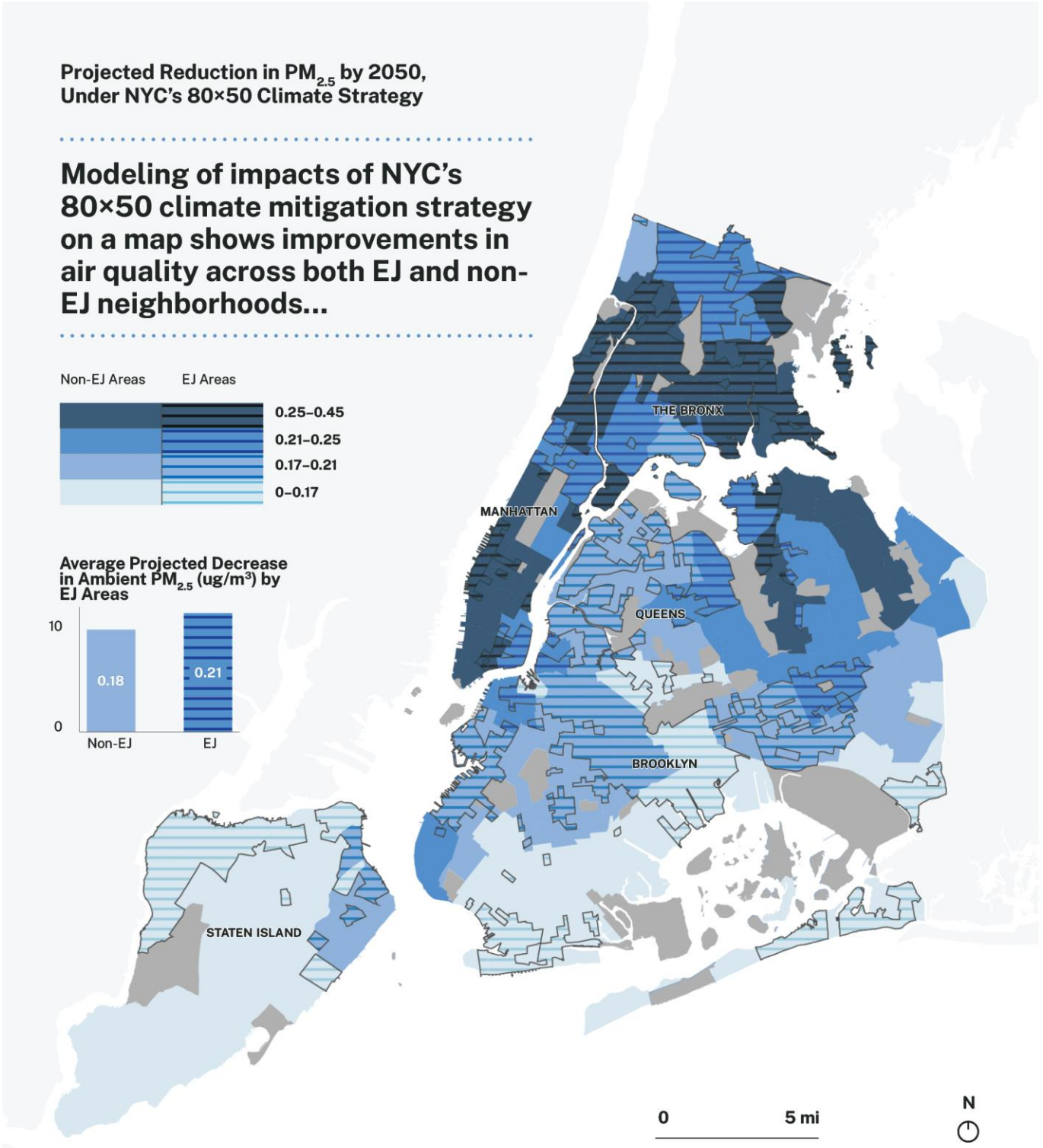
10,000
buildings completed retrofits with its support

30%+
lower utility costs at Sherman Terrace Co-op in the Bronx

▪ Brownstones in New York City. Photo: NYC Accelerator. Figures: NYC Accelerator results for early 2021 to November 2025 as reported by program implementer ICF, and HPD's April 2026 announcement on Sherman Terrace Co-op.

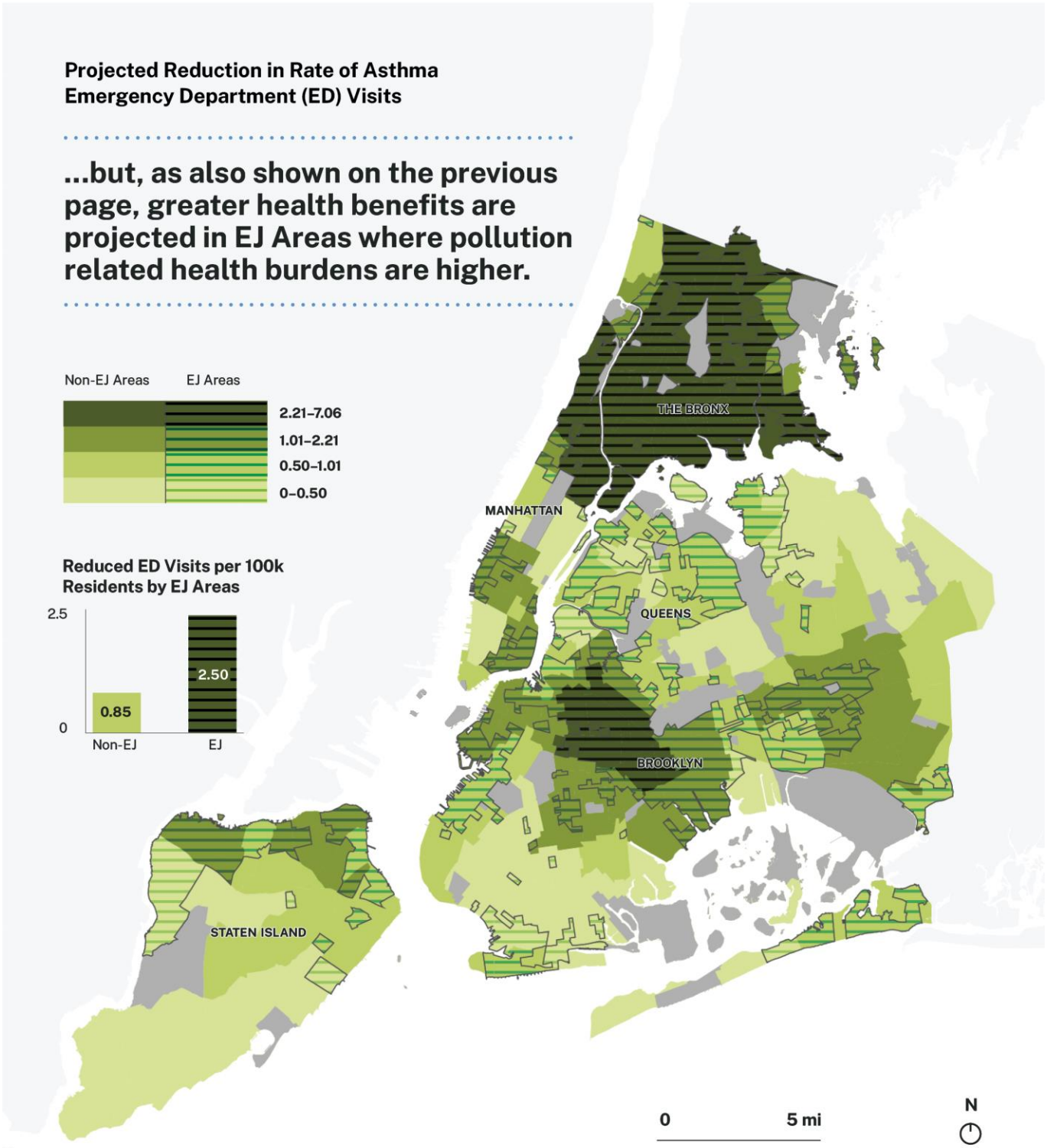
Affordable energy is a necessary part of achieving safe and healthy housing. Housing maintenance issues like inefficient or inadequate heating and cooling, broken or outdated appliances, or poor insulation can drive up one's energy costs.[40] For low-income New Yorkers already struggling to keep up with rising utility rates, the ability to properly regulate heating and cooling at home is too often out of reach. Many more are still forced to decide between keeping the lights on or affording other necessities like food, clothing, and childcare.[41] These factors contribute to energy insecurity, or the inability to meet basic energy needs, which is associated with poor physical and mental health conditions.[42] Harms from unaffordable energy remind the City why the shift to clean, affordable energy is a priority for New Yorkers.

The maps and charts below summarize modeling conducted by a team at the NYC Health Department to estimate the impacts of the 80x50 climate mitigation strategy — reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050 — on pollution-related health outcomes. Their work shows that even if improvements in air pollution are largely equal in EJ and non-EJ Areas, EJ Areas will experience far greater health benefits as a result. In other words, efforts to improve air quality have the most outsized public health impact in EJ communities.



This map shows the projected reduction in fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) concentrations by 2050 under New York City's 80×50 climate strategy, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent below 2005 levels. Modeled emissions reductions across the buildings, energy, and transportation sectors are expected to improve air quality citywide.

SOURCE: *Johnson, Sarah, et al. "Assessing air quality and public health benefits of New York City's climate action plans." Environmental Science &Technology, vol. 54, no. 16, 2020; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Modified Zip Code Tabulation Areas 2020*



This map shows the estimated projected reductions in the rate of asthma-related emergency department visits associated with improved air quality under the 80×50 climate strategy. While air quality improvements occur citywide, greater health benefits are projected in EJ communities where pollution related health burdens are higher.

SOURCE: *Johnson, Sarah, et al. "Assessing air quality and public health benefits of New York City's climate action plans." Environmental Science &Technology, vol. 54, no. 16, 2020; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Modified Zip Code Tabulation Areas 2020*

Ensure low- and moderate-income New Yorkers have access to affordable energy.

BACKGROUND

With utility rates on the rise, bills for gas, electricity, and fuel oil are eating up a larger portion of New Yorkers' income, otherwise known as energy cost burden or "energy burden." If energy bills take up more than six percent of a family's gross income, their energy burden is considered high. The EJNYC Report found that seven of the top ten neighborhoods with the highest proportion of families facing high energy burden were in EJ Areas.

Energy cost burden, even when it is high, impacts people differently. When families with low or moderate incomes face high energy burden, they are more likely to experience energy insecurity—or the inability to afford heating, cooling, and other basic energy needs. Energy insecurity can be worsened by the physical conditions of people's homes, and by the coping mechanisms they may rely on—like avoiding AC use during a heat wave—to keep costs down.

In 2025, the NYC Health Department released a report with community and academic partners that studied policies that could address these energy insecurity and public health issues.[43] The report highlighted that more than one in four adult New Yorkers experienced energy insecurity. Energy insecurity adversely impacts health, increasing the odds of mental strain, respiratory conditions, cardiovascular health issues, and limiting the use of electronic medical devices. Over the past few years, the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) has also worked to improve outreach efforts and enrollment processes for the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), but there is more work ahead.

The City will address inequities in energy access and affordability — critical to safe and healthy housing.

In July 2026, the Mamdani Administration appointed the Public Utility Advocate to work closely with City agencies, community organizations, and other stakeholders to protect utility customers, fight for affordable rates, expand access to energy affordability programs, increase public participation in utility rate proceedings, and ensure the transition to clean energy delivers material benefits to the New Yorkers who need them most.

First, the City will update and enhance its 2019 energy cost burden report to better understand which neighborhoods and population groups struggle most with high energy costs and inform the City's rate case advocacy, energy affordability programs, and other actions to secure affordable energy for low- to moderate-income (LMI) New Yorkers.[44] Additionally, the City will pilot an intervenor funding program to increase civic engagement in utility rate cases and ensure community organizations can meaningfully contribute to the future of utility planning and the design of energy affordability and consumer programs.

Second, the City will explore state legislative or regulatory pathways to streamline enrollment in utility-managed energy benefit programs that provide monthly discounts for electricity and gas bills, including the Energy Affordability Program (EAP) and the recently launched Enhanced EAP. The City will collaborate with State partners and utilities to explore opportunities to increase funding and support outreach programs to better serve energy-burdened New Yorkers.

Finally, while federal grant funding to implement Public Solar NYC, a public power initiative for rooftop solar, was terminated in 2025, the City is pursuing new pathways to ensure LMI New Yorkers can access affordable solar energy and community solar electricity bill discounts, including by facilitating community solar projects by connecting property owners with alternative financing options.

Support the electrification of the nation's largest public housing system.



BACKGROUND

NYCHA is the city's largest landlord, with 335 developments spread across 2,400 acres of land. Electrification of its residential building stock, which largely relies on natural gas-fired campus steam systems for heat and hot water, is crucial not only to meeting the Authority's obligations under Local Law 97, but also the City's decarbonization goals.

The City will continue to support NYCHA electrification projects that also address core NYCHA capital needs in heating, hot water, and other areas.



- Window heat pumps on NYCHA buildings. Photos: NYCHA.

These large-scale investments into making older buildings and affordable housing 'electrification-ready' are especially pertinent at NYCHA, which faces significant capital funding shortfalls and needs to maintain a state of good repair for its more

than 510,000 public housing residents. NYCHA properties also tend to be located in EJ communities and largely serve communities of color.

Public housing — and income-restricted affordable housing more broadly — does not have the same ability to fund renovations, retrofits, and other decarbonization projects as market-rate housing, even though these crucial living spaces have significant needs and expenses. Decades of Federal funding disinvestment have left NYCHA with a decreasing ability to fund Section 9 capital repairs. While the federal capital budget has been steady for the last five years, when benchmarked against inflation, it represents decreased funding. In recent fiscal years, federal funding for public housing has been threatened with further cuts.

The Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT) program transitions NYCHA developments from traditional Section 9 assistance to Project-Based Section 8, unlocking funding for resident-selected PACT partners to complete comprehensive repairs or build new, modern homes while enhancing property management. Overall, 170 NYCHA developments (representing over 45,700 apartments) are in pre-development, are under construction, or have completed construction through the program. This represents nearly $17 billion in capital repairs for the Authority.

The New York City Public Housing Preservation Trust, signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul in June 2022, is a fully public entity that is expected to unlock billions of dollars in federal funding for comprehensive renovations at NYCHA developments to improve living conditions for residents. Under the Trust, a development is kept 100 percent public and converted to the more stable, federally funded Project-Based Section 8 program, while residents maintain their rights, including permanently affordable rent.

The City is already supporting NYCHA electrification projects: through City Capital dollars to fund projects, including the recent announcement of $38.4 million to bring window heat pumps to Beach 41st Street Houses in Edgemere, Queens, as well as by supporting Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT) projects that include electrification. These investments, along with federal and State capital appropriations, grants and tax credits, and innovative financing models, will support progress on NYCHA's ambitious electrification projects; however, NYCHA still has a significant funding gap to reach the electrification goals articulated in NYCHA's 2026 Sustainability Agenda. NYCHA's infrastructure demands significant upgrades to handle the additional electrical loads required to support new clean heat, air conditioning, and hot water equipment.

Electrification efforts will include reviewing how building codes and regulatory measures can be adjusted to lower cost and permitting barriers to adoption, safely. This, coupled with targeted investments through electrical upgrades and other related infrastructure, can help NYCHA address this key electrification disparity, lower utility costs, and provide cleaner, more comfortable homes for all.

Develop a strategy to help small buildings decarbonize.



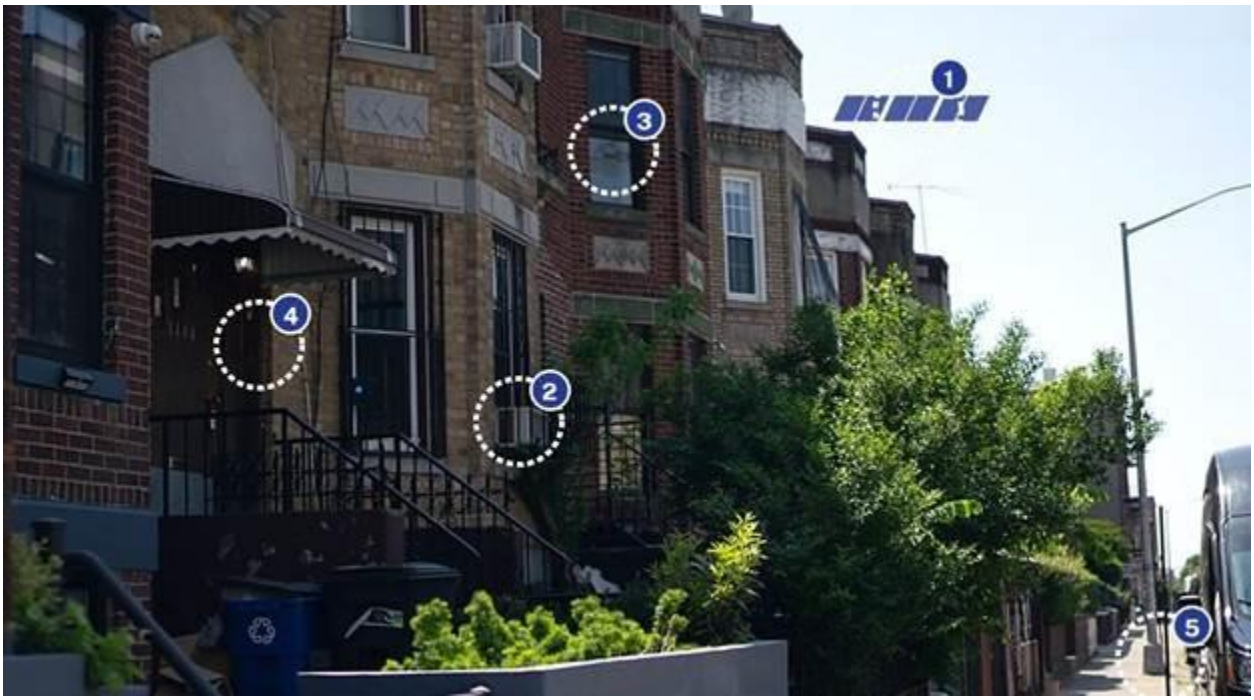
BACKGROUND

Buildings play a crucial role in daily life, including providing heating in winter, cooling in summer, and lighting year-round. This constant use of building systems contributes 70 percent of New York City's greenhouse gas emissions.[45] The City has set a mandate to be carbon neutral by 2050 and passed Local Law 97 (LL97) in 2019, which requires large buildings over 25,000 square feet to cut emissions or face penalties.

While LL97 will drive substantial emissions reductions toward achieving the 2050 goal, limited support currently exists to decarbonize smaller buildings, which make up 42% of building emissions.[46]

Small but significant, these buildings house half of all New Yorkers. They are also notably widespread in EJ Areas, many of which face high levels of air pollution. Compared to larger building owners, small building owners often have less access to disposable income, credit, and specialized staff to navigate the complex landscape of applying for incentives and rebates for emission-reducing improvements.

The City will help small buildings decarbonize — maximizing the potential for localized air quality improvements and alleviating grid constraints.



1	2	3	4	5
Rooftop solar	Heat pump in place of window AC	Efficient windows and insulation	Electric stove and water heater	EV charging at the curb

One- to four-family rowhouses in Brooklyn, marked with the kinds of upgrades a small-buildings strategy could support. Photo: NYC Accelerator with illustrations by MOCEJ.

The City will initially focus on collaborative, non-regulatory approaches, working with key stakeholders to improve access to and use of existing resources and to develop new programs tailored to small buildings, while continuing to evaluate the additional policy tools needed to achieve the City's decarbonization goals. Opportunities include targeted outreach in high-priority neighborhoods to focus resources and investments for greater impact, bulk purchasing discounts, and contracting support with qualified vendors for decarbonization equipment through a City-sponsored program like the NYC Accelerator. This approach will improve local air quality and electric grid reliability and create a pathway to phase out aging fossil fuel infrastructure. A strategy for small buildings is critical to achieve carbon neutrality equitably by 2050, ensuring no communities are left behind.

Reduce the number of privately owned lead service lines in underserved communities in the city.



BACKGROUND

DEP delivers lead-free water and treats it to prevent corrosion of privately owned lead service lines (LSL). The risk of lead exposure arises only if the water travels through a LSL or internal lead plumbing, most often found in older one- to four-family homes.[47] DEP estimates that there are up to 121,000 potential lead service lines in New York City.

Privately owned LSLs are not owned or maintained by the City, so their replacement must be conducted in partnership with property owners. Replacing a property's lead service line mitigates any lead exposure risk. While LSLs occur at similar rates across New York City neighborhoods, EJ community members are more likely to be unable to afford the cost of replacement, which can cost several thousand dollars.[48]

DEP has implemented a no-cost replacement initiative for privately owned water service lines for homes in neighborhoods with demonstrated need while preventing undue impacts on citywide water rates.

This initiative is currently being implemented in targeted EJ neighborhoods in Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. DEP has received a total of $96 million in state grant funding awarded over several years to replace a total of approximately 6,000 lead service lines across the City in low-income neighborhoods, at no cost to the property owner.

DEP is mobilizing their community outreach staff and engaging with local elected officials to ensure that eligible property owners take advantage of no-cost LSL replacements. Participation in the free replacement program continues to grow, with more property owners enrolling as outreach efforts expand and more property owners enroll.

ACTION AREA

Strengthen food security in communities across the city



- Photo: MOCEJ

This section lays out the City's proposed commitments to address disparities in the systems that supply the food New Yorkers eat.

FOOD ACCESS

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

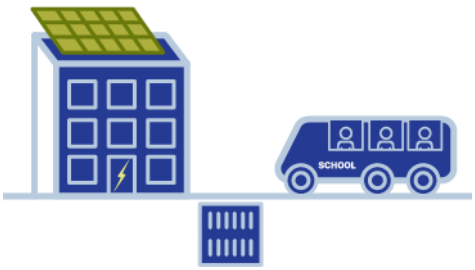
In a report developed by the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice, the NYC True Cost of Living Measure assesses what it actually costs to live with stability and dignity in New York City by calculating the total annual costs families must cover across eight categories, including housing, food, health care, childcare, transportation, taxes, savings, and other necessities. The report found that 62% of residents, or approximately 5.04 million people, do not have the financial resources to meet the cost of living in NYC. Lacking sufficient financial resources can put New Yorkers at risk for food insecurity. While not having enough resources to buy food is a challenge faced by far too many New Yorkers, excessive marketing and availability of unhealthy food also influence eating behaviors.

The EJNYC Report noted that, in New York City, neighborhoods with larger proportions of Black residents experience higher densities of fast-food establishments than neighborhoods with white residents.[49] Bronx residents experience the highest rate of diet-related diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure in all of New York City.[50] Inequities in the prevalence of diet-related diseases are the downstream result of a complex web of unjust historical and present-day policies and practices that influence social determinants of health and health outcomes.

A just food system not only equips New Yorkers to provide themselves with the foods they need to achieve nutrition security, but also the cuisines and specialties that reflect the vast diversity of the five boroughs. When more than one third of New Yorkers are at risk of food insecurity, addressing both access and affordability is critical.[51] The map displaying the Supermarkets Needs Index shows areas of New York City that DCP has identified as having a need for additional supermarkets. Supermarket need is one of several criteria that DCP and EDC consider when designating areas as “Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) Areas,” where the FRESH program offers zoning, tax incentives, or both for the development, expansion, and renovation of grocery stores and supermarkets. The City is also working on five City-owned grocery stores, one in each borough, to increase access to affordable, nutritious food in neighborhoods surrounding the stores.

Beyond the presence of grocery stores and supermarkets, the City is working to improve access to that healthy food, such as through Community Food Connection, which provides healthy food to over 700 community-based food programs across the five boroughs. The New York City Department of Social Services helps to connect more than 1.79 million eligible New Yorkers to federal food assistance each year through SNAP.[52] In addition, the NYC Health Department continues to make healthy food more affordable for New Yorkers with low household incomes through its nutrition incentive programs, Health Bucks and Get the Good Stuff. NYC's long-standing Public Markets established by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, such as La Marqueta and Essex Market, also help strengthen the city's food system by offering New Yorkers practical instruction such as preparing budget-friendly meals, building essential kitchen skills, and strengthening nutritional literacy.

Pilot an 'urban agrivoltaics' program, where City-owned rooftops house both solar power and agricultural production.

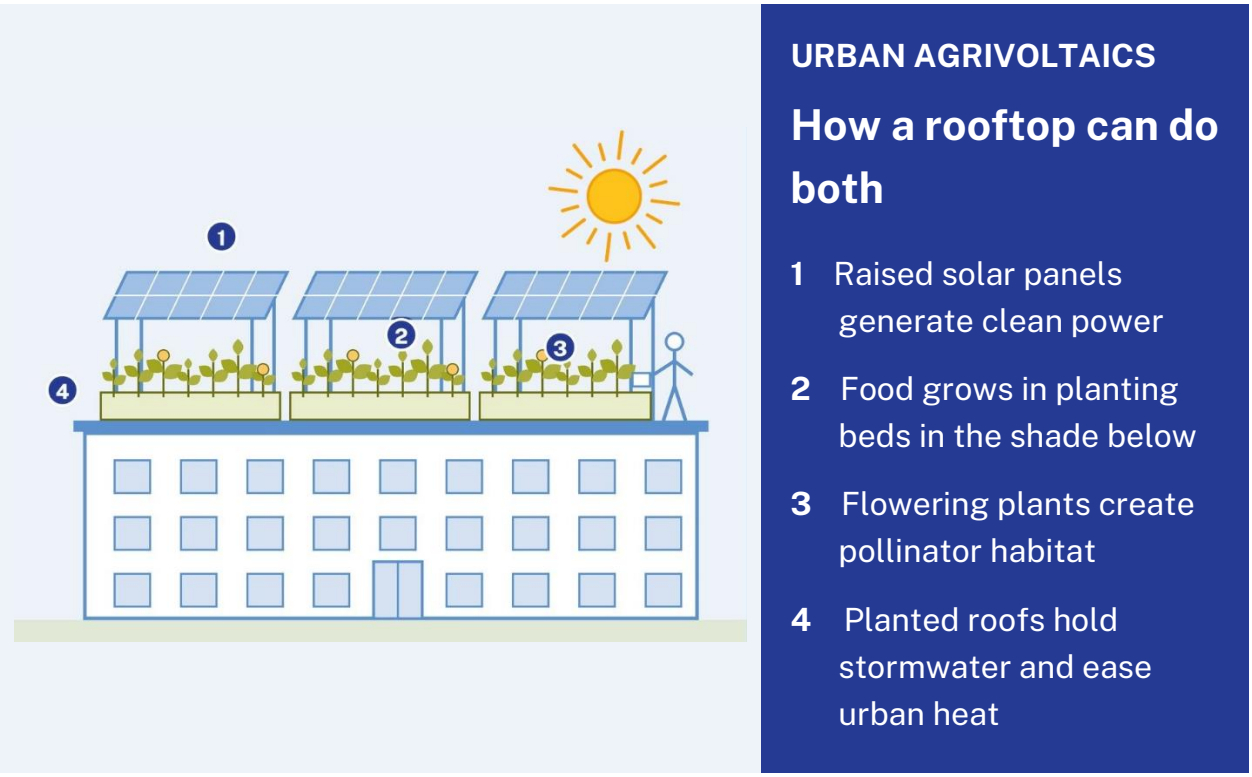


BACKGROUND

Agrivoltaics installations are innovative, nature-based approaches that integrate both solar energy and agriculture production, creating multiple co-benefits. While more prevalent in rural areas, there is potential to implement agrivoltaics in urban settings like New York City. In addition to creating pollinator habitats, urban agrivoltaics can mitigate stormwater runoff,

minimize flooding, reduce the urban heat island effect, and serve as a food production source.

Communities impacted by environmental injustices disproportionately bear the burden of climate harm, food insecurity, and health disparities. This innovative urban agrivoltaics model, when implemented in vulnerable communities, can help address these disparities. Agrivoltaics also deliver multiple co-benefits, including fresh food production, climate mitigation, and improved health simultaneously. That means enhanced resilience that addresses food insecurity in addition to mitigating the next heat wave or storm, right in the community.



▪ How an urban agrivoltaics rooftop could combine solar power and food production. Illustration: MOCEJ

By implementing a pilot 'urban agrivoltaics' program on New York City Public Schools' rooftops, the City commits to learning what it takes to scale this initiative to additional rooftops and properties. This will help to fully harness the

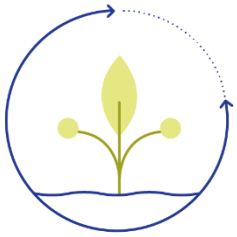
potential of this innovative model and better serve communities in a variety of settings.

In May 2025, the Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture (MOUA) released a Request for Information (RFI) to gain technical knowledge and gauge interest from relevant sectors in exploring the development of urban agrivoltaics models on City-owned rooftops over 5,000 square feet. The City is now exploring options to advance the pilot stage of this program.

MOUA, DCAS, and the New York City Public Schools Office of Energy & Sustainability have partnered to create this pilot program and provide design guidance, implementation, and maintenance at project sites. The pilot program will allow MOUA to explore future feasibility and test best practices for community engagement, project implementation, workforce development, and public-private partnerships.

Urban Agrivoltaics has the potential to provide many benefits, including expanded access to fresh and healthy food, solar energy, urban agriculture, and climate education — all crucial resources for a climate-positive future.

Strengthen city connections between NYC public schools, local urban gardens, and regional fresh food.



BACKGROUND

One significant way the City has begun to address fresh food access and chronic health disparities, mentioned in the EJNYC Report, is through the Reimagining Farm to School in NYC initiative, developed and executed by the MOUA in conjunction with local school leadership.



Left: Students at I.S. 061 Leonardo Da Vinci in their school garden. Right: P.S. 233 Langston Hughes students harvesting vegetables. Photos: NYC Public Schools.

The initiative connects public school children to agricultural education in their classrooms and on New York City urban farms by facilitating curriculum and engagement with local urban farmers and NYC community chefs. The program also facilitates direct sourcing of fresh regionally grown food between schools and farmers.

With bolstered resources and a targeted approach, the Reimagining Farm to School in NYC initiative will increase access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food, as well as agriculture and climate education for public school students living in EJ Areas.

The program prioritizes Title I schools, which receive Federal funding because at least 40 percent of their students are from low-income families, and District 75 schools, which serve students with significant disabilities. In the first year of the Reimagining Farm to School in NYC initiative, over 550 students from 21 schools visited farms across the five boroughs or engaged in the program's activities. A new revised target for the program aims to work with 50 public schools, potentially impacting thousands of NYC school students.

Potential areas for investment include increasing values-based purchasing from local food producers and distributors that can be used in school meals, taste tests, and other nutrition education activities. Agricultural education can be incorporated

into a greater range of learning activities, with educators ensuring that students engage in hands-on learning at school gardens, urban farms, and rural farms. Culturally relevant and seasonal-based nutrition education are also integrated in the initiative. MOUA will continue to work with public schools and urban and regional agriculture partners to further scale school and learning gardens within school sites.

ACTION AREA

Explore opportunities to expand open space in EJ Areas



- Photo: MOCEJ

This section outlines the City's proposed commitments to close the open space access gap for environmental justice (EJ) communities and to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal access to the positive impacts of beautiful, well-maintained open spaces.

About 14 percent of land area in the city is parkland—30,000 acres under NYC Parks' jurisdiction that encompass parks, playgrounds, natural areas, small plazas, and more.

OPEN SPACE

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

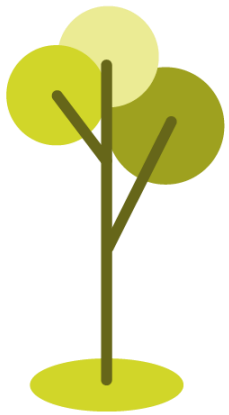
New Yorkers face an inequitable landscape in terms of open space access across the five boroughs. When considering the total amount of park space that communities have access to in relation to population density, residents of EJ Areas have access to almost 20% less park space than residents of non-EJ Areas.[53] Too many New Yorkers, particularly those residing in EJ Areas, must share a few acres of open space among tens of thousands of people, without enough resources to maintain it for all. Parks that can tap into private funding through conservancy groups tend to be concentrated in wealthier neighborhoods, which worsens existing divides as shown in the charts on the following page. Public-nonprofit partnerships like the Trust for Public Land's NYC Playgrounds Program can help alleviate the open space access gap in neighborhoods with limited recreational spaces, all while building climate resilience.

New Yorkers experience differential access to open spaces on the waterfront depending on the neighborhood. New York City has 520 miles of shoreline, and more than half of it is open space. However, the experience of these spaces can vary considerably, and many communities are not able to access and enjoy the waterfront near where they live. DCP is conducting a Waterfront Public Access Study to identify ways to enhance these spaces and deliver more inclusive and resilient waterfront public access across the five boroughs.

DOT's plaza and open streets programs are also working to deliver the access to open space New Yorkers deserve. To address funding gaps, DOT's Public Space Equity Program is working to provide operations and maintenance assistance to public spaces in underserved communities.

These measures will help reduce the inequities in access to open spaces. Addressing inequity in open space is important because open space provides multiple benefits. Open spaces can play an important role in making communities more resilient to heat and mitigate the impacts of flooding. Beyond improved climate resiliency, these spaces also provide substantial mental and physical benefits to residents. Open spaces become hubs for connection, where New Yorkers gather to be in community with one another.

Increase the amount of open space in EJ Areas by changing how opportunities for new parks are evaluated.



BACKGROUND

NYC Parks has made significant progress in expanding parks and open space access for all New Yorkers and, through its 'Walk to a Park' Initiative, will continue to increase the number of residents living within walking distance of a park. In 2025, NYC Parks received authority under the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) to acquire properties in three neighborhoods to advance the 'Walk to Park' initiative and has $30 million to acquire and transform parcels across these communities and more for new parks.

Living within walking distance to a nearby park, however, does not necessarily mean residents have enough park and open space to meet their community's needs. This is particularly important in densely populated neighborhoods, where parks must serve more people. The EJNYC Report found that, on average, the amount of park space per 1,000 residents was 9 acres in EJ Areas, compared to 11 acres in non-EJ Areas — a 19 percent deficit.[54] Addressing this disparity will require changing how the City plans for and delivers new parks in the future.

NYC Parks will update its approach for acquiring new land for parks to address the open space ratio disparity between EJ Areas and non-EJ Areas.

In 2025, NYC Parks identified 19 community districts with the least amount of park access to help determine where future ULURP applications will have the greatest impact. Districts were selected based on the number of residents living in "walk gaps," population density, the ratio of open space per 1,000 residents, and/or the poverty rate. These criteria reflect two overarching priorities: raising the percentage of New Yorkers living within walking distance of a park and increasing the open space ratio wherever possible. This district scale effort is a new approach to speed up the process of acquiring new land for parks.

While three ULURP applications within the 19 identified districts have received approval, additional applications will need to be presented to expand park access in underserved neighborhoods. Going forward, Parks will incorporate addressing issues of environmental justice into this process by assessing disparities in access to open space when identifying underserved districts. This new metric will help elevate opportunities to reduce the open space ratio disparity between EJ Areas and non-EJ Areas through future ULURP applications and subsequent land acquisitions.

Parks are among the most visible and vital public resources the City provides — places for recreation, connecting, and relief from urban heat. The City will continue to invest in enhancements of existing parks across all five boroughs to improve their utility, update park programming, and include additional amenities to address extreme heat such as trees, shading, and water features. Going forward, Parks will continue to evaluate and implement strategies that prioritize investments in neighborhoods with the greatest need, ensuring that access to safe, vibrant, and resilient open space is both widespread and equitable.

Create an easy-to-use tool for schools to identify, access, and activate outdoor space to support outdoor learning

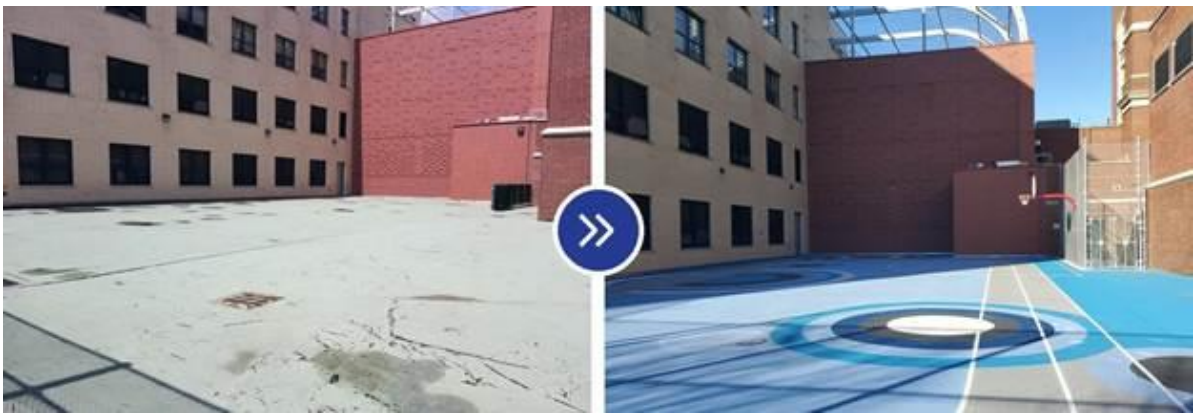


and physical education opportunities.

BACKGROUND

Public space comes at a premium in New York City. This is particularly felt among parents, guardians, caretakers, and children with fewer readily available resources for play, activity, and outdoor learning. Facilities can be either costly or hard to reach, with the availability of well-maintained parks and playgrounds varying.[55]

New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) will explore strategies to identify opportunities for open space near or on school campuses to mend inequities in access.



BEFORE 2018 **AFTER 2022**

- The P.S. 163 Bath Beach schoolyard in Brooklyn before (2018) and after (2022) its renovation.

This effort will compile data scattered across different agencies into a single, streamlined mapping tool, offering details on lot size, ownership, and, where possible, how to access these opportunities, including underutilized land on school grounds. The review of this data will aim to understand the type of space, open space versus green space, and whether staff and students can safely and easily reach these spaces, or whether there are barriers to access such as hours of

operation or required permissions. This will support NYCPS in developing its outdoor learning strategy, starting with schools in EJ neighborhoods.



- Left: Yoga and a community walk at P.S. 193 Gil Hodges. Right: Students at I.S. 010 Horace Greeley. Photos: NYC Public Schools.

With growing opportunities like the City's '*School Streets*' initiatives and building on the success of the *Outdoor Learning Initiative* launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, NYCPS seeks to understand which schools have accessed these programs and use the tool to understand the quality of the spaces available around a school. NYCPS will pilot this tool with schools with the least access to open space to understand barriers to access and identify potential strategies to address them.

CHAPTER 2

Integrate Environmental Justice into City Systems and Processes

To deliver the proposed investments in the previous chapter, the City must reexamine and adapt its operations to align with community-identified priorities and produce fairer outcomes.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Identify and prioritize projects that advance environmental justice

Deliver EJ projects more quickly and efficiently

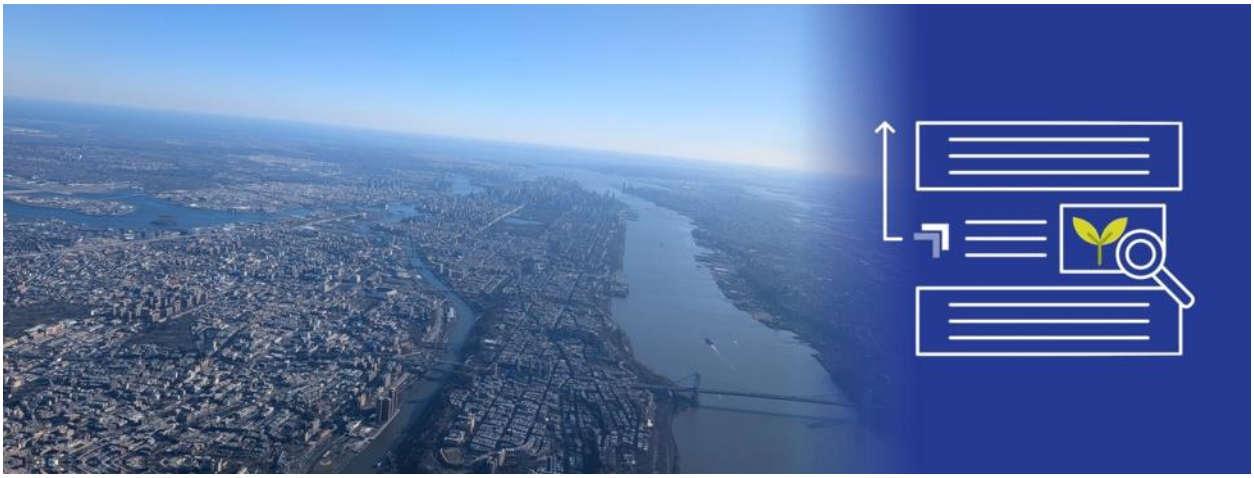


Introduction

Delivering the commitments in Chapter 1, and maintaining this progress across administrations and decades, requires changing how the City itself works. This chapter advances the Plan's second goal and the principle of structural equity, integrating EJ into the institutional processes that decide what the City funds, designs, and delivers. Because the systems that distribute public resources have, over time, deepened the disparities the EJNYC Report documented, the two action areas that follow focus on those systems directly: first, identifying and prioritizing the projects that advance EJ; and second, delivering them faster and more effectively.

ACTION AREA

Identify and prioritize projects that advance environmental justice



- Photo: MOCEJ

This section proposes a series of institutional changes to ensure that environmental justice (EJ) projects are uniformly identified, tracked, and prioritized.

IDENTIFY EJ PROJECTS

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

As it stands, New York City has no designated classification for projects that expand or advance EJ. While many agencies consider environmental justice in their projects, no coordinated system exists to spotlight this work for expedited delivery or funding considerations. Without an ability to prioritize EJ investments, existing inequitable distribution of environmental benefits in EJ communities will persist.

The City has made strides in recent years. Currently, DOT's *Priority Investment Areas* help direct investment in infrastructure like bike lanes and plazas equitably, while the City's *Active Design Guidelines 2.0* offer an evidence-informed approach to public realm improvements that prioritize health, equity, and well-being, and emphasize the importance of authentic community engagement. Together, these efforts help ensure that streets, neighborhoods, and buildings work in the service of improving New Yorkers' health, particularly in communities facing historic disinvestment. However, more needs to be done to prioritize EJ communities from the start, before projects are funded.

The City will explore how to best use EJ and climate risk data to develop criteria to prioritize projects that benefit EJ communities. The aim is to ensure that budget decisions consider long-term EJ goals by evaluating proposed projects for their projected sustainability, resiliency impacts, and ability to address disparities.[56] For example, each year, the City outlines its planned capital investments through its capital budget. With EJ projects more clearly defined and elevated, the City will be better positioned to measure success and impact for capital projects that address environmental inequities. This effort will build on the City's initial steps to integrate EJ considerations into the budget process, which focused on budget review tools like the Climate Alignment Assessment through Climate Budgeting.

Similarly, the City can leverage data and assessments from the New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC), the authoritative source of scientific assessment on how climate change will impact New York City. NPCC's assessments currently inform actionable policy recommendations, including MOCEJ and the City's resilience and adaptation work, such as PlaNYC, AdaptNYC, the EJNYC Report and this draft Plan, and can be leveraged to help build New York City-specific criteria for EJ projects.

Develop the City's first-ever 'EJ Project Framework' to identify EJ work and help inform decision-making.



BACKGROUND

Understanding which City projects advance environmental justice goals is key to ensuring the City undertakes, funds, and delivers infrastructure and facilities that serve EJ communities and reduce disparities. In 2024, the City established 'Climate Budgeting,' a process to systematically integrate climate considerations into the City's financial planning and align City resources with its climate goals. These goals include achieving net-zero emissions and making the City's residents, buildings, and infrastructure resilient in the face of increasing flooding, extreme heat, and other climate change hazards.

A crucial step in implementing Climate Budgeting was to create a framework to identify projects that align with the City's greenhouse gas and climate resilience initiatives. This helps the City identify opportunities to better align with sustainability and resiliency goals and embed climate considerations into decision-making. A similar framework to identify and advance EJ priorities could help elevate these goals in the capital planning and delivery process.

The City, in collaboration with EJ communities and advocates, will develop a framework to classify EJ projects, creating a transparent and standardized evaluation approach for City agencies. This approach will ensure that the City and EJ communities are on the same page about what an EJ project is and how it will be treated in planning and delivery.

The framework's development is the first step the City will take towards building a shared understanding of EJ-based commitments in capital projects and is intended to inform future policies and agency capital planning processes, pursue funding, and maximize EJ benefits at every opportunity. The framework may consider whether projects serve EJ communities, reduce disparities, or maintain, increase, or provide new services to communities. MOCEJ will continue to refine the EJ Project Framework with input from the EJAB, community-based organizations and advocates, OMB, and City agencies involved in capital planning and delivery.

Clear and consistent guidelines for assessing capital projects can advance structural equity by enabling EJ to be integrated across City capital planning and delivery processes. Additionally, classifying EJ projects using the framework can enable City agencies to track their capital investments that support environmental justice. Developing an EJ Project Framework as a resource to support decision-making and transparency is critical for implementing several of the following proposed commitments in this chapter.

Integrate EJ indicators and metrics into new projects before they get started.



BACKGROUND

Currently, the data used to track and analyze EJ-related benefits and outcomes is maintained and defined differently across City agencies, often leading to siloed decision-making and challenges in assessing the equity impacts of projects.

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) will explore incorporating EJ-related data into the Advanced Capital Planning (ACP) Portal, a tool that centralizes information on public buildings, and pursue support for

Enhanced Front End Planning, a parallel infrastructure planning initiative.

The ACP Portal will support the ACP program, a new planning initiative led by DDC that will provide comprehensive support to agencies in assessing and prioritizing their capital needs across their portfolio of buildings. The ACP Portal will consolidate new and existing data on City-owned buildings into a single mapping and analysis tool so agencies can evaluate characteristics related to building conditions, programmatic needs, and citywide strategic priorities. Development of the ACP Portal is underway, with an initial rollout for DDC use anticipated in early 2027.

Once MOCEJ establishes an EJ Project Framework, DDC will explore opportunities to incorporate aligned datasets from the EJNYC Mapping Tool and other relevant City sources into its capital planning processes. Through the launch of the ACP Portal and beyond, DDC will continue to integrate data that can support a baseline assessment of EJ conditions across an agency's entire buildings portfolio and at the individual building level. The ACP Portal will help agencies evaluate the EJ impacts of proposed public buildings capital projects early in the planning process.

DDC's Infrastructure Division is also developing a proposal for Enhanced Front End Planning (FEP) for infrastructure projects, supported by GIS-based planning tools, to bring EJ and climate data, infrastructure needs, interagency coordination, feasibility analysis, and project risks earlier into capital planning. By evaluating infrastructure conditions, project interdependencies, potential alternatives, costs, schedules, and phasing before scopes are finalized, Enhanced FEP can help identify opportunities to address EJ and climate priorities through coordinated DEP and DOT improvements while reducing downstream scope changes and delays.

In support of EJNYC All In, DDC will assess near-term staffing and resource needs required to strengthen both Enhanced FEP and ACP programs, improve long-term capital planning, and build the internal capacity needed to effectively collaborate with and support the Plan's implementation with MOCEJ and other City partners such as OMB and DCP.

Standardize information collected during the budget process to better identify, evaluate, and prioritize investments with EJ impacts.

BACKGROUND

The NYC Office of Management and Budget (OMB) develops the City's expense and capital budgets, oversees agency budgets, and ensures that City priorities and mandates are funded within the constraints of a balanced budget.

Because agencies' missions, operations, and funding needs vary, there is currently no standardized set of criteria required when discussing budget priorities with OMB. This variation can make it difficult to identify potential EJ-related investments and consider their impacts using comparable metrics citywide. A consistent set of data can help ensure that a citywide EJ Project Framework can meaningfully inform budget discussions.

The City will explore developing tools to standardize data and incorporate EJ into budgetary requests and planning during budget preparation.

Collecting standardized information about agency budget proposals can strengthen the City's ability to make informed, efficient, and data-driven funding decisions, ensuring each potential investment is considered through multiple lenses, including EJ. This approach can also help incorporate other priorities into budget preparation, including broader climate considerations through the Climate Budgeting process. By collecting more universal data, such as populations impacted by air quality impacts, the City can better identify where investments advance structural equity and deliver better outcomes for EJ Areas.

Integrate EJ into climate-resilient design into City capital projects.



BACKGROUND

The Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines (CRDG) use future climate change projections to inform the design of all City capital projects, like parks, plazas, libraries, community centers, roads, bridges, and sewer infrastructure. They ensure that the City's infrastructure is designed to withstand extreme heat, extreme rainfall, and coastal flooding for its entire useful life, protecting New Yorkers today and well into the future. The CRDG lays out a standard for the City's design and construction, setting a best practice for the private sector to follow. Since 2021, MOCEJ has partnered with over 20 City capital agencies to incorporate CRDG into their planning and design to identify best practices and lessons learned before the guidelines are applied to the City's capital portfolio.

The City will integrate EJ criteria into the Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines and associated tools for project planning and design to advance structural equity.

Updated guidelines, which will be released by January 2027, will include EJ criteria and be accompanied by a scoring metric to assess progress and investment. These updates are informed by a five-year testing period in which several partner agencies implemented 35 pilot sites using CRDG to test the guideline's efficacy and provide feedback to help MOCEJ refine its metrics. Over 40 percent of the pilot sites are in EJ Areas.

As part of the *EJNYC All In* planning process, MOCEJ held working group sessions with community-based organizations to help identify opportunities for incorporating

EJ elements in the CRDG. New questions will be incorporated into the CRDG's intake screening process to support agencies with capturing baseline EJ conditions surrounding proposed project sites. These early-stage evaluations will translate into new design guidance and best practices within the guidelines themselves, so that enhancements or programmatic opportunities that can help to address present environmental inequities are not overlooked.

By informing project scoping and design, the updated CRDG will help incorporate EJ benefits into City capital projects, in addition to resiliency standards. In this way, CRDG will help guide the City in developing more just and resilient capital projects.

ACTION AREA

Deliver EJ projects more quickly and efficiently



- Photo: MOCEJ

This section puts forward proposed commitments to shorten environmental justice (EJ) project timelines and cut through red tape.

DELIVER EJ PROJECTS

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

Even if the City strengthens its approach to producing cleaner and more just investments through its decision-making processes, New Yorkers cannot wait to see results. The City is committed to delivering EJ projects with the speed and creativity that today's climate requires, investing in the data and processes needed to make it happen.

With greater access to comprehensive data on neighborhood environmental conditions, including data on private lead service lines and more accurate temperature readings across neighborhoods, City agencies can more accurately identify EJ neighborhoods at the highest risk of environmental harm and prioritize their investments in these neighborhoods.[57] Beyond investments, the City is working to centralize climate change data to promote inter-agency collaboration; City

agencies will be able to easily access pertinent data from other agencies to support their own and collaborative projects, allowing the City to deliver EJ projects where it's needed most.

This much-needed push for the City to deliver EJ projects more quickly and efficiently joins ongoing initiatives the City and State have to deliver EJ projects informed by data. The New York State *Environmental Justice Siting Law* requires permit applicants and state and local agencies to consider data on disproportionate pollution burdens to evaluate a proposed action's effects on EJ communities. Similarly, the *Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)* outlines requirements for how State funding for clean energy and energy efficiency projects should be distributed.

Speed up the environmental review of projects that benefit disadvantaged communities without cutting back on protections.

BACKGROUND

The environmental review process is crucial to identifying and mitigating environmental impacts, as well as including public participation in relevant approval processes. It can, however, be slow and costly, adding barriers and delays to projects that provide important EJ benefits to communities. Recent efforts showcase an ongoing commitment to cutting timelines, though not protections.

Approved in 2024, Green Fast Track for Housing streamlined the environmental review process for small- and medium-sized residential developments, making it possible to build sustainable housing more quickly. In May of 2026, the City released the Streamlining Procedures to Expedite Equitable Development ("SPEED") report, a sweeping set of proposed additional reforms to deliver affordable housing faster across New York City.

> Also in May of 2026, New York State amended the Environmental Conservation Law to exclude certain projects that enable housing, parks, schools, water and sewer upgrades, trails and bike paths, and green infrastructure from the requirement to conduct environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The same effort to expedite reviews is needed for other projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

The City will work to streamline environmental review processes for EJ projects and propose specific adjustments at the City level.

Too often, City projects undergo duplicative processes, which delay approvals for much-needed investments. MOCEJ will leverage updated SEQRA regulations to advise agencies on how to expedite review of projects that deliver EJ benefits which may fit the definition of "qualified actions" as set forth in the May 2026 amendments. But more can still be done.

At the local level, the City can explore whether certain project types can be classified as 'Type II' actions through rulemaking, allowing them to bypass in-depth environmental review through City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) — New York City's process for implementing SEQRA. Green Fast Track for Housing is one such example. This process is applied to project types that have not historically had significant adverse impacts, based on data from previous environmental review documents. The City will engage communities in the consideration of project types that might be candidates for faster (or no) environmental review under CEQR, using the EJ Project Framework as a starting point for discussion.

These measures aim to make EJ project implementation more feasible and faster by aligning reviews with their unique characteristics and community priorities. The

goal is to reduce delays and costs while preserving environmental protections and public engagement.

Fund EJ projects identified by communities most impacted by climate hazards.

BACKGROUND

The work to make New York City a more environmentally just place for all will take sustained investment across administrations and decades. *EJNYC All In* isn't a one-off proposal. Instead, it's a long-term commitment to a suite of policy actions and changes that will require time and resources to get done.

The City will explore a coordinated approach to targeting and securing funding from diverse sources, and allocating both capital and expense funding, to support EJ projects and priorities for years to come.

This includes examining grant opportunities from a wide range of sources and across various levels of government. This entails, for example, competitive funding opportunities, philanthropic and corporate partnerships, City and State opportunities, innovative financing tools, and more.

MOCEJ's flagship program, Climate Strong Communities, will serve as one vehicle to advance projects that can protect against future climate threats. MOCEJ will support agency partners and community-based organizations in an advisory capacity as new funding opportunities arise.

By leveraging a diversity of funding streams, the City can reduce its dependency on a single program or pot of money, which helps bolster resiliency amid political or economic shifts. This initiative will pinpoint opportunities and align them with the corresponding community-identified priorities and advocacy to maximize success and produce EJ outcomes.

CHAPTER 3

Involve EJ Communities Meaningfully and Transparently

To advance environmental justice systemwide, the City must involve its most impacted communities to engage with — and help decide — the City's future.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Improve access to information New Yorkers need to prepare for a rapidly changing climate

Collaborate and build capacity between community-based organizations (CBOs) and City agencies



Introduction

Investment and process change matter only if communities have a voice in decisions. This chapter advances the Plan's third goal and the principle of procedural equity, strengthening the public's ability to take part in the decisions that affect their environment and health, which is the core of what environmental justice demands. The EJNYC Report found that participation is often so time- and resource-intensive that it excludes the very residents it should center. The two action areas that follow respond in turn: first, improving access to the information New Yorkers need to prepare for a changing climate; and second, building lasting collaboration and capacity between the City and community organizations.

ACTION AREA

Improve access to information New Yorkers need to prepare for a rapidly changing climate



- Photos: MOCEJ

This section outlines the City's proposed commitments to accessibly develop and distribute its vast amount of data to New Yorkers when they need it most.

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

Knowledge is power, and without it, New Yorkers are left more vulnerable to harm, especially in the face of growing climate threats. Currently, climate and environmental justice (EJ) information exists relatively siloed across agencies at the city, state, and federal level. In the coming years, improving accessibility to climate information will become crucial in ensuring that everyone is informed of and, most importantly, safe from climate threats.

Climate information also equips New Yorkers with the tools to hold the City accountable to its EJ promises. The EJNYC Mapping Tool is one example of an initiative that centralizes EJ information and makes it accessible to everyone, so

New Yorkers can easily access information relating to their neighborhood's EJ concerns. This initiative is a first step in the City's process to fulfill the EJNYC Report's goal to improve accountability through increased data transparency and communication. With easy access to EJ information, New Yorkers can clearly identify environmental hazards their communities face and use this information to advocate for institutional change.

Consolidate climate change data into a single platform in NYC Open Data.



BACKGROUND

Data is a powerful tool in addressing the climate crisis. It can show how much the City has changed and will continue to change in the years ahead. It can show the extent to which the environment impacts daily life, often in harmful ways. It can shape the goals and targets for building a healthier, more sustainable New York City.

Currently, official data around the city's changing climate and its impact on EJ communities are available in a few different places, including the EJNYC Mapping Tool, as well as separate data tools maintained by the NYC Health Department, DCP, DEP, and MOCEJ. That is due in large part to the makeup of the government across city, state, and federal levels, and the resulting complexity of City agencies that touch the environment in some shape or form. This lack of centralization makes it difficult for residents to understand how their lived realities may compare to their neighbors', from flood vulnerability to degrees of exposure to hazardous materials.

The City will advance access to information and improve transparency by consolidating the City's sprawling climate data inventory from multiple City agencies and sources

into a singular Climate Category within the NYC Open Data portal.

The City's innovative public data platform is already widely used by residents, advocates, journalists, and policymakers, for everything from 311 complaints to potholes filled. With its existing infrastructure, NYC Open Data is a natural fit to make essential climate change data easier to navigate and access.

Expand the City's network of weather sensors to monitor changing climate conditions and notify New Yorkers about location-specific climate hazards in real-time.



BACKGROUND

On the city's hottest days, there can be anywhere between a 10- and 20-degree difference between two neighborhoods. Hyperlocal differences matter: the City needs this data to communicate safety notices clearly and accurately, and New Yorkers need real-time information to keep themselves and each other safe from extreme weather.

Right now, the systems to do so — from data collection through FloodNet NYC, to public communication through services like Notify NYC, LinkNYC, and National Weather Service Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) — are not being leveraged to their full capability to reach people where they are with timely weather information. By expanding the amount of available hyperlocal

weather data, this network can better target notifications, outreach, and engagement efforts.

MOCEJ will coordinate across implementing agencies, including the Office of Emergency Management (NYCEM) and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with NYC Health Department as technical advisors, to expand and improve the citywide network of sensors that monitor real-time flooding and temperature conditions, focusing on the neighborhoods most impacted by these climate risks

To strengthen the City's proactive extreme heat response strategy, MOCEJ will work with NYCEM to secure funding for outdoor heat sensors that can provide real-time heat monitoring in EJ communities across the city. Temperature data generated from the heat sensors would allow the City to better plan for and direct heat response strategies. One such strategy is deploying outdoor pop-up cooling stations which provide immediate heat relief and information on heat risk and safety to vulnerable populations like outdoor workers and older adults. MOCEJ will also explore opportunities to expand outdoor pop-up cooling stations with NYCEM to additional neighborhoods, building upon successful pilot initiatives with NYCEM, NYC Health Department, and multiple CBO partners.

Beyond heat, MOCEJ will also support the expansion of real-time flood monitoring through FloodNet NYC — a collaborative initiative between New York University, the City University of New York, and the City which makes flood data and monitoring tools accessible to community and local government stakeholders. MOCEJ will work with DEP to secure additional funding to support the expansion and improvement of the FloodNet sensor network.

This commitment will support NYCEM further embed real-time weather monitoring into its emergency planning and response operations. This includes Notify NYC, which uses data collection through FloodNet NYC and the NYC Micronet — a network of 29 weather stations providing real-time weather data for utility operations and long-term climate change monitoring — to determine when and how

to alert New Yorkers about climate threats. While issuing alerts that give the public critical safety guidance, Notify NYC staff also work to avoid alert fatigue. For certain opt-in categories, like the Basement Alerts group which is specifically designed for vulnerable New Yorkers living in basement apartments that can flood rapidly, additional real-time data can help customize and target messaging to ensure alerts are actionable and not overly burdensome.

Other potential benefits of localized, real-time monitoring networks include improving awareness and education around climate threats by making data available to community members, businesses, and organizations to improve the system's user experience design to broaden access and increase usage.

SUPPORTING ACTION

Increase uptake of Notify NYC subscriptions. As the city faces a growing number of climate-related challenges, New Yorkers will need accurate, real-time information to take appropriate, sometimes life-saving precautions. Notify NYC, the City's public alert system, will continue to be a crucial tool. As an opt-in system, a key priority will be to continue to increase opportunities for people to opt in to Notify NYC, through a mix of public safety ads and community engagement with areas of the city with low usage and a high likelihood of flooding and/or increased hyperlocal temperatures. Recent progress reflects the impact of these efforts. In the first six months of the current mayoral administration, Notify NYC gained 175,748 new subscribers, showing growing public trust and engagement. Building on this momentum, NYCEM in collaboration with the NYC Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), will also improve the system's user experience design to broaden access and increase usage.

Revamp the EJNYC Mapping Tool to make it easier for the public to use.



BACKGROUND

Advocacy and sound policymaking rely on accessible and accurate information. In 2024, the EJNYC Report was released alongside the EJNYC Mapping Tool, a first-of-its-kind interactive tool that provides a comprehensive view of the historical and present state of environmental disparities across the City. It advances procedural equity by making data easier to access, encouraging transparency, and helping to inform decision-making among advocates and City agencies.

MOCEJ will improve the EJNYC Mapping Tool to support wider accessibility and usage.

Between the first and second year since the webtool's launch, the site saw more than a 25 percent increase in users — but the effort to increase accessibility continues. For the EJNYC Mapping Tool to be truly accessible to New Yorkers across languages and data needs, a complete overhaul is needed: the aim is to deliver a custom-built tool that can be responsive to community needs and integrate custom features.

That investment will focus on giving communities a way to share feedback, request changes or additional data to be added to the webtool and update the tool's interface to be compatible with browser-based translation — so anyone can access the site in their own language. Pop-up guides will show users the full range of features available to make the experience clear and easier to understand.

A more user-friendly, intuitive webtool makes it far easier for New Yorkers to navigate and better use crucial advocacy resources. Reimagining the EJNYC Mapping Tool is a key mechanism for advancing procedural equity; by equipping both EJ communities and decision-makers with more robust tools, both are better positioned to communicate their needs and advocate for the right resources.

Develop the City's first climate education action plan.

BACKGROUND

Climate action must bring along the youngest New Yorkers and their working families. Education is essential to inform the City's youth of both the immense challenges presented by a rapidly warming planet, and the actions their city is taking to address them. Thus, it is essential to provide resources, preparation, and care to ensure climate education is a core part of every student's learning experience. This action is reflective of procedural justice: empowering students with climate literacy will position them to engage with City climate plans and advocate for their ideas.

NYC Public Schools (NYCPS) will create a citywide climate education plan for grades K-12.



A Solar Schools banner at P.S. 139 in Queens. Photo: NYC Public Schools

In March 2026, New York State education regulations were amended to include statewide climate education requirements for all public schools.[58] New York joins only a handful of other states that acknowledge required climate education as a critical part of learning, skills-building, opportunity, and preparedness. While NYCPS has laid the groundwork for meeting State requirements through robust

science instruction and PlaNYC initiatives to prioritize decarbonization, sustainability, and youth and teacher action in the city's schools, instructional State requirements demand new levels of support.

NYCPS will develop and follow a plan to ensure all schools meet new State climate education requirements by the 2028-2029 school year. This will be part of the broader 'NY Inspires' efforts, which lays out pathways to transform what it means to be a New York State graduate.

Ensuring schools and district leaders promote the value of climate education and action, while having access to the tools and resources they need to prepare teachers to comply with State requirements, will require collaboration among central, district, and school-based staff, along with a menu of classroom-based and experiential learning for students.

This work will also rely on strengthened partnerships across the City's efforts, leveraging materials, resources, and experiences offered by agencies like NYC Parks and DEP to ensure specialized, NYC-based subject-matter expertise supports school-based climate action. Making localized resources readily available for teaching and learning will be key to the overall participation and success of climate education. Enhanced learning using outdoor spaces in and around schools will provide additional opportunities for students to build practical skills and develop an appreciation for climate stewardship across the five boroughs.

SUPPORTING ACTION

MOCEJ, NYCPS, and the Department of Youth & Community Development are co-developing a Climate Educator Guide grounded in a solutions-oriented approach to climate education. The guide is designed for educators to help young people explore environmental and climate issues that directly affect their everyday lives, neighborhoods, and futures. Through interactive lessons, place-based activities, guided discussions, and collaborative assignments, students will gain an understanding of how climate threats are impacting New Yorkers, and reflect on how communities and City agencies are responding.

SUPPORTING ACTION

Through the City's Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), students and educators can also connect with public science cultural institutions around the city, including natural history museums and botanical gardens. Eight of these institutions already work with the city's schools on Urban Advantage – a program that enhances public school science education through partnerships with schools, teachers, and families.

ACTION AREA

Collaborate and build capacity between community-based organizations (CBOs) and City agencies

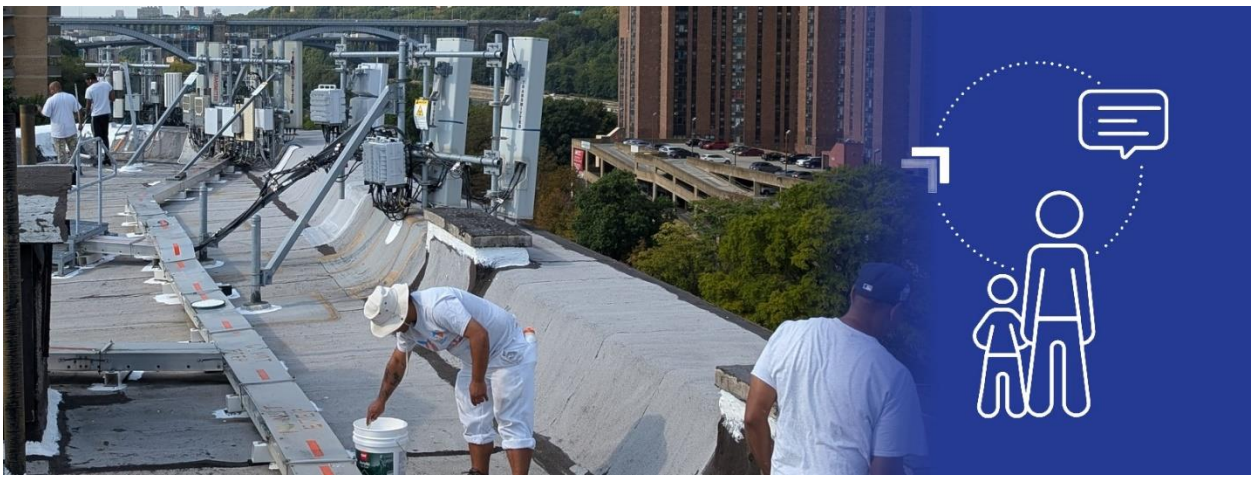


Photo: MOCEJ

This section explores new and creative ways that the City will engage communities most impacted by environmental harms in shaping City programs and policies.

For decades, environmental justice (EJ) communities have led the fight in their neighborhoods for greater investment, structural change, and transparency around the issues that perpetuate the environmental harms they experience daily. To do justice to the groups leading the EJ movement in New York City, the City recommits to elevating community expertise and input in institutional decision-making and building community capacity.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

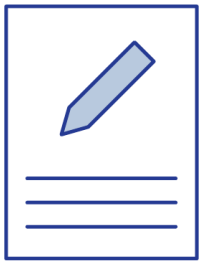
ACTION AREA CONTEXT

Throughout the EJNYC Initiative, key stakeholders across various EJ communities identified CBOs' access to resources as a key barrier to their EJ work.[59] Often, CBOs are faced with administrative barriers when they approach City agencies or can have limited funding and personnel for research. Addressing administrative hurdles is a critical, ongoing effort. The City recently streamlined the Brownfield Incentive Grant application process for 2026 to speed up approvals and reimbursements for CBOs studying, cleaning up, and planning for the reuse of brownfields.

Stakeholders also noted that sincere collaboration between the City and CBOs can foster an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect, where the City can use its resources to help CBOs build capacity, train emerging EJ leaders, and further support existing outreach efforts.[60] An example of this kind of capacity-building can be found in NYCEM's *Strengthening Communities Program*, which launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to equip local community and faith-based, networks with tools, training, and funding to build customized emergency plans, bridge communication gaps with the City's Emergency Operations Center, and foster grassroots disaster resilience.

Beyond City agency support for CBOs, early involvement in decision-making processes is vital to delivering procedural justice to all New Yorkers. New Yorkers deserve a say in where their tax dollars go and what projects are carried out in their neighborhoods. The City already has made moves to bring decisions to everyday New Yorkers, such as through the Community District Needs Process and Participatory Budgeting. Community District Needs allows local community boards to voice their top concerns and budget priorities directly to City agencies, while City Council's Participatory Budgeting allows New Yorkers to submit ideas for consideration and vote on how part of the City budget is spent. Similarly, the City's launch of the Climate Strong Communities (CSC) program in 2023 also involves communities early in the decision-making process. Through CSC, neighborhood groups, residents, and City agencies collaboratively plan multi-hazard resiliency projects in EJ communities, ensuring that community priorities guide City investment.

Develop and maintain a directory of community-based organizations that focus on environmental justice issues to strengthen collaboration with City Hall.



BACKGROUND

For decades, advocacy and activism from CBOs have driven the EJ movement. However, these groups have faced ongoing challenges due to limited capacity and resources, lack of meaningful opportunities to participate in city processes, and the ability to share input to advance community-identified priorities.

MOCEJ will create a new online resource directly connecting City agencies to the CBOs doing the work on the ground to advance EJ and related issues.

MOCEJ will put out a request for expressions of interest (RFEI) to CBOs interested in participating in future City-led opportunities. By submitting their details, CBOs are opting in to be contacted by agencies if a matched opportunity, such as a project related to climate resilience, environmental stewardship, or workforce development, comes up. The online directory can also be bidirectional by allowing CBOs to submit their own requests for support from the City.

The benefits of this resource will be essential to advancing the goals laid out in the draft Plan: City agencies looking to collaborate with communities will have a centralized place to identify key CBO stakeholders for projects and initiatives, and in return, these groups will have more opportunities to collaborate with the City in support of their organizations' missions and goals. By furthering conversation and connection, the City can advance both distributional and procedural equity, creating dynamic opportunities to maximize resources for those most adversely impacted.

Provide NYC's 59 Community Boards with the tools and training to advance environmental justice.



BACKGROUND

Community boards are a cornerstone of New York City's capital planning process, advising City agencies on local priorities. Each of the 59 community boards has up to 50 volunteer members and serves as a liaison between neighborhoods and City government. As part of this role, Community Boards participate in the budget process by submitting a Community District Needs (CD Needs) Statement every year and consult with agencies on the district's capital and expense budget needs. Through these processes, community boards play a key role in ensuring residents have a voice in the planning of their communities. Though City agencies support community board operations, the content of CD Needs is created by neighbors, and currently there is no shared language to uplift environmental justice priorities.

The City will integrate EJ into community board processes by providing community boards with tools and training on the City's EJ priorities.

MOCEJ will share the EJ Project Framework with community boards to establish a common language for assessing the EJ impacts of capital projects, and train members on how to use these platforms, including the EJNYC Mapping Tool, to identify EJ needs in their neighborhood and flag EJ-related budget requests. Together, these actions can advance procedural equity by ensuring community boards are well equipped to advocate for projects that advance EJ goals where they live, using tools aligned with City processes.

GREEN ECONOMY

ACTION AREA CONTEXT

Reaffirming the collaboration between the City and the community involves working towards the well-being of every member in that community. Too often, economic advances benefit only a select few. As the green economy grows, the City is committed to creating opportunities for low-income residents. The Department of Small Business Services' Workforce Industrial and Transportation Career Center will further develop its partnerships with community organizations, offering free training programs to those interested in careers in the industrial and construction fields. Transitions to new infrastructure have historically left workers from older infrastructures with little support. To address this, the City is committed to connecting utility workers to jobs in growing sectors of the green economy.

Expand pathways for low-income New Yorkers to access the green jobs of the future.

BACKGROUND

Building towards a decarbonized future in New York City requires a strong workforce pipeline across the five boroughs, including in fields like climate technology, environmental remediation, battery charging, and more. The City's education and career preparation infrastructure across the workforce development ecosystem can help ensure job opportunities that emerge are accessible to all New Yorkers — especially those in communities most impacted by climate change.

The City will increase opportunities for low-income New Yorkers to attain gainful employment in the green economy by expanding and strengthening workforce development pathways.

To support low-income individuals and those living in low-income communities, including NYCHA residents, the City will promote equitable access to green economy careers through Community Hiring, which allows City agencies to set workforce goals in procurement contracts for City vendors to provide employment and apprenticeship opportunities. Community Hiring is applicable to the City's green economy-related investments, such as the construction of bioswales and resiliency infrastructure, building efficiency services and decarbonization, and consulting services in civil engineering and design.

In partnership with employers, workforce organizations, and public science cultural institutions, the City will continue to identify and support training programs for in-demand and green occupations — such as HVAC, advanced manufacturing, engineering, and EV technology.

Expose more students from communities impacted by environmental injustices to career opportunities in sustainability.

BACKGROUND

The pathway to sustainable green careers should start in the classroom. From a young age, New Yorkers should be exposed to the jobs available to them in the emerging green economy. By offering students hands-on opportunities to explore careers and business sectors, the City can expose its next generation of talent to the diversity of roles available in this sector.



▪ Solar career and technical education at K580 George Westinghouse Career and Technical Education High School. Photo: NYC Public Schools.

NYC Talent and NYC Public Schools will leverage their partnership to expand the "Inside Industry" program, which introduces middle and high-school students to careers in manufacturing, supply chain, innovation, infrastructure, and technology highlighting opportunities in sustainability, to additional schools across the city.

The initiative complements classroom learning with hands-on, real-world experiences through tours of facilities where workers advance efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change or carry out other activities vital to the city's core functions. Further incorporating career exposure opportunities in New York City's public schools will help enhance equity and support graduation outcomes that ensure New Yorkers impacted by climate change are part of the solutions.

Expand programs that connect schools to circular economy skills.

BACKGROUND

To ensure the next generation has the skills and resources for the green jobs of the future, New York City schools should have access to circular economy

> training, such as repair, creative reuse, and upcycling. One example is the Department of Cultural Affairs' (DCLA) Materials for the Arts (MFTA) program. The City-run facility operates the largest reuse program for nonprofits' arts programming of its kind in New York City, and each year redistributes five million pounds of materials that would otherwise go to waste.

A new investment would enable MFTA and other reuse or related programs to expand their rewarding missions to more communities citywide.



- Left: An MFTA repair program. Photo: MFTA. Right: A repair event. Photo: DSNY.

MFTA runs In-School Residencies, placing teaching artists in public schools to offer arts and creative reuse education across multiple grades, with opportunities for field trips, seminars, and more. Recently, they launched the Repair Program, which started as a pilot and is now permanent, training high school students to repair materials such as clothing, furniture, bikes, and mechanics for future use. It offers students a chance to explore careers in sustainability they might not have considered otherwise. Both are offered through the MTFA Education Center.

The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) has long worked with MFTA as part of its overall commitment to resource recovery and reuse. As part of implementing the 2026 Solid Waste Management Plan, DSNY will continue to promote a wide range of programming for all New Yorkers, including students, to support the goals of increasing the reuse of durable items and donation of food to New Yorkers in need. These programs provide local, practical examples of the circular economy and ensure that valuable resources are distributed more equitably.

ACCESS TO CULTURAL ASSETS

Leverage partnerships among cultural organizations to continue to close historic inequities in access.

New York City is home to a rich and diverse tapestry of culture and arts — from world-class live performances, museums, film, and television, to local art collectives and community-based cultural institutions, thriving nightlife scenes, murals, and public art. This vast array of networks, disciplines, and communities fuels the creative infrastructure integral to the city's economy and identity as a global capital.

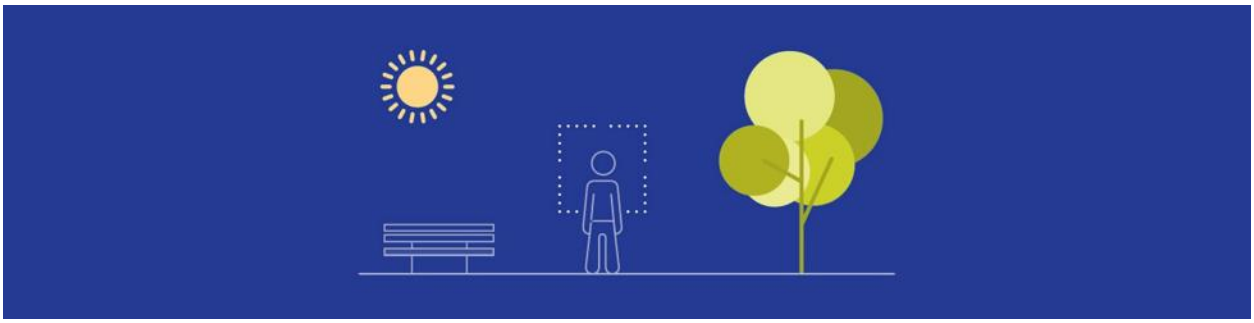
Studies show that cultural presence correlates with safer streets, strengthens community identity, and improves educational outcomes — which support the ability to secure family-sustaining jobs and a resilient local economy.[61] According to research, strong cultural institutions have an outsized impact on low-income areas.[6263]communities aligns with the goals of *EJNYC All In* to uplift communities as part of a broad approach to environmental justice.

Both big and small, DCLA supports over 1,100 organizations annually, each with their own unique mission, audience, and history. However, like other divides, investments in these partnerships and resources aren't always equitably distributed across all neighborhoods — especially for artists, neighborhood groups, and cultural organizations from historically marginalized communities. Preserving these vital spaces and collaborations as hubs for community connection, cultural expression, and advocacy is more pressing than ever.

DCLA will ensure that NYC Create in Place — a pilot program which deploys an all-of-government approach to safeguarding the city's cultural assets — reaches the communities where services are needed most, deepening collaborations between cultural organizations in the process.

Cultural valuation, preservation, and collaboration efforts are vital components of recognitional justice. Beyond that, this recommendation calls for continued leveraging of the DCLA's Cultural Development Fund (CDF) to bridge the investment divide. Because the CDF is application-based, the grants can favor areas of the city with larger concentrations of eligible nonprofits, which typically correspond to well-funded communities. In recent years, DCLA has implemented a series of reforms to change that by focusing attention on underserved communities, from dedicated engagement with low-income communities, to increasing grant amounts for groups in low-income and disadvantaged areas. With the CDF's financial support, community-based arts and cultural groups will have the resources to create and spotlight programs that best align with their neighborhood needs.

In this way, the CDF can better serve EJ Areas through expanded cultural programming and targeted outreach informed by community partnerships. If all cultural institutions are going to thrive, then they need the resources to do so. No matter their zip code, every New Yorker should be able to access and enjoy the culture that makes this city great.



Conclusions and Beyond this Draft Plan

The publication of this draft Plan represents a meaningful commitment by the City to address the issues raised in the EJNYC Report. Across its three chapters, New Yorkers can read more about the City's proposed commitments to invest where the need is greatest, to build environmental justice (EJ) into how it budgets and delivers its capital work, and to involve the communities most affected in the decisions that shape their neighborhoods. Taken together, these efforts transform what the EJNYC Report measured into actions the public can track.

The disparities highlighted in this draft Plan took generations of policy and disinvestment to form and addressing them will take sustained effort and commitment across administrations, agencies, and time. The steps that follow describe how the City will move from this draft to a final Plan, with critical ways for New Yorkers to shape what comes next.

What Comes Next

Once the draft Plan is released, the City will invite New Yorkers to help shape the final Plan through a robust public engagement and review period in partnership with the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB). New Yorkers will have multiple in-person and virtual opportunities to share input. All opportunities will be publicized on the EJNYC webpage. These include:

- **Attending a public hearing led by the EJAB.** The EJAB will host five in-person public hearings, one per borough, and one virtual public hearing, to promote the draft Plan and hear directly from New Yorkers. Public hearings will take place between January and February 2027.
- **Attending a community consultation event led by a local community-based organization (CBO).** MOCEJ will partner with 30 CBOs across the city who will

host and facilitate 30 neighborhood-based events to discuss the draft Plan and generate feedback for the City and the EJAB. Community consultation events will take place between January and March 2027.

- **Providing written feedback on the draft Plan.** MOCEJ will launch a webtool featuring all 38 proposed commitments, allowing residents to easily review and provide commitment-specific feedback. Written feedback will be accepted during a public review period between January and March 2027.

Feedback from public hearings, community-led events, and the public review period will be synthesized by MOCEJ and shared with the EJAB and the EJ Interagency Working Group (IWG). In May 2027, the EJAB will submit formal comments and recommendations on the draft Plan to the IWG, which will be informed by the public's feedback.

The IWG will review the public's feedback and the EJAB's comments to identify priorities the City should advance. MOCEJ will reconvene the IWG and EJAB to determine a path forward, which may include aligning commitments with community priorities, strengthening others, and developing new ones for the final Plan.

Reporting on EJ Project Delivery

For too long, investments promised to EJ communities have not materialized, so the City will hold itself to a higher standard of accountability. Local Law 64 requires the Working Group to report each year to the Advisory Board, the Mayor, and the Speaker of the City Council. As part of these annual updates, MOCEJ will report on funded EJ projects that are underway and recently completed, increasing transparency into the investments the City is making. The reports will summarize how the EJ Project Framework has been used to classify and prioritize projects, offer feedback for future planning and provide an opportunity to adjust the Framework so that impactful projects advance in line with community priorities.

Highlighting EJ Priorities in Planning Reports

DCP reports on citywide capital-planning strategy through the Ten-Year Capital Strategy and the Citywide Statement of Needs for City Facilities. To emphasize environmental justice as a capital priority, the Ten-Year Capital Strategy will include strategies to advance environmental justice. The Citywide Statement of Needs will continue to identify facilities projects and their purpose and need, so that communities can engage in commenting on those that may have EJ benefits, such as new pumping facilities or recreation centers. These documents are

important tools for communicating what the City invests in and why, and for centering environmental justice in ongoing capital planning.

Beyond This Plan

This draft Plan is a substantial step, but it is not the end of the City's efforts to address environmental injustice. It is meant to open a conversation, not close one, and to continue the dialogue that EJ communities have carried for decades.

That work will continue through future iterations of this Plan, which local law requires every five years, and through the City's broader long-term climate planning, which MOCEJ will carry out in ongoing consultation with the Environmental Justice Advisory Board and alongside the many related efforts underway across City government. Environmental justice will remain a throughline of how the City plans for a changing climate, not a separate exercise set apart from it.

As MOCEJ updates its assessment of the risks facing the city's most vulnerable communities, and as the climate science advances through the work of the New York City Panel on Climate Change, the City will sharpen its understanding of the hazards ahead. That evolving picture will help the City evaluate and act on the risks facing all New Yorkers, wherever they live, while keeping the communities that carry the heaviest burdens at the center of the response.

Environmental justice is a generational commitment. This draft Plan marks real progress and, more than that, a durable foundation to build on, as the City continues to listen, learn, and act in partnership with the New Yorkers who know these challenges best.

Appendix

Process - Detailed

In 2007, the City of New York released PlaNYC, a comprehensive plan that wrestled with the environmental, social, and economic challenges of a population projected to grow by a million residents over the next decade. It was succeeded in 2015 by OneNYC, an equity-driven update to future investments and decisions to guarantee that more New Yorkers benefited from housing, economic growth, sustainability, and resiliency. In 2023, the City of New York released PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done, which updated the progress it had made in the 15 years since PlaNYC and mapped where it needed to go next to remain a global leader in sustainability. The EJNYC Initiative builds upon that work.

Collaborating Across Agencies and the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB)

To ensure accountability and input from impacted communities, the implementation of the landmark environmental justice legislation (Local Laws 60 & 64 of 2017) was guided by an independent Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB), appointed by the Mayor and City Council, which convened local subject matter experts to weigh in. An Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group (IWG), made up of staff from over 30 City agencies and mayoral offices with a crucial role to play in advancing EJ, was also convened.

In 2019, the EJAB and IWG worked in tandem to develop the EJNYC Report — starting with a draft scope of work. The scope identified the EJ issues that the Report would cover, which were evaluated based on whether the issue areas had direct or indirect links to environmental and health outcomes, and whether the City had a role in influencing them.

The draft scope of work was then published in early 2021, which kicked off a year-long engagement period. All the town halls were virtual due to the pandemic, but hundreds of people attended and thousands more submitted public comments. The final scope was published in December 2021. The following year, MOCEJ and the IWG began developing the EJNYC Report and Mapping Tool in consultation with the EJAB and released them simultaneously in April 2024.

Developing *EJNYC All In*

To start developing a draft Plan, MOCEJ reviewed the EJNYC Report findings and conducted an initial opportunity analysis, following up with agency meetings to understand their ongoing priorities. In early 2025, MOCEJ reconvened the IWG to determine potential policies that could be advanced to address the disparities highlighted in the EJNYC Report. This led to the formation of sub-working groups covering the following topics: Invest in EJ Areas and Public Spaces, Integrate EJ into City Systems and Processes, Public Data Transparency and Collaboration, and Healthy Homes and Affordable Utilities.

The IWG member agencies met with the project team to brainstorm realistic strategies that could be implemented to advance EJ and began drafting language for the draft Plan. In April 2025, an IWG and EJAB virtual convening took place to foster dialogue and the sharing of ideas for the draft Plan. MOCEJ supported the IWG to refine proposed commitments through the summer 2026, when these were elevated to senior leadership for final approval.

Throughout this process, the EJAB has met monthly with MOCEJ to offer input at every stage of the planning process, from ideation to reviewing proposed commitments. Additionally, through its pre-draft engagement, MOCEJ and community-based partners held feedback sessions across the five boroughs, inviting the public to react to the draft Plan's guiding principles, goals, and action areas. From November 13, 2025 to March 31, 2026, borough-based events and feedback sessions were held with partners including the Bronx River Alliance, the Center for NYC Neighborhoods, City Parks Foundation, the Fifth Avenue Committee, El Puente, South Bronx Unite, the Street Vendor Project, the Trust for Public Land, the Waterfront Alliance, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice, among others, along with one-on-one meetings with New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, New York Lawyers for Public Interest, New York League of Conservation Voters, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

Once the draft Plan is published, the EJAB will convene public hearings within the six-month public review period — at least one in each borough — where the public can weigh in. Similarly, the IWG will be called upon to refine any proposed commitments based on gaps identified through public feedback, culminating in the release of the final Plan.

The Future of *EJNYC All In*

From here, the City will set up an accountability framework and share annual progress updates to allow for the proposed commitments to be consistently re-

evaluated and improved, with ongoing support and partnership from the EJAB, community-based organizations (CBOs), and the IWG. New Yorkers' ongoing feedback will also be critical as the City publishes future iterations of the Plan, which is required every five years.

Glossary

Adaptation	The process of adjusting to new climate conditions in order to reduce risks to communities and valued assets.
Air Pollutants	Gases and fine particles with the potential to negatively impact human health which are typically produced by the combustion of fossil fuel-powered facilities, vehicles, and appliances. Examples include fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), nitrogen oxides (NOx), black carbon, and ozone (O_3).
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	A system of batteries capable of storing energy from renewable sources — such as wind and solar — or from the utility grid, to supply electrical energy at a future time to local power loads or the utility grid. Stored energy may be used during periods of high energy demand when electricity prices are high, or during brownouts or blackouts to support grid reliability.
Capital Projects and Agencies	A project involving a physical public improvement with a value of $50,000 or more, and a useful life of at least five years. This includes investments in public infrastructure, like roads and sewers. Capital agencies are City government entities responsible for planning, designing, and delivering capital projects.
Climate Change	Long-term changes in global and regional weather patterns attributed to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere in addition to natural climate variability.
Decarbonization	Efforts to reduce or eliminate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.
Distributional Equity	The fair allocation of both environmental benefits and burdens across different communities.
Environmental Benefit	A physical, financial, or programmatic resource or amenity that improves environmental conditions related to public health, sustainability, and resiliency, or ameliorates an environmental burden.

Environmental Burden	An environmental factor that has the potential to negatively impact New Yorkers' health, wellbeing, quality of life or enjoyment.
Environmental Justice	The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, policies and activities and with respect to the distribution of environmental benefits. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic or socioeconomic group, should (i) bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state or local programs and policies or (ii) receive an inequitably low share of environmental benefits.
Environmental Justice Area (EJ Area)	Census tracts that meet the Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) designation established by DEC. This designation was developed by the Climate Justice Working Group, as mandated by the Climate Act, and is used to identify frontline and otherwise underserved communities that stand to benefit from New York State's historic transition to cleaner, greener sources of energy, reduced pollution and cleaner air, and economic opportunities.
Environmental Justice Community (EJ Community)	This term is used to generally describe populations that have experienced and/or currently experience EJ issues.
Green Economy	Economic activity and employment focused on reducing environmental impacts, improving sustainability, and supporting climate solutions, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean infrastructure.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	A gas — such as carbon dioxide or methane — that traps heat in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change.
Just Transition	A unifying, place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy.
Peaker Power Plant	Power plants that operate primarily during times of peak electricity demand to maintain grid reliability and avoid blackouts. They are generally older, less efficient, and higher emitters than other power plants.

PlaNYC	New York City's long-term sustainability and climate action blueprint that sets goals and policies for reducing emissions, improving resilience, and enhancing quality of life.
Procedural Equity	Fair and inclusive decision-making processes that ensure communities have meaningful opportunities to participate in policies and projects that affect their environment and health.
Resilience	The capacity of communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems to prepare for, withstand, and recover from climate-related impacts and other shocks or stresses.
Structural Equity	Efforts to address the underlying policies, institutions, and systems that have historically created or reinforced environmental and social inequities.
Sustainability	A commitment to social, economic, and environmental factors that promote long-term survival, a capacity to endure, and a sustained quality of life. Most importantly, it means thinking about the impact actions have on the environment, the economy, and future generations.

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ENDNOTES

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