



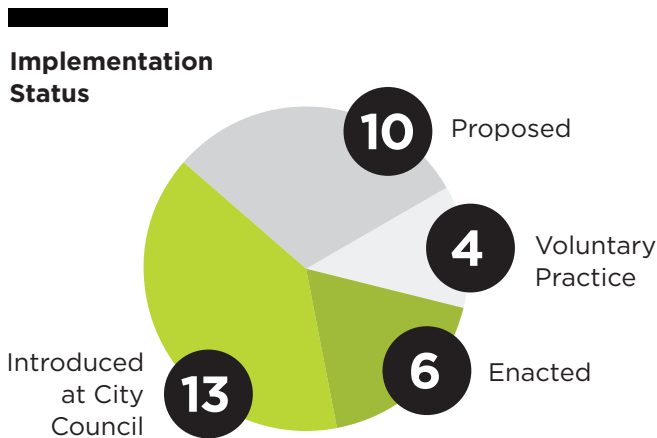
SANDY:  
ONE YEAR  
LATER  
OCTOBER  
2013

# BUILDING RESILIENCY TASK FORCE

# INTRODUCTION

At the one-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, we can look back and say we are better prepared for the next extreme weather event. But we have much more work ahead of us.

Our city is becoming more resilient. Less than eight months after Sandy hit the coast, the NYC Building Resiliency Task Force released 33 recommendations to guard our buildings against future risks. Within two weeks, 18 of its proposals were heard at City Council. This speed speaks to the shared concern of government, developers, homeowners, and building professionals for keeping New Yorkers safe against rising seas and climate change.



Six Task Force proposals have now been enacted, protecting our water and fuel supply. They will prevent sewage from entering basements during floods. Toilets and sinks will work during power outages, improving sanitation during blackouts. And the city will study the risks high winds bring to some common types of construction, as well as how to design roads and sidewalks that capture

stormwater to prevent flooding. Flood-resistant building requirements will be made clearer to those building — or rebuilding — in flood zones.

The city is taking action now because while we don't know when the next disaster will occur, we do know that it's coming. And, the next event could be different than what Sandy brought us, perhaps bringing higher winds, heavy rains, or extreme temperatures as well as coastal flooding.

At the request of the Mayor and City Council Speaker, Task Force recommendations will make our buildings safer while helping to fight climate change. We are working to help enact the measures that remain and to encourage best practices in the building industry. Our hope and expectation is that the lion's share of Task Force code recommendations will be passed before the end of this year. We also look forward to joining the next administration and City Council in the ongoing work of building resiliency.

Urban Green Council thanks our partners in government and industry, especially the members of the Task Force, for bringing about a code enhancement effort unprecedented in both its speed and its effectiveness.

## Online Proposal Tracker

For more information about the Task Force and an up-to-date tracker on our progress, please visit: [www.urbangreencouncil.org/BuildingResiliency](http://www.urbangreencouncil.org/BuildingResiliency)

# PROGRESS AT A GLANCE



## **Prevent Sewage Backflow**

New buildings in flood zones are now required to install backwater valves, keeping sewage out of basements when sewer systems are overwhelmed with floodwaters.



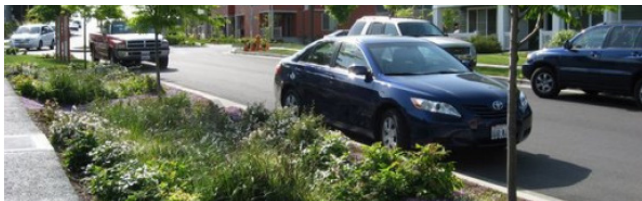
## **Clarify Construction Requirements in Flood Zones**

To increase clarity about flood zone construction requirements, the NYC Department of Buildings will create a manual specifically focused on flood protection.



## **Analyze Wind Risks**

Most NYC buildings were constructed under codes that did not provide modern levels of wind protection. A city study will address wind vulnerabilities of certain building categories.



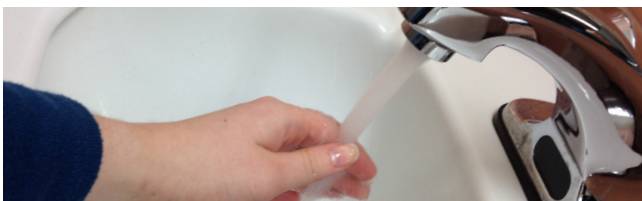
## **Capture Stormwater to Prevent Flooding**

Storms can cause localized flash flooding of buildings and streets. A city study will examine alternative sidewalk and roadway designs that improve stormwater control and management.



## **Keep Gas Stations Open During Blackouts**

During blackouts, many service stations are unable to sell motor fuel because their pumps rely on electricity. State law now requires generators to ensure uninterrupted operations.



## **Ensure Toilets & Sinks Work Without Power**

Some toilets and faucets need electricity to function and prevent unsanitary conditions during an extended power outage. New buildings are now required to have fixtures that can operate without grid power.

# MOVING FORWARD

Task Force Proposal                      Implementation                      City Council Primary Sponsor

**Enacted**

Ensure Toilets & Sinks Work Without Power	Local Law 79 of 2013	Lewis A. Fidler
Capture Stormwater to Prevent Flooding	Local Law 80 of 2013	James F. Gennaro
Analyze Wind Risks	Local Law 81 of 2013	Vincent Ignizio
Clarify Construction Requirements in Flood Zones	Local Law 82 of 2013	Michael C. Nelson
Prevent Sewage Backflow	Local Law 83 of 2013	Donovan Richards
Keep Gas Stations Open During Blackouts	NYS Article 16-192-h	Not Applicable

**Introduced at City Council**

Relocate & Protect Building Systems	Int. 1096-2013	James S. Oddo
Remove Barriers to Elevating Buildings & Building Systems	Int. 1089-2013	Sara M. Gonzalez
Remove Barriers to Sidewalk Flood Protection	Int. 1093-2013	Stephen Levin
Add Backup Fire Safety Communication	Int. 1097-2013	Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Safeguard Toxic Materials Stored in Flood Zones	Int. 1102-2013	Jimmy Van Bramer
Prevent Wind Damage to Existing Buildings	Int. 1099-2013	Donovan Richards
Use Cool Surfaces to Reduce Summer Heat	Int. 1087-2013	Daniel R. Garodnick
Remove Barriers to Backup & Natural Gas Generators	Int. 1101-2013	James Vacca
Add Hookups for Temporary Generators & Boilers	Int. 1092-2013	Jessica S. Lappin
Keep Residential Stairwells & Hallways Lit During Blackouts	Int. 1100-2013	Eric Ulrich
Supply Drinking Water Without Power	Int. 1094-2013	Rosie Mendez
Create Emergency Plans	Int. 1085-2013	Margaret Chin
Support Good Samaritan Legislation	Res. 1771-2013	James S. Oddo

# MOVING FORWARD

## Task Force Proposal

### Proposed

- Prevent Storm Damage to Homes
- Launch Design Competition for Raised Homes
- Plant Wind & Flood Resistant Trees
- Remove Barriers to Cogeneration
- Remove Barriers to Solar Energy
- Ensure Operable Windows in Residential Buildings
- Maintain Habitable Temperatures Without Power
- Adopt An Existing Building Code
- Don't Discourage Buildings from Operating During Emergencies
- Preapprove Emergency Inspectors

### Voluntary Practice

- Choose Reliable Backup Power & Prioritize Needs
- Use Cogeneration & Solar During Blackouts
- Enhance Building Water Reserves
- Prenegotiate Emergency Recovery Agreements

## Urban Green Council

Urban Green Council, the U.S. Green Building Council of New York, is a nonprofit dedicated to the advancement of sustainability in urban buildings through education, advocacy, and research.

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## Support

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