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New York City is Honored with Inaugural C40 and Siemens City Climate Leadership Award for Excellence in Urban Sustainability

New York City and nine other cities won the inaugural C40 and Siemens City Climate Leadership Awards for Excellence in Urban Sustainability in London on Wednesday, September 4.

An independent panel of judges selected New York City for its efforts in adaptation and resilience, citing the PlaNYC resiliency plan, "A Stronger, More Resilient New York." Announced in June 2013, the plan contains more than 250 actionable initiatives, including 59 that will be completed by the end of 2013.

"The C40 & Siemens City Climate Leadership Awards are dedicated to the idea that cities – by refusing to wait for action from national governments and international bodies – can lead the way in addressing the risks posed by climate change," said Mayor Bloomberg, the current chair of C40. "Using innovative local approaches, cities are having an impact on climate change globally. I congratulate the ten award recipients and look forward to seeing their projects progress and then spread across the C40 network and beyond."

New York City was also nominated for awards in two other categories: Energy Efficient Built Environment, and Carbon Mitigation and Planning. The nominations recognized New York City's strong progress in improving energy efficiency in large buildings with the Greener, Greater Buildings Plan, and extensive tracking of citywide and municipal emissions through New York City's annual Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

C40, a network of cities taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and Siemens formed a partnership in April 2013 to provide member cities with technical expertise to accelerate climate action efforts in cities, including data measurement through the C40 Measurement and Planning Initiative, and to recognize successful efforts with the City Climate Leadership Awards.

For the full story, click [here](#).
 To learn about C40, click [here](#).
 To read "A Stronger, More Resilient New York," click [here](#).

More Information:

Read the [2013 PlaNYC Progress Report](#)

Visit [GreenNYC's website](#) to learn how you can help shrink the citywide carbon footprint and improve environmental quality.

Check out [GrowNYC's website](#) to find a greenmarket near you that accepts EBT/food stamps, recycles rechargeable batteries and mobile phones, and accepts food scrap drop-offs for composting.

Visit [NYC Service's website](#) to find volunteer opportunities to make New York City greener and greater.

Upcoming Events:

OEM National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, a month-long campaign to promote emergency preparedness. Led by the NYC Citizen Corps Council, National Preparedness Month 2013 will encourage all New Yorkers to be ready for the unexpected through various promotions and activities.

Various dates and locations throughout New York City

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Climate Week NYC

Climate Week NYC, marking its 5th anniversary in 2013, is the global summit that has become a key event on the international climate change calendar; it is a meeting point for leading governments, investors, businesses, innovators and opinion formers. This year, Climate Week NYC will be a hub for over 50 high-profile meetings, events and activities organized in and around New York City by a diverse group of business, government, arts and civil society players.

Various dates and locations throughout New York City

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Maintain and Improve Randall's Island Wetlands

Join the Randall's Island Park Alliance Natural Areas Crew to improve and maintain the Randall's Island Park wetlands. There are two salt marshes and one fresh water marsh; they need plenty of TLC to thrive and continue to provide abundant and diverse natural habitats for local flora and fauna. Come learn wetlands ecology while contributing to the long term maintenance for these rich ecosystems.

Thursday, September 12: 9:00am—12:00pm
Thursday, September 19: 9:00am—12:00pm
 Randall's Island Park
 Manhattan

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Cleaning Westerleigh Park

Come out and lend the Friends of Westerleigh Park a hand to help rake, weed and do various gardening chores as well as coffee and doughnuts. Bring a rake or use one of ours and have some fun. To volunteer in Westerleigh Park call (718) 442-0336.

Saturday, September 14: 9:00am—12:00pm
Saturday, September 21: 9:00am—12:00pm
 Westerleigh Park
 Between Willard Ave, Main Ave, Neal Dow Ave, and Springfield Ave

Army Corps of Engineers Begins Beach Restoration and Awards Second Sand Pumping Contract for Rockaway Beach Restoration

On Thursday, August 15, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state and local officials, and community partners announced the beginning of sand pumping on Rockaway Beach and the award of an additional \$26.4 million contract to add more sand to aid post-Sandy restoration efforts.

Launching beach replenishment on Rockaway Peninsula is one of the 2013 milestones outlined in "A Stronger, More Resilient New York", which contains 250+ initiatives for making New York more resilient. Sand is one of the first lines of defense against severe coastal storm surges and the city's nourished beaches generally helped to mitigate Sandy's impact, especially when combined with other layers of protection. Much sand was lost in the process, however, including 1.5 million cubic yards on the Rockaway Peninsula alone. Restoring this sand is a key milestone in the defense against future storms.

The first project, which began earlier this summer with a contract for \$10 million, will place approximately 600,000 cubic yards of sand dredged from East Rockaway Inlet along Rockaway Beach from Beach 89th St. to Beach 149th St. The second project will cover additional land area, placing roughly three million cubic yards of sand from Beach 19th St. to Beach 149th St. Together, the two projects will restore the beach to the original design specifications the Army Corps developed in partnership with the City and New York State.

The coastal restoration work at Rockaway Beach is part of a larger Army Corps effort across the region to restore nearly 27 million cubic yards of sand in coastal storm risk reduction projects.

For the full story, click [here](#).
 To learn more about the Rockaway Beach Restoration, click [here](#).

Department of Buildings Releases New Guide for Severe Weather Preparation for Construction Sites



On Tuesday, August 27, Department of Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri released a guide to help contractors and construction managers safeguard construction sites in extreme weather. Examples of measures outlined in the new guide include steps to ensure the safety of pedestrians near construction sites and of properties adjoining construction sites. As a part of the weather guide, responsible contractors and construction site managers should develop an action plan that includes proper task-planning, pre-storm preparation, an emergency response team and post-storm inspection and repair procedures for their construction sites.

For the full story, click [here](#).
To read the extreme weather guide, click [here](#).

New York City Hurricane Sandy Debris Removal Task Force Receives Green Star Award

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Green Cross International (GCI), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced six Green Star Award winners, including the New York City Hurricane Sandy Debris Removal Task Force, in Geneva on Monday, September 2. The awards biennially recognize individuals and entities that have made remarkable efforts to prepare for, respond to, and work to prevent environmental emergencies. The Debris Removal Task Force received an award in the Response category for its outstanding response to Hurricane Sandy. Comprised of more than 25 City, State, and Federal agencies, the Task Force focused on reusing and recycling much of the two million cubic yards of debris Sandy generated.

The other winners were the Kenya Red Cross Society; Professor Nikola Nikolov of Macedonia, Sundar Prasad Sharma of Nepal, and Professor Sergiy Zibtsev of Ukraine (joint award); Mayor of Katsurao Village, Masahide Matsumoto of Japan; World Wildlife Fund and American Red Cross; and Sir David Attenborough of the United Kingdom.

For the full story, click [here](#).
To learn more about the Debris Removal Task Force, click [here](#).
To watch Mayor Bloomberg's acceptance video, click [here](#).

Mayor Bloomberg Opens Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park in Queens

Mayor Bloomberg opened a new 5.5-acre waterfront park and several new roadways at the site of the Hunter's Point South development in Long Island City, Queens on Wednesday, August 28. Designed as a neighborhood amenity and a destination for all New Yorkers in a previously industrial area, the park integrates new infrastructure, landscape, and architectural design into the creation of an open waterfront. The park includes a central green, a playground, a waterside promenade and additional recreation space, as well as a 13,000-square-foot pavilion that houses comfort stations, concessions, an elevated café plaza, and a maintenance facility for NYC Parks.

The park is part of Phase 1 of the Hunter's Point South project, which will create a 30-acre, new mixed-use waterfront neighborhood with affordable housing, retail, open space, and a new public school. With at least 60 percent of 5,000 new units of housing designated as affordable, Hunter's Point South will be the City's largest new affordable housing complex since the 1970s.

For the full story, click [here](#).
To learn more about the Hunter's Point South project, click [here](#).

Department of Environmental Protection Completes Distribution Facility for the Croton Water Filtration Plant

On Monday, August 26, New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Carter Strickland announced the completion of a \$50 million distribution facility for the Croton Water Filtration Plant in the Bronx. The underground facility receives filtered water from the Croton Filtration Plant through high and low pressure water tunnels and regulates it before it is released it into the local distribution network for consumption.

Construction of the facility began in 2009 and its completion will allow for the activation of the Croton Filtration Plant, the largest underground facility of its kind in the country. The Croton Filtration Plant is located under Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx and will provide up to 290 million gallons of water daily. The completion of the distribution facility, and the activation of the filtration plant later this year, will help ensure a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water for New York City for decades to come.

For the full story, click [here](#).
To learn more about the Croton Water Filtration Plant, click [here](#).

Mayor Bloomberg Welcomes Inaugural Graduate Class at NYU's Center for Urban Science & Progress

Staten Island

For more information, please visit [here](#).

28th Annual New York Coastal Cleanup – New York State Beach Cleanup

The American Littoral Society Northeast Chapter has coordinated the beach cleanup in New York State for the past 27 years. Last year, 5,645 volunteers cleaned and documented 62,633 pounds of debris along 244.13 miles of New York State's shoreline. To organize or find a cleanup in your area, contact Natalie Grant, the NY State Beach Cleanup Coordinator at: NYSBeachCleanup@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 21

All beaches of New York State, including Jamaica Bay, Long Island Sound, the Hudson River, Atlantic Ocean, and more
New York State

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Teach New Yorkers How to Ride for the First Time

Bike New York is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides FREE classes to New Yorkers in all five boroughs teaching them how to ride a bike for the first time. Classes are 2-3 hours and are taught all over the city, every weekend, from April to October. The only reason Bike New York can provide this service to thousands of new cyclists is because of volunteers like YOU!

Ongoing through October

475 Riverside Dr.
Manhattan

For more information, please visit [here](#).

About us:

The Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability (OLTPS) is responsible for developing, implementing, and tracking the progress of PlaNYC, the City's growth and sustainability agenda. OLTPS also oversees energy supply and regulatory policy, as well as other issues affecting infrastructure and the environment that cut across multiple City agencies.

Find out more and get involved:

Visit us [PlanNYC](#) / [OLTPS](#)

Help us [GreeNYC](#)

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Follow us on [Twitter](#)



Mayor Bloomberg welcomed the first class of students at the New York University (NYU) Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) on Monday, August 26. As part of Applied Sciences NYC, a multi-university partnership with the City to expand world-class applied science and engineering campuses in New York City, CUSP is an applied science research institute created by NYU and NYU-Poly that specializes in urban informatics, or the use of data analytics to address urban problems.

The first class includes 25 students from 24 universities around the world and more than 20 different academic disciplines. Graduates will receive a Master of Science in Applied Urban Science and Informatics, with specializations in transportation and mobility, buildings and the built environment, public health, security and emergency response, or environmental sustainability.

For the full story, click [here](#).

To watch the video, click [here](#).

To learn more about CUSP, click [here](#).

To learn more about Applied Sciences NYC, click [here](#).

Visit us at <http://nyc.gov/planyc> or get connected on Twitter [@PlaNYC](#)