



Strategy Map: Climate Health

This strategy map outlines the **priority strategies** the City and its partners will focus on to address HealthyNYC's loss in life expectancy related to climate change's impact on health. This map is not inclusive of all possible strategies; it is a living document and will be updated as new research, initiatives, and interventions are identified.

Content experts have identified the top three to five modifiable contributing factors of high mortality rates for each HealthyNYC driver and the key strategies to address these factors. This strategy map will be used to track metrics over time within the NYC Health Department, across city agencies, and across sectors and to inform the priorities of the HealthyNYC campaign. It will also be used as an accountability tool to ensure the City is staying on track.

HealthyNYC Goal for Climate Health

Reduce deaths related to heat, storms and flooding, and impaired air quality.

Contributing Factors and Priority Strategies

The five contributing factors, which unfairly burden some groups more than others, for deaths related to climate change impacts, as well as our strategic interventions for each, are:

1. Contributing factor: Housing quality.
 - Priority strategy: Improve housing conditions to protect residents' health from climate impacts.
2. Contributing factor: Climate hazards in the workplace.
 - Priority strategy: Mitigate exposure to climate hazards in the workplace to protect health and safety.

3. Contributing factor: Neighborhood conditions.
 - Priority strategy: Improve neighborhood conditions to protect residents' health from climate impacts.
4. Contributing factor: Social drivers of health and preexisting conditions.
 - Priority strategy: Improve health and individuals' conditions.
5. Contributing factor: Emergency management infrastructure.
 - Priority strategy: Strengthen emergency preparedness, response, and recovery to extreme events.

Sources Informing Our Priority Strategies

Sources that inform the City's strategies surrounding loss in life expectancy due to the health impacts of climate change include:

- NYC Health Department's [Climate Health Strategy](#)
- NYC Health Department Environment and Health Data Portal's [2026 NYC Heat-Related Mortality Report](#)
- NYC Health Department's [NYC Community Air Survey \(NYCCAS\) Report, 2008-2024](#)
- [NYC Panel on Climate Change 4th Assessment \(NPCC4\)](#)
- Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice:
 - [PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done](#)
 - [EJNYC: A Study of Environmental Justice Issues in New York City](#)
- [Powering Up for Health: Policy Solutions for Energy Insecurity in New York City](#)

Strategy Map for Climate Health, Including Actor and Activity

Priority Strategy	Sub-strategy	Actor	Activity
1. Improve housing conditions to protect residents' health from climate impacts.	1.1 — Achieve universal access to affordable residential cooling.	Policymakers and government agencies	• Increase NYC Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) overall funding levels and expand the program to cover AC equipment and energy costs for cooling. • Implement maximum indoor temperature regulations in hot weather for rental housing (Local Law 23 of 2026); conduct outreach to renters about their housing right to cooling.
		Community supports	• Provide outreach and support to employees and clients to enroll in the New York HEAP Cooling Assistance Benefit.
		Health systems and clinical providers	• Provide outreach and support to employees and clients to enroll in the New York HEAP Cooling Assistance Benefit.
		Private sector	• Reduce over-cooling of commercial and office spaces to decrease wasteful energy use and ease pressure on the electrical grid during high-heat peaks.
	1.2 — Reduce household energy cost burden to under 6% for all New Yorkers.	Policymakers and government agencies	• Redesign utility rates to make energy more affordable for low- and moderate-income customers and provide avenues for utility debt prevention and arrearage management. • Expand eligibility and reduce barriers to enroll in energy assistance programs, including the New York HEAP and Energy Affordability Program (EAP). • Designate funds to ameliorate the health and safety barriers to weatherization and to make homes electrification-ready.
		Community supports; health systems and clinical providers	• Invest in weatherization, energy-efficient housing improvements, and beneficial electrification to improve housing quality. • Provide outreach and support to employees and clients to enroll in utility EAPs and to register electric life-support and medical equipment with utilities.

			Educate and support residents to subscribe to community solar for reduced electricity bills. For building owners, increase community solar capacity by installing a community solar project serving low- and middle-income residents.
	1.3 — Improve living conditions that put New Yorkers at risk from flooding and its health consequences.	Policymakers and government agencies	- Adopt a comprehensive flood-resilient land-use framework to increase healthy, safer, and affordable housing development and to protect and expand affordable housing in areas of lower flood risk. - Provide preparedness and recovery resources to property owners, managers, and renters in the most-vulnerable communities during and after flooding. - Make the aging and existing housing stock safe and resilient from climate impacts through a one-stop shop for comprehensive retrofit assistance.
		Private sector	- For property owners, use the Enterprise Green Communities criteria (including NYC Overlay) to inform new construction and building rehabs so they are resilient to flood events. - Install blue and green infrastructure, such as bioswales. Bring eligible basement apartments up to code to protect residents from flood-safety risks.
	1.4 — Eliminate inequitable air pollution-attributable health burden caused by the building sector.	Policymakers and government agencies	- Expand access to support for building owners in low- and moderate- income communities to comply with Local Law 97 of 2019 for greenhouse gas-emissions reductions. - Ensure that Local Law 97 compliance includes improvements to housing quality (cooling, weatherization, ventilation). - Expand access to integrated pest management programs to address indoor air-quality triggers worsened by air pollution.
		Community supports	Host DIY air cleaner workshops and provide information to clients about how to reduce indoor air-quality triggers.
		Health systems and clinical providers	Advance health care sustainability and improve local air quality by shifting to clean energy sources for campus operations, including on-site solar.

2. Mitigate exposure to climate hazards in the workplace to protect health and safety.	2.1 — Protect workers from exposure to occupational heat and poor air quality (such as wildfire smoke and ozone).	Policyholders and government agencies	• Implement local and state occupational heat safety policies. • Provide public access to shade, cooling, drinking water, and bathrooms.
		Community supports	• Advocate for local and state occupational heat safety policies. • Become a registered “cool option” location, open to New Yorkers during hot weather: finder.nyc.gov/coolingcenters.
		Private sector	• For employers with indoor or outdoor workers exposed to high-heat and air-quality hazards (wildfire smoke and ozone), create and adhere to a written plan to prevent occupational heat- and air-quality-related illness.
3. Improve neighborhood conditions to protect residents’ health from climate impacts.	3.1 — Mitigate outdoor heat by reducing heat sources and equitably expanding and maintaining green space and shade across NYC neighborhoods.	Policyholders and government agencies	• Create new “open streets” and car-free zones to reduce localized waste heat from vehicles.
		Private sector	• Commit to tree planting and maintenance on organizations’ properties, in support of the NYC Urban Forest Plan 2026. • Install a cool roof; installation is free for some institutions through NYC CoolRoofs. • Install a green roof; property owners can receive a one-time property tax abatement.
	3.2 — Improve resilience to rainfall and coastal flooding through infrastructure upgrades.	Policyholders and government agencies	• Establish a resilience fund to support the construction and management of flood adaptation infrastructure. • Incorporate anti-displacement provisions into flood resilience policies.
		Community supports	• Build community wealth and well-being in neighborhoods with low flood risk, where increased populations might put residents at risk of affordability displacement. • Participate in NYC Planning neighborhood planning processes to support climate resilience investments and protections against displacement.

	3.3 — Reduce ozone-producing air pollution from the transportation sector.	Policymakers and government agencies • Counter federal rollbacks of clean air regulations and set local and state air-quality policies that protect health. • Accelerate the construction of electric vehicle charging and the electrical infrastructure required. • Restructure rates to encourage electrification while protecting residents from higher home-energy costs. • Reduce reliance on home delivery of online purchases by improving walkability and access to brick-and-mortar shopping opportunities in neighborhoods.
		Private sector; health systems and clinical providers • Develop and implement a plan to transition the light-duty fleet to 100% zero-emission vehicles. • Integrate sustainability criteria into supplier selection, evaluating suppliers based on their transportation's clean energy and emissions-reduction strategies.
		Community supports • Support congestion pricing and other revenue-generating policies as a mechanism to invest in NYC's public transit system and expand electric vehicle infrastructure.
4. Improve health and individuals' conditions.	4.1 — Improve awareness about individual vulnerability and protective measures.	Health systems and clinical providers • Broaden clinical screening and benefit referrals to address climate health risks, including heat, energy insecurity, flooding, and air quality. • Add climate health to education and training for clinicians and community health workers.
		Community supports • Incorporate climate health into community outreach through trusted partners to reach populations vulnerable to climate impacts. • Institute and support existing mutual aid and “Be a Buddy” programs for volunteers to check on vulnerable community members or employees during climate events.

	4.2 — Address social drivers of health that compound an individual’s climate vulnerability.	Policymakers and government agencies	• Partner with organizations to increase access to healthcare services and insurance, employment opportunities, affordable housing, physical activity, healthy foods, education on legal rights (including on immigration and housing), and other essential services in marginalized communities. • Support poverty-reduction activities and policies that address individual and family needs, such as child tax credits, tax reform, a living wage, and efforts to end the racial wealth gap.
		Community supports	• Advocate and institute measures to make health insurance accessible and affordable to all New Yorkers. • Support and implement trauma-informed, evidence-based mental health interventions and policies.
		Health systems and clinical providers	• Incorporate climate resilience into community health needs assessments.
5. Strengthen emergency preparedness, response, and recovery to extreme events.	5.1 — Reach people who are most at risk with timely warnings about extreme weather events.	Policymakers and government agencies	• Establish a clear Citywide flooding communications strategy, with particular emphasis on basement residents, and engage community-based organizations as trusted messengers.
		Community supports	• Encourage residents to sign up for Notify NYC to receive emergency messages. • Amplify NYC’s extreme weather emergency messages to communities. • Join NYCEM’s Partners in Preparedness, which supports organizations in preparing their employees, services, and facilities for emergencies.
		Health systems and clinical providers	• Use information from NYCEM and the NYC Health Department to develop protocols to alert staff, clients, patients, and community members about extreme weather advisories and to provide guidance to protect health.

	5.2 — Build climate resilience in the health system.	Health systems and clinical providers	• Develop and maintain a health system climate resilience plan that includes operations, infrastructure, and community health. • Build and retrofit healthcare buildings and infrastructure to be resilient to climate impacts (storms, flooding, extreme heat, air-quality events).
	5.3 — Plan for and reduce the risk of power outages that affect health.	Policymakers and government agencies	• Incentivize energy conservation and energy storage measures that protect health, including demand-response programs to reduce peak load. • Provide back-up batteries to electric life-support and medical equipment users so they can shelter in place safely during power outages. • Evaluate emergency response protocol for electric life-support and medical equipment users during a power outage and make updates to improve effectiveness.
		Community supports	• Establish resilience hubs with back-up power to serve communities during power outages. • Advocate for clean energy sources at the state and federal level to meet growing electricity demand.