New York City Housing Authority Recovery and Resilience Department

SUPERSTORM SANDY
TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Dear New Yorkers,

Superstorm Sandy devasted New York City in October 2012. Despite living in a city with 520 miles of coastline, residents had never grappled with storm surge at this scale. Salt water and debris covered huge swaths of the five boroughs, including many NYCHA campuses. Unlike prior major storms, the impacts didn’t dissipate when the weather improved. Salt water corroded critical infrastructure that was stored below grade. The homes of tens of thousands of public housing residents—most of whom couldn’t evacuate before the storm—were without water, power, heat, hot water, or elevator service for weeks. NYCHA’s operational staff worked day and night to restore service by clearing debris, replacing system components, and installing mobile boilers, but many developments required major capital investments to recover.

Other cities tore down public housing after storm damage like this. NYCHA chose to preserve its public housing, creating the Recovery and Resilience Department to address critical repairs at the 35 most severely impacted developments and to protect NYCHA residents from similar impacts in the future. To fulfill this mission, the Department has awarded over $3 billion in contracts and spent over $2.6 billion to implement storm surge protection for 50, 60, and 70-year old buildings, install boilers and generators on rooftops, and add architecturally significant annexes. This took a special kind of entrepreneurial approach to secure funding, engage residents, manage massive projects, and operationalize equipment. The work isn’t over yet, but we are closer than ever before to realizing a more resilient NYCHA.

In partnership,

Joy Sinderbrand
Senior Vice President
for Capital Programs
In October 2012, Superstorm Sandy caused the most costly and destructive disaster to impact New York City public housing in its history. Thirty-five New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) sites, home to over 60,000 New Yorkers, suffered major storm-related damage, including disabled electrical and mechanical equipment, compromised building structures, and deteriorated landscapes. In total, Superstorm Sandy caused billions of dollars in damages to NYCHA properties.

Ten years later, NYCHA has invested over $2.6 billion in disaster recovery funding and nearly completed its efforts to build back safer, stronger, and smarter. By pushing design boundaries in building reinforcements, storm surge protection, and infrastructure upgrades, NYCHA has leveraged every dollar to make these coastal developments a national model and a safer home for residents for generations to come.
DEVELOPMENTS DAMAGED BY SUPERSTORM SANDY

01 Northern Manhattan
- East River
- Isaacs
- Lincoln
- Metro North Plaza
- Rangel

02 Queens
- Astoria

03 Downtown Manhattan
- Baruch
- Campos Plaza II
- La Guardia
- Lavanburg
- LES Rehab V
- Riis I
- Riis II
- Smith
- Two Bridges
- Wald

04 Red Hook
- Gowanus
- Red Hook East and West

05 Staten Island
- New Lane Area

06 Coney Island
- Carey Gardens
- Coney Island 1B (Unity Towers)
- Coney Island 4&5
- Coney Island Houses
- Coney Island Sites (Surfside Gardens, O’Dwyer Gardens, Site 8)
- Gravesend
- Haber

07 Far Rockaway
- Beach 41st
- Carleton Manor
- Hammel
- Ocean Bay (Bayside)
- Ocean Bay (Oceanside)
- Redfern
Program Milestones

$3.26 billion
Total Disaster Recovery Funding

$3.19 billion
in contracts awarded

$2.64 billion
in work completed

Funds

Construction

35
damaged developments have had major construction awarded covering 246 buildings.

18
developments have completed storm surge protection installation for 107 buildings with over 8,000 deployable components

185
roofs completed

1,189
CCTV cameras installed

100
entrance doors with new security systems

120
new MEP annex buildings completed (buildings to elevate new equipment above future flood water)

22
new MEP annex buildings in progress

1,189
new boilers set in place

8
new boilers systems operational (serving over 3,483 apartments in 43 buildings)

181
hot water heaters installed

2,077
exterior lights installed

189
full power emergency generators installed

96
backup generators operational (serving over 9,846 apartments in 104 buildings)

as of Q3 2022
RECOVERY & RESILIENCE PROGRESS
Approximately 3,500 apartments have new, flood-protected boilers. Altogether, there will be 72 new boilers at 20 sites serving 156 buildings.
NYCHA has installed 120 of the 143 new structures housing new mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment above the flood level.
189 natural gas-powered generators are installed; approximately 10,000 apartments have back up power.
Altogether, over 13,000 floodproofing components will benefit 194 buildings across 33 sites.
Over **2,000** new, energy-efficient site lights are installed across **33 sites**.
CONEY ISLAND 1B (UNITY TOWERS)

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Restoration of Sandy-damaged public spaces across all 35 sites
CONCLUSION
CONCLUSION

Public housing is one of New York City’s most critical of infrastructure systems, so preserving this affordable housing stock for future generations of New Yorkers is a top priority. NYCHA’s work serves as a shining example of how a housing authority can rebuild and reinvest after a disaster. The progress made since 2012 is only the beginning as NYCHA advances the goals of its Climate Adaptation Plan and Sustainability Agenda. NYCHA is pursuing a major FEMA grant for the repair and mitigation of 12 developments most severely impacted by Hurricane Ida, installing green infrastructure at three dozen campuses in collaboration with DEP, designing and installing cloudburst infrastructure at seven developments, and pursuing partnerships and funding for much more.
NYCHA’s Recovery & Resilience Department

Questions/Problems, 疑问/家里的问题, Вопросы / Проблемы, Preguntas/Problemas
(212) 306-8532 — disaster.recovery@nycha.nyc.gov
Website: tinyurl.com/SANDYRECOVERY