



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

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Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of Solar and Storage Project in Coney Island

Part of Renewable Energy Project Initiative at Brooklyn, Bronx Community Facilities

Coney Island, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), today announced completion of a new resilient power hub with solar panels and battery backup systems at the Brooklyn Public Library, Coney Island branch. The project is part of a \$4 million initiative to install renewable energy systems at four of the library's branches and seven other community facilities across Brooklyn and the Bronx. The initiative will bring the state closer to the goal of reducing carbon emissions 85 percent by 2050, as outlined in the [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#), while also improving neighborhood facilities that experienced power outages during Superstorm Sandy.

In addition to the Coney Island branch, the solar power and storage upgrades will take place at the Gerritsen Beach, Kings Highway, and Mill Basin branches of the Brooklyn Public Library as well as seven community facilities:

- The Block Institute in Gravesend/Bensonhurst,
- Kings Bay Youth Organization in Sheepshead Bay,
- Birch Family Services in Canarsie,
- Flatlands Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
- Throggs Neck Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
- Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Fire Department, and
- Villa Maria Academy in the East Bronx.

The upgrades at these other sites are expected be completed by February 2022.

These vital facilities, which serve as community hubs and assist with response and recovery operations during emergencies, experienced power outages as well as flooding damage during Superstorm Sandy. The solar panels and battery backup systems will ensure a continued power supply and make these facilities more resilient to future storms, while the surrounding utility grid will benefit from the additional energy generated.

Collectively across all project sites, the solar panels will generate 345kW of power, equivalent to removing 11 tons of carbon emissions from the atmosphere annually. The battery storage units will hold 583kWh of power, equivalent to supplying power for hundreds of households.

“This initiative illustrates that taking action to meet the State’s goals to combat climate change also help meet the community’s vital infrastructure needs. These facilities, which are much-needed assets during natural disasters and power outages, will be more resilient and help reduce emissions by producing renewable energy,” said New York State Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas.

"These projects achieve two important goals: they will make our city greener and more resilient in the face of extreme weather events," said Dawn M. Pinnock, Acting Commissioner for the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). "Thanks to this work, we will not only generate solar power that reduces our dependence on fossil fuels, but these facilities will also have an energy supply available if there is a disruption to the city’s power grid. I want to thank the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery and all of our partners for their leadership and support."

Assemblymember Mathylde Frontus said, "We learned during Superstorm Sandy just how vulnerable Southern Brooklyn and vital community resources like the Coney Island Library are to the devastating impacts of climate change. This investment by the State will help ensure that our libraries and other neighborhood hubs can remain open and to help residents access assistance during emergencies and following significant storms. This step is yet another positive one towards the State's goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. It will also strengthen our neighborhood, so I thank Governor Hochul and her administration for their dedication to helping Brooklyn rebuild and become more sustainable than ever."

Angelica Ramdhari, Director of Resilient Solar at Solar One, said “Today, we celebrate two things—the launch of resilience hubs, where renewable energy at neighborhood institutions will give communities the power they need to recover from blackouts, and a new generation of lithium-ion energy storage systems in New York City, a critical piece of distributed energy infrastructure that has been missing from our grid. These projects could not have been achieved without collaboration from a wide range of stakeholders, including the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Brooklyn Public Library, FDNY Tech Management, and DOB OTCR.”

"Coney Island Library will serve as a refuge for the community in superstorms to come, and as a reminder we dare not accept such storms as inevitable," said Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library. "We are grateful to Solar One, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services for reducing our carbon emissions and building a more sustainable city."

"Waterfront Alliance commends the State, City and local community efforts, as well as Solar One, in launching resilient and renewable energy infrastructure at waterfront facilities like the Brooklyn Public Library. Risks of coastal storms, heavy precipitation and sea level rise are acutely felt across South Brooklyn communities and as climate hazards increase, critical community facilities run the risk of becoming inoperable. We will need more innovative public and private efforts like the resilient power hubs in order to create climate and social resilience across neighborhoods," said Karen Imas, Vice President of Programs at Waterfront Alliance.

About GOSR

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, Infrastructure, and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

Through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) and Infrastructure Programs, the State takes on a variety of initiatives developed during its bottom-up community planning process to improve resiliency, protect critical infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and reduce hardship.

Now in the implementation stage, GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county, and non-profit partners to bring hundreds of locally devised proposals to fruition.

Solar One is GOSR's non-profit partner implementing these resilient power hubs. Solar One's mission is to design and deliver innovative education, training, and technical assistance that fosters sustainability and resiliency in diverse urban environments. Through innovative programs, Solar One helps individuals and communities explore new ways of living and working that are more adaptive to a changing world and empower learning that changes the way people think about energy, sustainability, and resilience by engaging and educating a diverse set of stakeholders and beneficiaries.

About HCR

New York State Homes and Community Renewal develops, preserves, and protects affordable housing and invests in economically vibrant communities. HCR works with private, public, and nonprofit partners to help New Yorkers realize the dream of living in a safe, sustainable home they can afford in the community they choose. HCR finances multifamily rental apartments; provides down payment assistance and low-cost mortgages for first-time homebuyers; revitalizes downtowns; protects the rights of rent regulated tenants, and fights for fair housing for all New Yorkers. HCR is in the final year of the state's unprecedented \$20 billion, five-year Housing Plan, which is on track to build and preserve more than 100,000 units of affordable housing and 6,000 units of supportive housing. To learn more, visit hcr.ny.gov.

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