



Red Hook: Strategies, Projects, and Recommendations

November 29, 2013

This document summarizes input from Planning Committees and the public in **Red Hook**. It includes key strategies identified as critical to the rebuilding and future resiliency of the community.

The projects and recommendations included here are illustrative examples of what has been considered; further deliberation by the Planning Committees will produce a more refined list by the end of December 2013.

Strategies	Recovery Function	Illustrative Short-Term Projects	Illustrative Long-Term Projects/ Policy Recommendations
<p>Increase physical resiliency and affordability of housing</p>	<p>Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create or expand program to help homeowners assess technical housing needs, provide counseling on insurance issues, rebuilding, etc. • Provide financial tools to building owners to offset retrofit & increased insurance costs • Fund a CBO to serve as a one stop shop for all resiliency information • Create resiliency design guidelines for urban communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address NYCHA energy issues / elevate mechanicals, and facilitate Red Hook Houses improvements • Incentivize construction of new, resilient affordable housing, on vacant residential lots or rezoned sites • Work with local government officials to keep insurance requirements affordable
<p>Increase the resiliency of existing businesses and promote opportunities for economic development</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund economic development and resiliency for retail corridors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support grant programs for small business preparedness, resiliency and response ○ Pilot technical assistance and auditing program for resiliency measures ○ Provide grants to existing or new merchant entities for district/corridor resiliency improvements and shared capital ○ Explore funds to offset insurance costs and/or fill gaps due to lack of insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote floodable ground-floor commercial structures • Explore mixed-use zoning to incentivize hardening for industrial uses, and increase retail demand • Incentivize use of vacant land and underutilized space (e.g. Atlantic Basin) • Leverage State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) grant to restore historic commercial buildings damaged by Sandy • Expedite regulatory review for pier repairs • Establish policies to protect against hazardous materials spills

<p>Strengthen individual economic resiliency and financial stability</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish youth emergency training program that also serves as job training • Provide grant or other financial tool to support micro-businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and fill gaps in job training and education resources • Explore market opportunity for marina, multipurpose marine facilities, and/or produce market • Explore potential for incubators for maritime industry & education
<p>Increase social resiliency by strengthening community capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies</p>	<p>Community Planning and Capacity Building Health and Social Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolster key locations to create flood-proof relief centers that serve as a cultural/community center year-round • Provide grant for development of local disaster preparedness plan by a coalition of CBOs • Fund communication tools (e.g independent Wi-Fi network, volunteer coordination, local 311) for CBO coordination during emergency (e.g. hotline to coordinate volunteers, local 311, coordinate with city/state, etc.) • Create resilient or mobile location for healthcare services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase amount and speed with which emergency response resources are dispensed to Red Hook • Create NYCHA resiliency coordinator to support recovery needs
<p>Improve drainage and reduce flooding from sewer back-up</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot stormwater detention or retention projects to reduce runoff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve maintenance of existing system • Make targeted repairs to the existing system • Expand eligibility for DEP grant/incentive programs to encourage installation of green infrastructure projects in Red Hook • Create program to incentivize storm water retention through cisterns, rain barrels, blue roofs, green roofs, etc. • Resolve sewer pumping station issues that may cause some backup issues in Red Hook • Repair / increase capacity of existing sewer lines • Explore alternative methods for sewage waste re-use or conversion to energy

<p>Provide coastal flood protection</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute funding for the design of integrated flood protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop community design guidelines / recommendations for coastal protection measures • Undertake pilot project to advance integrated flood protection through a multilayered approach (potentially including a combination of seawall; levees/berms, elevated perimeter streets, increased natural edges/marshland, flood barrier/surge protection at the Gowanus Canal) • Provide coastal flood protection for Red Hook to minimize flooding and potential damage from future storm events
<p>Create opportunities for alternative power generation and distribution</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot alternative energy generation project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an emergency local power generation system, potentially including redundant alternative energy sources, generators or distributed power that can be used when the larger power grid is not functioning • Improve distribution strategies via micro-grids and alternative energy sources • Improve existing electrical grid and grid components to withstand storm conditions
<p>Increase transit connectivity and redundancy to facilitate evacuation and rebuilding</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Citibike connections or a free/low cost neighborhood-based bike share program • Enhance ferry access • Develop direct bus access to Downtown Brooklyn and/or through Battery Tunnel to Lower Manhattan • Explore options for providing streetcar access • Improve pedestrian & bike connections under BQE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hamilton Ave footbridge ○ Crossing at Clinton / West 9th • Construct ped improvements on Beard St • Extend greenway along Commercial Wharf