

were once highly insulated and demands and to scrutinize what space for citizens to voice their municipal governance, create a the flow of information about budgeting "was to increase that the effect of participatory bruot ti tuodtiw evit ot 89 dtiw tive Brazilian municipalities 2011 study of PB that compared to bolster civic participation. A legislation, have been proven and, in the future, participatory Participatory budgeting (PB),

people to NYC's economic and environmental policy outcomes.

electoral process. philding participation in the participatory budgeting, and οιθαυιχιυθ ιυλογλεωευς ιυ writing educational curricula, and non-governmental allies, partnerships with governmental and direct actions, developing mobilization through protests

political education and

in existing systems of

more responsive to local needs. development, and more, that is and planning, investment, economic and social outcomes, This leads to more equitable рале в логсе по дестатои-такид. following activities: increasing opportunities for all people to include, but not be limited to, the worker cooperative, provide underclass. This initiative should the balance of power towards the Community Land Trust or land, such as through a when necessary can help shift Cooperative ownership of new, more responsive systems of resource management. dovernance and also creating creating cooperative structures opportunities for participation by Organizing deeper participation

underlying problem of poverty. at the governmental level, done to change the fundamental, In addition to participation from climate change; little will be that does not currently offer PB. to protect low-income groups district in Northern Manhattan cosmetic gestures will be made political power, only limited, in the current distribution of

PB should be expanded to the authorities" in general. In NYC, of this plan. Without a change to the effective implementation greater strength with municipal to "bargain from a position of trom policy-making is crucial only to allocate monies, but also residents are not excluded processes," allowing citizens not emooni-wol that low-income Changing the political dynamics discretionary decisionmaking

CONCEPT #4 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



concepts within the NMCA foster

9th City Council district - the only

August 2015 www.weact.org/climate

WE ACT for Environmental Justice s a Northern Manhattan communitybased organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low income participate meaningfully in the creation of environmental policies and practices.

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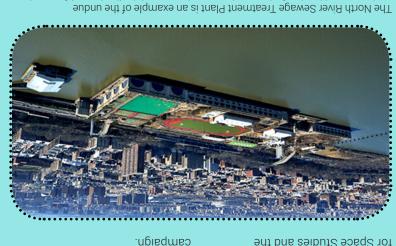
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The Black, Latino, and Asian

for climate justice and will be

be called upon to take action

These committee chairs will

Committees, among others.

and Economic Development

Parks and Recreation, Sanitation

Use, Transportation, Waterfronts,

Environmental Protection, Land

NMCA targets the chairs of the

In terms of the City Council, the

to benefit those most in need of

green Jobs and local hiring plans

education projects, and create

as well as community-centered

assets for emergency response"

leoizynd" bnut ", zeitilidezib

120,000 New Yorkers with

are to "invest in emergency

chief policy framework on

influence are listed below:

Some of the New York City

as the Urban Climate Change

College students and faculty,

a'ytiO ett, the City's

shelter sites to accommodate

OY the objectives listed in OneNYC

w91 A .0102 ni b92iv91 9d 01 9ub

environmental issues, which is

The primary policy target of the

policies that the NMCA seeks to

Research Network, among others.

and and auxiliary programs such

economic opportunities.

pressured by constituent actions.

Street, it was instead moved by Robert Moses to 135th Street to allow room for

environmental burden facing Northern Manhattan. Originally planned for 72nd

for Space Studies and the with the NASA Goddard Institute caucus are natural allies in this including that done in partnership caucus and the Progressive ongoing academic research, NMCA planning process is our Another key component of the

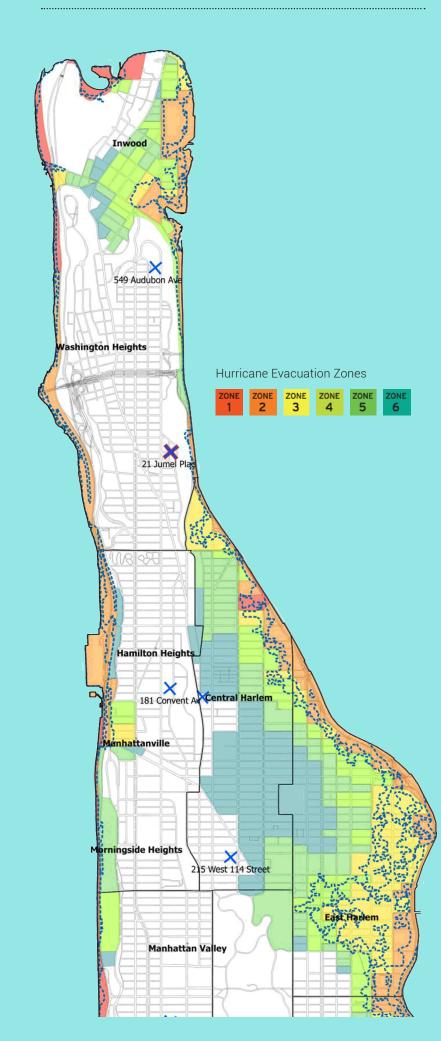
Riverside Park on the Upper West Side.

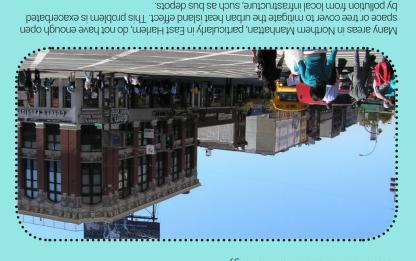
and mutual aid at the local level. build systems of participation that will change City policy and are to carry out wide-scale action and Solid Waste Management, relationships is imperative if we Yorkers. Strengthening these our responsibilities are as New us to better understand what community members that help facilitated relationships among created this plan, but have also into this project have not only and correspondences that went presentations, conversations, the back page. The countless in the attached diagrams on many of which are represented justice has been established, other supporting environmental agencies, organizations and strong foundation of activists, systemic change. Thus far, a mass necessary for profound, New Yorkers to build the critical work with a wide network of of sunitroo teum nettering stakeholders in Northern In order to achieve these goals,

change. their own responses to climate allows communities to control grassroots infrastructure that of City policy, and (2) build participation in the development we must (1) increase democratic at C partnerships with City In order to implement the NMCA, Mailman School of Public Health

NEXT STEPS

Figure 1 - Northern Manhattan





further construction and energy Accelerator Program could spur green jobs. The plan's Retrofit community members for new projects and to train and hire support community-shared solar the plan, the City also pledges to annually from now to 2050. In could create 82,000 new jobs in investments every year and Last may require over \$5 billion associated with One City, Built to York (ALIGN), stated that efforts by the Alliance for a Greater New building stock. A recent report the energy efficiency of NYC's 2050 and centers on improving carbon emissions by 80% by the City's plan to reduce its great importance. It lays out City, Built to Last plan is of

In addition to OneNYC, the One

proposals of the NMCA.

partnerships around the

will continue to build these

based urban planning. We

which supports community-

with Community Board 9 to

the electoral process.

City Planning's 197-a program,

participate in the Department of

the past, WE ACT has partnered

our policy recommendations. In

Community Boards 9, 10, 11, and

increases public participation in

from candidates, and generally

commitments on climate justice

To 2017 The seveloped for the 2017

races, registers voters, seeks

elections that identifies key

a voter engagement strategy

In terms of electoral politics,

flood protection measures. engaging East Harlem in planning Neighborhoods study that is is already conducting a Resilient The Department of City Planning floodplain, such as East Harlem. green space and that are in a that currently have a dearth of

By further pursuing these

discrimination.

the scourges of poverty and

while, in a parallel process,

building local capacity to end

can leverage public investments

partnerships and policy goals, we

in areas of Northern Manhattan infrastructure is badly needed already being observed. Such and rising temperatures in mitigating increased floods Program that invests millions leads a Green Infrastructure of Environmental Protection other things. The Department our coastal areas, among transit systems, and protect of our streets and mass 12 will prove critical in advancing infrastructure, alter the design stormwater management

large investments to improve bəən əw , spniblind ni stnəmtsəvni Besides energy efficiency

implementing.

ni bəvlovni nəəd zah TOA 3W DEP's Clean Heat program, which Manhattan, and is connected to improvements in Northern

NEXT STEPS CONT'D

NOTES

especially when subway service is suspended, but result in pollution and respiratory certified bus depot. Bus depots in Harlem house the buses many NYers use, The Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot, complete after 10 years, is NY's first LED



on the other." suvironmentally sustainable society of people for a truly socially and hand, and the needs of the masses political elites and corporations on one 'clash between the priorities of letnemebnut e se besingooer need transition, we must confront what has euergy policy. In making such a residents in making decisions about about by greater participation from the public", which can only be brought towards workers, communities and occur if there is decisive shift in power sustainable energy system can only "the transition to an equitable, Energy Democracy recently stated, But ultimately, as Trade Unions for

microgrids. tenant associations in order to build robust and democratic system of expressed the need for a more our NMCA workshops, participants solar" that much more attractive. In akes the prospect of "shared already share a roof over their heads nembers of tenant associations owned microgrids. The fact that management, such as cooperativelyproperty/resource ownership and in the creation of common are also essential stakeholders In New York, tenant associations intrastructure in the near future. large-scale investments in energy could see microgrid pilot projects and

of New York, Northern Manhattan as Solar One and the City University the support of other partners such Energy Vision (NEV) process. With ervice Commission's Reforming the under the New York State Public to explore options for microgrids and efficiency improvements and with renewable energy sources to connect community members for All Coalition, WE ACT works As a member of the Energy Efficiency while also providing savings.

construction, and maintenance jobs, residents by creating manufacturing, economic benefits for low-income such systems can also provide direct by property owners or middlemen.

CLIMATE CHANGE & SOCIAL EQUALITY

The NMCA uses the frameworks capitalist system." regardless of of environmental justice. its impact on our social fabric resilience, and social cohesion to guide its recommendations. Resilience, as defined by the New York City Panel on Climate Change, is "the ability of a system Gentrification and the Paradoxical and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, our over-dependence on systems or recover from the effects of a potentially hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures."

However, environmental justice advocates strive to improve upon existing socio-economic conditions, not simply restore and maintain them. Therefore, the very government definition of resilience is shortsighted, and must be expanded to include reshaping political power and erasing economic inequality. as is argued in "From Resilience to Resourcefulness: A Critique of Resilience Policy and Activism," definitions of resilience must be expanded to avoid "[privileging] established social structures, which are often shaped by unequal power relations and

injustice" and "[closing] off wider questions of progressive social change which require transformation of established systems." In other words, we must ask if the economy should "conform to meet the needs, values, and vision of a democratic society, or evolve to advance the



Discussion at an April 4, 2015 climate change workshop organized by WE ACT. The workshops was one of seven that used "serious games" to plan climate actions.



areas are still recovreing, while other areas have yet to be prepared.

digital tormats, and could effectively

system that operates in analog and

a locally-managed communication

Included here focuses on creating

institutions) are appropriated for the

created to ensure that resources (and

input in resource distribution must be

opportunities for more community

from a lack of public/private capacity.

out. In addition, much of the suffering

infrastructures and space for storage

resources, such as flood protection

developed, and necessary physical

communication systems must be

plans must be devised, climate-proot

neighborhood-specific preparedness

the next extreme storm or heatwave,

unds like churches...and schools" to

Residents had to resort to bullhorns

"no communications to speak of."

experienced "total blackouts" with

unprepared to withstand a severe

City's residents, government, and

showed the world, New York

As Hurricane Sandy brutally

physical infrastructure are extremely

bottom 10% of earners have seen

by 10%, while the top 1% have

20% of all household earners

control over 54% of the City's

Inequality across the city is that

wealth. Since 1990, the top 1% of

earners have seen their median

income grow from \$452,415 to

\$716,625, while the bottom 10%

increase modestly, from \$8,468

demonstrate that some people

are dramatically better prepared

to absorb the costly shocks

of climate change due to their

access to political power and

In terms of the physical impact

predicted that by 2100 we could

see temperatures climb by up

to 8°F, sea levels rise by up to

six feet, precipitation increase

by 13%, and what are now

once-in-100 year floods occur

once every eight years. These

even the best-case scenarios

pose a grave threat to Northern

infrastructure, including utilities

As governments and private

institutions invest billions of

change, those investments

other social crises, such as

of education, among others. Otherwise, we will have prevented

will have the same long-term

large amounts of New Yorkers.

To download this plan and for

more information visit:

http://weact.org/climate

impact of increasing suffering for

dollars in preparing for climate

should be leveraged to address

chronic unemployment, poor diet,

and transportation routes critical

Manhattan's people and

to the City as a whole.

that climate change will have

on Northern Manhattan, it is

resources.

of earners saw their income

to \$9,455. These statistics

seen a 37% increase.

areas such as the Rockaways

natural disaster. After Sandy,

physically "[congregate] at local

home to share information, and

to relay messages, print fliers at

In order for NYC to be prepared for

communicate.

flind ad faum anioibam bris boot to

misappropriation of resources, not

in Sandy's aftermath resulted from

Therefore, in any future disaster,

The emergency response plan

poof oldud

system can be used to toster Challenge. In the long-term, this communication Campaign and NYC Readiness supplies, medicine, food, and water. YN ybeaR (s'M3O) s'tnamageneM people to cooling centers, energy Corps and the Office of Emergency crowdsourcing, and tools to direct this objective include the NYC Citizen physical message boards, means for disaster. Other programs that support (signage), social media plans, planning and recovering from a sloot pribrityew sbuloni lliw tedt Teams (CERT) are also integral to will be supported by an installation Community Emergency Response crisis. This communication system necessary resources during a climate and other necessities. direct vulnerable populations to

Program to include air conditioning Income Home Energy Assistance State government to expand the Low encourage DOHMH and the NY Further advocacy can be done to heatwaves and other emergencies. prind assistance during valuable information regarding who addition, the agency possesses neighborhood health hubs. In exploring the possibility of developing Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is currently The Department of Health and

noillim 051\$ ts bətəpbud III NUQELZELVED NEIGHDOLHOODS, IS which carries out park improvements Recreation's City Parks Initiative, while the Department of Parks and its Green Infrastructure Program, committed over \$208 million to of Environmental Protection has green infrastructure; the Department the construction of open space and provides some tinancial support for may [bolster] resilience." NYC already "creation of restorative environments "affinity for nature" through the the chance to express their instinctive recovery from crises, as giving people spaces can also, in and of itself, aid in residents in the creation of green protected from flooding. Involving ont private and public spaces are

bioswales, and more can ensure that barriers, mainland rain gardens, Intrastructures such as coastal Building flood protection emergency response decisions. robust democratic participation in

CONCEPT #2 - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

#NMCA OVERVIEW

Climate change is already poor and working class people Hurricane Sandy, marginalized communities lost their homes and jobs at a higher rate than others. Climate change will

In order to protect NYC's most vulnerable people from climate change, the NMCA promotes environmental policies that address the root causes of inequality. Conflicts related to class, race, gender, ethnicity, and age, need to be mitigated and overcome before climate justice can be achieved.

The NMCA addresses these issues by increasing community participation, within and outside of the government, in the climate are "worst-case scenarios," but change planning process. For its vision to be implemented, we must engage with the legislative process, while building our own systems of economic exchange and urban development that are not dependent on a faltering public sector.

The NMCA is the result of a six-month planning process led by WE ACT for Environmental Justice, in partnership with the stakeholders listed on the back cover. Between January and June mass incarceration, and quality of 2015,hundreds of New Yorkers participated in seven workshops and their feedback was structured climate change from erasing NYC, into the core ideas of the NMCA. but the slower erosion of poverty

The NMCA's planning area includes the neighborhoods of Inwood, Washington Heights, West Harlem, Central Harlem, and East Harlem (Figure 1). Over 600,000 people, mostly African American and Latino/a, reside in these neighborhoods. Over 20% of the area's residents live in poverty, a rate substantially higher than the rest of Manhattan's 14% average. Wealth inequality in New York is growing every year. Since 1990, the



brovide space for public meetings, research labs, galleries, and other workspaces.

impacts of climate change, build social cohesion through community events, and

live locally, could help facilitate the rich composition of people that network of hubs, programmed by A ". stnebiser prome noitelosi organization [and] decreased of community interaction and because they had "high levels communities proved resilient communities." These three low-income, African American rates of heat-related deaths were neighborhoods with the lowest suffered severely, "3 of the 10..

and minority communities heatwave, while most low-income during the 1995 Chicago research, which explains that Many cite Eric Klinenberg's

Transfer Station, pictured below. of the 135th Street Marine Waste central resilience hub on the site goal of establishing a permanent, these functions, with a long-term should be established to serve or mobile hubs for social cohesion as crucial gathering spaces for In the short-term, temporary and/

> artists' workshops, and more. green energy infrastructure, community gardens, libraries, accommodating the need for community cohesion, while also groups together and building function of bringing diverse resource. It also serves the basic a crucial and perpetually-needed materials, and incubate projects is more. to organize meetings, produce Providing spaces for local activists to movement-building is key. spaces for activities related development of more physical

> > In the immediate future,

such spaces is essential. this community, establishment of to sbnemeb eds the demands of Whether or not the Port Authority demand that you do your part." slumlord in our community, so we Authority: we do not want another community is left out entirely. Port Ydanis Rodriguez responded, "our square feet of space, Councilman were offered only a meager 250 terminal renovation. When they

million dollar Port Authority bus gathering space as part of a multihave recently been demanding a Residents of Washington Heights,

'ssəboons

now led to concrete electoral strategies and actions that have in the development of political community activists. This resulted cafés, many such spaces served tees or income from bars or subsisting on small membership organizational role. While centers" for playing an important Barcelona, have credited "social class, such as Madrid and power that favor the working experienced changes in political Large cities that have recently

The Brotherhood Sister Sol, and Bookstore: Libreria Communitaria, an impact, such as Word Up such 'hubs' are already having Manhattan. In fact, several similar interactions in Northern

CONCEPT #3 - SOCIAL HUBS

Northern Manhattan





A Draft Plan

of New York City. During

only further drive economically vulnerable New Yorkers into poverty, and ultimately lead to their displacement out of the city. Yet, to this day, the political and economic inequalities that created Sandy's fallout have hardly changed.



passed down to renters, not absorbed lowever, regulations must be passed Beneration, consumption, and costs. attording them maximum control over and manage their own microgrids, DOOI Their resources to construct and other local stakeholders to llow residents, property managers, tenants in this manner. Cooperatives naximize the economic benefit for reen energy cooperatives can helt

to ensure that cost savings are

roblems for local residents.

re not dependent on the main grid. solar, geothermal, etc.) and therefore,

Microgrids are small geographic

Resources (DER), or microgrids.

is known as Distributed Energy

that aligns with the second goal

nue emerging green energy project change within their own communities. creation of systems for tenants to lead companies/organizations, and/or the nvestments in neighborhood through local hiring agreements, esidents. This may be achieved nvironmental benefits to low-income sponia provide direct economic and as solar or wind energy, installers Hor all green energy projects, such

.planning. for more effective infrastructure Sevenits to the community and make service, which can attract economic nanutacturing, installation, and .elated enterprises, including planning,) community ownership of energy bne ,epnente change, and mprove public health and mitigate energy intrastructure that can ncluding the construction of green səitinummos tropport communities, orward energy democracy goals costly necessities. This plan puts realthy tood, healthcare, and other 'buishou of sessose stimil osle tuo erain access to energy services, inceatens not only their ability to Or Iow-Income New Yorkers, which as a disproportionate cost burden highest energy prices. This manife Yorkers pay the nation's second w9M, notration Administration, New According to the U.S. Energy

CONCEPT #1 - ENERGY DEMOCRACY

As Melissa Checker points out in her article "Wiped Out by the "Greenwave': Environmental Politics of Urban Sustainability," of private investment leads to "environmental gentrification [that] builds on the ... successes of the urban environmental justice movement and appropriates them to serve highend redevelopment that displaces low income residents." As such, "the efforts of environmental justice activists to improve their neighborhoods...now help those neighborhoods attract an influx of

This plan supports the growing movement in NYC to recognize the crucial connection between climate change and social equality. By working together and building social cohesion, we hope we can implement comprehensive reform that empowers low-income residents to remake the city in their own vision, and not be victims to the hyper privatization and environmental degradation in NYC that threatens all of us.

affluent residents."

