



New Jersey Future is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings together concerned citizens and leaders to promote responsible land-use policies. We employ original research, analysis and advocacy to build coalitions and drive land-use policies that help revitalize cities and towns, protect natural lands and farms, provide more transportation choices beyond cars, expand access to safe and affordable neighborhoods and fuel a prosperous economy. More recently, we have expanded our work to include local engagement and implementation, most notably in Sandy-affected communities.

SAVE THE DATE!

Be sure to put New Jersey Future's two premier events on your calendar today!

Redevelopment Forum

Friday, March 14, 2014
Hyatt Regency Hotel
New Brunswick, NJ
forum.njfuture.org

Smart Growth Awards

Thursday, June 5, 2014
The Newark Club
Newark, NJ
njfuture.org/sga

New Jersey Future Highlights 2013

A snapshot of accomplishments, big and small, from the past year.

Helping New Jersey Rebuild 'Smarter Than the Storm'

By far New Jersey Future's biggest initiative in 2013 has been its efforts to help New Jersey rebuild not just quickly but more resiliently after Superstorm Sandy. Its efforts have ranged from national and state-level advocacy to local assistance and implementation.

- **Local Recovery Planning Program Launched**

Many smaller towns that were devastated by Superstorm Sandy lack the capacity to recover effectively. To help meet this need and advance an important national model, New Jersey Future has placed three local recovery planning managers in seven Sandy-affected communities – Highlands, Sea Bright, Little Egg Harbor, Tuckerton, Downe, Commercial, and Maurice River – to assist with rebuilding and long-term planning efforts.

- **State Issues Planning Grants**

Ensuring that towns are better able to face the next disaster requires planning, and planning requires funding. New Jersey Future worked hard to have planning dollars included in the state's recovery program and so far planning grants to Sandy-affected municipalities were provided in the first state \$1.8 billion Action Plan, the plan for disbursement of the federal Sandy disaster recovery funds. These grants will enable municipalities to begin long-range resiliency planning.

- **Greater Transparency, Analysis of Sea-Level Rise Required by Federal Government**

As part of a larger coalition, New Jersey Future helped secure changes in how federal disaster recovery aid is disbursed in the state. The HUD notice for the second round of \$1.4 billion Sandy recovery funds directs the state to require consideration of sea-level rise in its draft plan for these funds. It also requires a significantly longer public comment period than the first plan did, and at least one public meeting.

- **Hundreds Gather for Sandy One Year Later Conference**

New Jersey Future co-convened a one-day conference on the anniversary of Superstorm Sandy that brought together over five hundred attendees in person and through a national live webcast. Thought leaders, including two former New Jersey governors and an admiral, spoke frankly on a range of topics critical to New Jersey's need for greater resiliency and bold political action in the face of future severe weather.

Legislative and Advocacy Milestones

- **Improved Land-Preservation and Compact Development Legislation Enacted**

The Legislature amended the state's land use law to give jurisdictions greater opportunity to use market-based tools, most notably noncontiguous clustering, as a way of directing development and preserving open land. New Jersey Future was integral in crafting the legislation and getting it passed.

- **Economic-Development Incentives Reach More Smart Growth Places**

New Jersey Future was heavily engaged in the reconfiguring of the state's two major economic incentive programs – GrowNJ and Economic Redevelopment Growth. The revamped programs provide relatively large incentives to smart-growth, urban and transit-oriented locations, while providing smaller incentives to less strategically ideal and efficient places in the state.

- **Constitutional Imperative of Affordable Housing Upheld**

New Jersey Future was one of several organizations that filed a friend-of-the-court brief in an affordable-housing case heard by the state Supreme Court. The court's decision affirmed the position of the brief: that every municipality has an affirmative obligation to ensure that it is providing realistic access to housing for people of all incomes.

Local Implementation

- **New Sustainable Jersey Actions Address Local Transportation Options**

Through our partnership with Sustainable Jersey, New Jersey Future helped add several new actions to Sustainable Jersey's municipal certification program, including conducting a bicycle and pedestrian audit and adopting a related plan and for creating transportation alternatives for municipal employees.

- **Focus on Downtown Trenton**

New Jersey Future has been involved in two Trenton-based initiatives: a project to uncover the Assunpink Creek and enhance and expand the park that surrounds it as a catalyst for redevelopment; and support for a new corporate-focused effort to spur revitalization of Trenton's downtown.

- **New Jersey Future Offers Local Planning Grants**

Following the passage of updated cluster-development legislation, and, through the multi-year commitment of a foundation supporter, New Jersey Future was able to offer a grant to a municipality interested in developing a local noncontiguous clustering ordinance.

Signature Events

- **Secretary Donovan Offers Breakfast Keynote at Redevelopment Forum**

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan came to New Jersey a few months after Superstorm Sandy struck to deliver morning remarks and kick off the organization's annual Redevelopment Forum. The forum covered a host of timely and important topics and drew more than 550 professionals involved in all aspects of redevelopment.

- **Smart Growth Awards Honor Seven Projects, Plans**

New Jersey Future's annual Smart Growth Awards remain popular, drawing an increasingly high caliber of entry and a crowd of almost 300 people from across the state to the annual awards celebration.

In The News

- **Getting the Smart-Growth Message Out**

New Jersey Future had four op-ed articles published in major newspapers in New Jersey in 2013, and one "explainer," addressing the role the State Plan plays in how the state develops. The op-eds focused on the importance of not using business incentives to subsidize sprawl; the importance of focusing on long-term resilience as we rebuild after Superstorm Sandy; and the key issues New Jersey will have to face in the next four years.

- **Increasing Media Coverage of Critical Growth Issues**

New Jersey Future has increased its profile as an organization that can provide expertise and perspective on various land-use and planning issues. The organization was cited, or its staff members were quoted, in approximately 90 news articles, including several national outlets such as *National Geographic*. Many of these articles were about the Sandy recovery process, focused either on our partnerships with towns as they rebuild or on our thought leadership on long-term recovery policy issues.

Reports on Key Issues

- **Three New Reports Illuminate Growth Issues**

New Jersey Future published three reports in 2013 addressing critical issues: *Places to Age*, an examination of what areas in the state are most accommodating to older residents; a report on *Social Entrepreneurship and Smart Growth*, examining ways in which smart-growth initiatives might benefit from the growing phenomenon of social entrepreneurship; and a report on green infrastructure that addresses barriers to its greater implementation in New Jersey.

Focus on Water

- **Without Water, There Will Be No Growth**

One of the defining issues surrounding growth and development in the coming years will be water: getting enough of it, and managing it, whether it's stormwater or wastewater. New Jersey Future is examining these critical issues, including an analysis of development stresses on the water supply in the Pinelands; the Assunpink Creek project in Trenton; and a study of several cities' obsolete combined sewer systems that will culminate in a symposium to elevate the importance to New Jersey's economic vitality of upgrading this critical infrastructure.
