

NEW JERSEY FUTURE: YEAR IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2014 WORK

REBUILDING AFTER SANDY

Pioneering a framework for recovery planning.

As part of our local recovery planning initiative, we worked with Princeton Hydro to develop a model for economic risk assessments, and completed assessments in four of the communities in which we are working. We have helped these towns apply for and receive 16 grants totaling \$7.3 million, which will be used for resiliency planning and implementation projects ranging from streetscape design to living shoreline construction. We are also engaged in community conversations about the results of the risk assessments, and in one town we are engaged in an assessment of the health impacts of buyouts of vulnerable properties.

Creating a national model for risk assessment.

We were invited to present our risk assessment procedures at the Northeast Climate Change conference in New Hampshire; the Council of State Governments conference in Boston; and the New Jersey Association of Floodplain Managers conference. These procedures are becoming the model for how risk assessments are conducted.

Leading state policy on risk mitigation.

We, along with state and national colleagues, urged the state to allocate federal rebuilding funds to measures that will increase coastal resilience and to recognize and plan for high-probability future risks. The state now acknowledges climate change and sea-level rise in its Hazard Mitigation Plan. We promoted a more robust state planning grant program to help towns steer development out of harm's way, and a better risk assessment tool that ensures rebuilt infrastructure across the state will last.

**MORE ONLINE:
NJFUTURE.ORG**

FOCUSING ON WATER

Helping cities make water infrastructure a strategic asset. Our report *Ripple Effects* details how new state permits will trigger a massive effort to fix combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in 21 of New Jersey's oldest and most of its largest cities, and illustrates why these improvements are so badly needed.

Convening thought leaders for action.

In partnership with the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, we convened leaders from diverse perspectives to craft an action-oriented Agenda for Change for the state's urban water infrastructure. Since then, we've worked with scores of partners to educate, share ideas and organize projects such as the planned January 2015 conference on CSO solutions, which we will co-host with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and development of a best-practices report for CSO control plans.

Protecting water resources in the Pinelands.

Armed with research explaining how growth areas degrade the region's water quality and quantity, we worked with stakeholders in five towns, the Pinelands Commission and NJDEP to create a suite of recommendations for protecting the area's water supply. Our final report, *Growing Smart and Water Wise*, is helping the Pinelands Commission focus its water-conservation efforts.

CATALYZING LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT

Our growing local redevelopment work has included partnering with retail economics consulting firm JGSC Group on a **survey of local officials** to help identify opportunities for downtown and commercial-corridor revitalization; engaging the local community in Trenton around a project to **daylight the Assunpink Creek** and create a new urban park; exploring opportunities at **Liberty State Park** to make this unique waterfront asset more active and economically self-sustaining; working with Union County to develop a **guide for sustainable development**; and working with stakeholders to establish a new, privately funded economic-development entity, called Greater Trenton, in New Jersey's capital city.

RESEARCH

New Reports:

- *Ripple Effects*, focused on the need to upgrade urban water infrastructure in our oldest and largest cities (May 2014);
- *Growing Smart and Water Wise*, focused on ways to protect the water supply in the Pinelands (July 2014);
- *An Evaluation of the State's New Economic Opportunity Act*, an examination of whether the incentives provided in the act are being directed appropriately to smart-growth and redevelopment areas. (December 2014)



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 outreach efforts to build coalitions and drive change to 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.

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MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2014 WORK

RESEARCH (continued)

Our research sets the agenda.

We presented the results of our *Creating Places To Age in New Jersey* report at conferences hosted by the New Jersey Foundation for Aging and the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey. As a result of the report's press coverage, the town of Princeton was inspired to apply for -- and received -- designation from the World Health Organization as an "age-friendly community," becoming the first such community in New Jersey. In addition, our research on growth in "built-out" areas was cited in an *amicus* brief in which we were included, filed pursuant to a lawsuit objecting to the state's proposed new affordable-housing rules. The research was used in the brief to support its argument against the assumption in the rules that new housing could only be built on greenfields.

EVENTS

Our events continue to set the standard.

Our annual Redevelopment Forum provided education and networking opportunities for more than 500 leading development and planning professionals. Our Smart Growth Awards recognized eight outstanding plans and projects representing the best in implementation of smart-growth principles. In partnership with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, a global organization based in Cambridge, Mass., we hosted a symposium focused on moving from recovery after Sandy to true resilience. And we led the New Jersey Conference on the Regional Plan Association's Fourth Regional Plan, a symposium that attracted more than 100 professionals to discuss the key issues the region will face in the next generation.

MEDIA

Our voice matters.

We placed three bylined op-ed articles on critical issues for New Jersey policymakers: the growing mismatch between which communities are best prepared for an aging population, and where older residents in New Jersey actually live; the need to confront difficult truths about sea-level rise and climate change if we are going to plan effectively for long-term resilience; and the importance of a ballot initiative securing funds for preservation of open space. Through content-sharing agreements, all of these articles ran in multiple outlets.

Our expertise is sought.

We were mentioned or quoted 120 times in 2014, in more than 50 different media and organizational outlets, on topics where knowledgeable insight or comment was sought. Those topics included the ongoing process of recovering from Hurricane Sandy, tapping into our local recovery planning work; and the dire state of our urban water infrastructure, citing our report on the topic and our work to move forward an agenda for change.

CONTACT US

New Jersey Future
137 W. Hanover St.
Trenton, NJ 08618
p: 609-393-0008
f: 609-393-1189
e: njfuture@njfuture.org

NJFUTURE.ORG

SAVE THE DATES!

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

REDEVELOPMENT FORUM

Friday, March 13, 2015
Hyatt Regency Hotel
New Brunswick, N.J.
forum.njfuture.org



SMART GROWTH AWARDS

Thursday, June 4, 2015
The Newark Club
Newark, N.J.
njfuture.org/sga

