

What is the Resilient Edgemere Community Planning Initiative?

The Resilient Edgemere Community Planning Initiative is a joint effort of New York City agencies to align New York City's Sandy recovery and rebuilding investments in Edgemere with a comprehensive, long-term community vision. The public planning process began in October 2015 and will conclude by fall 2016.

Why does Edgemere need a Resilient Neighborhood Plan?

As a low-lying, waterfront community on a barrier island, Edgemere experienced significant damage from Hurricane Sandy. It also experiences the nuisance of regular tidal flooding. The combination of a high water table and a flat topography makes Edgemere vulnerable to flooding from heavy rain during high tides. Sea level rise predictions for this community demonstrate significant risk for the community's future. Edgemere is physically remote from most central city resources, and residents travel long distances to work, shop, and play. Damage from Hurricane Sandy to the public transportation network exacerbated this isolation, highlighting the daily challenge of limited local opportunities for employment, basic amenities, and services.

What are the goals of this Initiative?

During three public workshops between October 2015 and April 2016, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and partnering City agencies worked with the Edgemere community to define a set of goals, strategies, and guiding principles for the neighborhood's future. Participants established the main community goals as:

- 1** Create Resilient Housing and Maintain Neighborhood Character
Land Use and Neighborhood Character
- 2** Protect the Neighborhood from Flooding
Open Space, Coastal Protection, and Neighborhood Ecology
- 3** Increase Neighborhood Services
Neighborhood Services and Amenities
- 4** Improve Streets and Transportation
Mobility and Access

What role do Edgemere residents and other community stakeholders play in the planning process?

The planning team organized four public workshops/open houses between October 2015 and September 2016. At these events, residents shared ideas and concerns, asked questions, and provided feedback. In addition, we mailed a Community Feedback Form to all 1,700 households in Edgemere and held bi-monthly meetings of a small group of community members (the "Organizing Team") who provided guidance on the format of the public workshops and help reach out to other Edgemere residents. The goal of this engagement is to obtain input from a large number of residents and stakeholders to ensure that the final plan reflects the knowledge, concerns, and aspirations of the Edgemere community. Today's public event introduces the Neighborhood Plan for comment before final release in October 2016.

Who is leading this initiative?

The City of New York is working closely with elected officials, local stakeholders, and the Edgemere community on the Resilient Edgemere Neighborhood Initiative. The Initiative is led by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) in close collaboration with the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP), the NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations (HRO), and the NYC Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR). This core team will consult with and coordinate multiple city, state, and federal agencies, as well as local elected officials.

How is this planning initiative different from previous initiatives?

Under the City's Housing New York plan, the City is partnering with communities to develop comprehensive plans that ensure neighborhoods are both diverse and livable, now and into the future. In Edgemere, the City used this planning process to develop a long-term community vision and coordinate Sandy recovery and rebuilding investments with the development of City-owned land. Because HPD owns over 50% of the property in Edgemere, there is a unique opportunity to align existing resources, and identify new ones, to collaboratively develop an implementable plan.

How will the Neighborhood Plan be implemented?

Starting this fall, HPD and partner agencies will begin to implement the Neighborhood Plan. Some projects are funded and ready to be implemented soon. Other projects need to go through a longer public approval process or need additional funding. This planning process demonstrates that empowering local residents can result in thoughtful solutions to the complex challenges posed by adaptation to climate change and historic disinvestment. To ensure the successful implementation of this plan, the Edgemere community should view the plan, and the many related projects, as a living document to guide public participation and partnership with the City of New York and actively drive neighborhood improvements.

How much will the implementation of the plan cost and where will the funding come from?

This planning process looks at current infrastructure investments and local, state, and federal resources for implementation. The planning initiative is funded by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR).

What is going on with city-owned vacant lots in Edgemere?

The ideas and priorities generated through this planning process will shape projects presented in the final plan, including for the potential development of vacant city-owned land. Most of this land will ultimately be developed as housing affordable to low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters. However, where appropriate, some sites may be used for other purposes, such as affordable apartments with ground-floor retail, community gardens, and/or open space designed for flood management during storm events. No new construction will begin on city-owned lots before the planning process is complete.