

## Resources to Help Multifamily Buildings Address Common Climate-Related Impacts

### *How do I find out what my climate risks are?*

New York City Emergency Management's (NYCEM) [NYC's Risk Landscape: A Guide to Hazard Mitigation](#) has information on how the City approaches risk management. Hazards featured in the guide include: coastal storms, coastal erosion, flooding, strong windstorms, extreme heat, winter weather, water shortage, earthquakes, and pandemic influenza.

In addition, the [Ready New York Reduce Your Risk](#) guide has information on natural hazard risks, including risks influenced by climate change, and includes steps to reduce those risks. Additional emergency guides can be found [here](#) in multiple languages and in an audio format. Learn how to make a plan, gather supplies, and get informed at [nyc.gov/readyny](http://nyc.gov/readyny).

More information on climate risk in New York City can be found through the [New York City Panel on Climate Change](#) (NPCC). The NPCC regularly reviews and provides updated information on City climate-related risks. The latest report, released in 2015, includes infographics on projected impacts from increasing sea levels, temperatures, and rainfall. You can view the NPCC sea level rise projections, as well as the projected expansion of the floodplain in the future, on the Department of City Planning's (DCP) [NYC Flood Hazard Mapper](#).

### *How at-risk to heat are my building residents?*

People most at risk to heat-related illness have no air conditioning and one or more of these conditions: are 65 years or older, have chronic medical conditions, have severe mental health conditions, are obese, use drugs or drink heavily, or use certain medicines that impact their ability to stay safe during extreme heat.

Residents with medical conditions that can be worsened by heat and who meet household income requirements can apply for assistance to pay for and install an air conditioner through the [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP).

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has an [Environmental Health Portal](#) where you can look up public health data by community district (CD), including which CDs have higher risk for heat-related deaths. A CD with a low score does not mean no risk. Every neighborhood has residents at risk for heat illness and death, particularly for people who do not have or use air conditioning and are older adults, have chronic health conditions or severe mental illnesses, or live alone. Visit [www.nyc.gov/health/heat](http://www.nyc.gov/health/heat) for more information on the health risks of heat and how to stay cool during extreme heat.

### *How can I lower my building's energy costs during hot weather?*

You can lower energy costs in your building by requesting to have a street tree planted in front of your building for free from [NYC Parks](#) or by requesting a low- or no-cost roof coating from the [NYC Cool Roofs](#) program. Visit the [Green Funding and Resources For New York City Affordable Multifamily Housing](#) to learn more about available financing programs including grants, loans, tax credits, and other incentives to facilitate efficiency upgrades at low- or no-cost.

### *What is my flood risk? How much will flood insurance cost for my building?*

[Enterprise Community Partners](#) and [the Center for NYC Neighborhoods](#) support multifamily buildings in flood-prone neighborhoods from flooding and extreme weather through the [FloodHelpNY](#) program, supported through the [New York State Governor's Office of Storm Recovery](#). To search flood risk by address or location, receive estimates on flood insurance, and find out if your building is eligible for a free resiliency audit, please visit [FloodHelpNY](#). For a short overview of

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flood risk and flood insurance, in addition to other topics, download DCP's [Info Briefs](#) in multiple languages.

*How can I find more information on reducing flood risk to my building?*

You can find more information about retrofit options in DCP's [Retrofit Guide for Flood Risk](#); about resilient building challenges in specific neighborhoods [here](#); about special zoning regulations that apply in the floodplain [here](#); and about building code regulations for flood-resistant construction at the Department of Buildings' (DOB) website [here](#) and [here](#).

*How can I find more information on designing a resilient building?*

The Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR) has prepared [Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines](#), which establish guidance on how to incorporate projected climate change into the design of new and substantially improved City facilities. Designers of non-City buildings and infrastructure may find the Guidelines useful to identify resilient design best practices.

*Where can I get emergency notifications and official information?*

Sign up for Notify NYC at [nyc.gov/notifynyc](https://nyc.gov/notifynyc). Anyone can sign up to receive alerts by emails, phone calls, text messages, or social media for up to five zip codes. The Notify NYC App is available for iOS and Android phones.

NYCEM coordinates the City's emergency preparedness and response. NYCEM's website includes [emergency tips and contact information](#); [post-emergency relief and recovery resources](#); and [hazard planning guides](#). You can also join the [Community Preparedness Network](#), which works with local leaders to provide a direct connection to emergency planning resources and information.

You can find the location of the City's hurricane evacuation zones and hurricane evacuation centers (including accessibility) using the [Evacuation Zone Finder](#) at [nyc.gov/knowyourzone](https://nyc.gov/knowyourzone). During coastal storms, it shows which hurricane evacuation zones are being evacuated.

*Where can I get assistance for resiliency upgrades?*

Through [FloodHelpNY's Multifamily Program](#), you can receive a free, on-site assessment of your building's risks and vulnerability, work with a technical expert from Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. to outline resilience options, and receive a customized resiliency plan for your building.

The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) hosts a [Property Owner Clinic](#) every month where property owners meet one-on-one with agency representatives to assess their building needs and connect them with low or no-cost financing and tax benefits to support systems upgrades or replacements.

HPD also provides a variety of [financing options](#) to help owners of multifamily buildings renovate or replace building systems and components. Eligible work includes roof and window replacement, heating upgrades, and boiler replacement. HPD's [Green Housing Preservation Program](#) provides loans for energy efficiency, water conservation, lead remediation, and moderate rehabilitation work.

You may be eligible for a [grant from the Department of Environmental Protection](#) (DEP) to reduce stormwater runoff through the installation of green infrastructure such as rain gardens, green roofs, porous pavement, and subsurface retention.

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If you are a business owner, you may be eligible for an on-site, one-on-one risk assessment and a grant of up to \$3,000 to reduce your risk in the event of a disaster or disruption. You can find out more about this and other Department of Small Business Services (SBS) preparedness programs [here](#).

*Where can I get assistance for energy efficiency upgrades?*

The City offers several free programs to help building owners track and reduce energy use.

The [NYC Retrofit Accelerator](#) offers free, personalized advisory services that streamline the process of making energy efficiency improvements to reduce operating costs, enhance tenant comfort, and improve the environment. The Retrofit Accelerator maintains a map of NYC incentives and financing for buildings larger than four units [here](#).

[Community Retrofit NYC](#) is a program provided by the City of New York that offers free advisory services to owners, operators, and residents of small- and mid-sized multifamily buildings located in Central Brooklyn and Southern Queens to undertake energy and water upgrades in their buildings. You can find a guide to community retrofits [here](#).

The NYC [Carbon Challenge](#) is the City's voluntary leadership program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in private buildings and institutions. The Challenge's [Handbook for Multifamily Buildings](#) covers the basics of energy efficiency in multifamily buildings, the cash incentives and financing available in New York City, relevant local laws and regulations, and building staff training opportunities.

The [Benchmarking Help Center](#) is a free, one-stop shop for information, assistance, and answers to questions about how to benchmark your building in compliance with the NYC Benchmarking Law, which requires owners of buildings greater than 25,000 square feet to annually report on their energy and water consumption.