

New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC) – Call for Nominations

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will only academics be considered?

We are looking for candidates with research credentials, but they need not be academics. Nominees should have a well-established or promising record of scholarly contributions reflected in the number and influence of peer-reviewed publications and/or written products. Nominees should demonstrate dedication to their respective field through service roles in professional societies and recognition as thought leaders in their field. Nominees should be able to interpret quantitative and qualitative data from disparate sources and even share data relevant to NPCC4. A concentration in urban systems (human and natural) is a plus.

2. What fields of expertise are you seeking?

MOR encourages and welcomes a wide range of expertise to help make NPCC4 useful and relevant to the City's climate response. The list below provides a sample of research disciplines and technical and/or practical fields or issues. The list is intended as an example of the range of expertise sought for NPCC, not a definitive list.

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| Meteorology | Demography |
| Climatology | Geography (all sub-disciplines) |
| Hydroclimatology | Public Health (all fields) |
| Atmospheric science | Agriculture and agronomy |
| Geology, geomorphology, hydrogeology | Energy |
| Coastal hazards | Transportation |
| Ecology (all sub-disciplines) | Civic Engagement |
| Biology (both terrestrial and aquatic) | Urban Planning |
| Economics | Public Policy |
| Behavioral Psychology | Law |
| Anthropology | Public and private financing |
| Ethnography | Architecture and Design |
| Sociology | Engineering |
| Communications | |
| Journalism | |

3. What is the time commitment?

MOR expects the responsibilities of NPCC members to be refined in the scoping and context setting phase in early 2020. Based on past assessments, member responsibilities include, but may not be limited to:

- Participate in approximately three scoping workshops in the first half of 2020
- Participate in regular calls with co-authors and working groups that include City personnel and stakeholders
- Participate in two all-NPCC meetings in New York City each year
- Perform literature review and synthesis
- Analyze complex data

- Contribute to expert elicitation
- Produce written reports and visualizations (e.g. maps, figures, graphics)
- Respond to peer review and public comments
- Participate in public presentations

4. If I currently work for the City, can I be a panel member?

No. NPCC is a mayoral appointed body of independent experts. As such, City employees cannot be panel members. MOR will be working with our agency partners to ensure substantive exchange between the panel and City employees.

5. If I previously worked for the City, can I be a panel member?

Yes. There are no restrictions on former employees becoming NPCC panel members.

6. Is the City only considering candidates based in New York City and immediately surrounding areas?

We are interested in expertise and experience from outside of the New York City metro area. A majority of the panel will, however, be based in NYC. Because the number of panelists from outside NYC will be limited, those spots will be particularly competitive. Expertise in cities and NYC specifically is a desired qualification.

7. Is there funding provided for panel members?

Local Law stipulates that NPCC members serve without compensation. However, MOR is actively seeking funds for NPCC administration, including travel funds, workshop costs, and program coordination. MOR is also seeking funds for the climate data and analysis that is a foundational input to the NPCC process.

8. How many members will be on the panel?

In the past, the NPCC has included 15 - 20 experts as panel members, with contributions from additional affiliated researchers. For NPCC4, MOR will identify a five-person Leadership Team and will work with that team to select approximately 15 additional nominees to the Panel.

9. What are the NPCC's goals and objectives?

NPCC is charged with advising the Mayor's Office and the City's Climate Change Adaptation Task Force (CCATF), and with reviewing and synthesizing the most recent scientific data related to: a) near-, intermediate and long-term quantitative and qualitative climate projections; b) climate change and its potential impacts on the city's communities, vulnerable populations, public health, natural systems, critical infrastructure, buildings; and c) ways to use climate research to inform decision-making.

MOR anticipates working with NPCC4 panel members to further refine the goals and objectives of the next assessment effort in light of the resources available, the needs of the City, CCATF, and stakeholders, and the requirements of Local Law 42 of 2012.

Additionally, with regard to the process for NPCC4, MOR wishes to work with NPCC to: i) strengthen participation by agencies and the public in the assessment process, ii) experiment with interactive, online dissemination of NPCC information and findings, and iii) generate new assessment of and research priorities on emerging vulnerability, impacts, and adaptation science.

10. How will the panel interact with other NYC agencies?

In spring 2020, MOR plans to work with the NPCC to co-host workshops with multiple City agencies, including those on the Climate Change Adaptation Task Force (CCATF). From there, we anticipate regular interaction through working groups or committees between panel members and relevant agency personnel. These meetings will occur as needed, but approximately bi-monthly.

11. What is the ideal level of experience for candidates?

Nominees should have a well-established or promising record of scholarly contributions reflected in the number and influence of peer-reviewed publications and/or written products. Nominees should demonstrate dedication to their respective field through service roles in professional societies and recognition as thought leaders in their field. Nominees should be able to interpret quantitative and qualitative data from disparate sources and even share data relevant to NPCC4. A concentration in urban systems (human and natural) is a plus.

12. How will meetings and interaction be structured, and what are the mechanics of information gathering and assessment?

These details will be determined through final scoping between MOR and NPCC. We anticipate completion of a vision and management document for NPCC4 in early summer 2020.

Typically, in previous assessments, author teams have been identified by subject or issue area. They are charged with meeting periodically. Workshops and all-hands meetings help ensure integration across author teams and provide check-ins when draft deliverables are due. Finally, the panel and the City interact frequently during the final stages to conduct peer review.

For more details, please see Details on NPCC4 in the Call for Nominations.

13. How important or impactful is NPCC?

NPCC provides authoritative, New York City-specific climate information that serves as the cornerstone of the City's overall risk management response to climate change. For example, in 2013, NPCC science was the basis for the City's rate case testimony that led to \$1 billion in resiliency investments by Con Edison. Additionally, NPCC climate projections informed 16 local laws that have incorporated additional safety measures into the Building Code to address events like Hurricane Sandy. Looking ahead, the City

is making new investments in flood protection, energy supply, and building retrofits to address growing climate risks, all of which rely on NPCC assessments.

14. Does joining the Panel preclude people from contracting with the City?

Joining the panel should not ordinarily preclude members or their employers from contracting with the City. However, members may need to recuse themselves from NPCC consideration of particular matters, including discussion of issues relating to potential procurements that could reasonably result in expenditures for the benefit of such members or their employers or other funding entities. In unusual instances, a member might need to resign from NPCC in the event of a pervasive potential or actual conflict of this kind.