

# No-Cost Technical Assistance for Communities Impacted by Hurricane Sandy

Did your community suffer significant damage from Hurricane Sandy? Are you looking for assistance in rebuilding in a more sustainable and resilient way?

# APPLICATIONS DUE: APRIL 30, 2013 at 6 p.m. PST

#### Responding to Hurricane Sandy with Sustainable Planning and Rebuilding

Global Green USA, a non-profit environmental organization with a rich track record in post-disaster planning and rebuilding, is responding to Hurricane Sandy with several efforts, including supporting grassroots citizen efforts to shape reconstruction in a more sustainable way, donating solar panels to increase resiliency during future storms, and supporting comprehensive sustainable neighborhood planning efforts to create cohesive places built to last.

In collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Global Green has opened a special application period for our Sustainable Neighborhood Assessment assistance specifically for communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy. This free assistance is being provided under Global Green's grant from the US EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities' Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. This is an opportunity to access a team of experts who will help create a plan for a specific site or neighborhood that could then serve as a catalyst or model for broader community-wide rebuilding. The result will be a more resilient community that addresses the challenges posed by sea level rise, storm surge, storm intensity, and climate change.

#### **Eligibility and Selection Process**

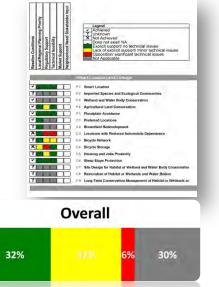
At least two communities will be selected for assistance in 2013. Eligible applicants are local governments, county governments, regional planning organizations or similar public agencies located in counties in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut or Rhode Island that:

- Have received a major disaster declaration from FEMA as a result of Hurricane Sandy
- Are exploring opportunities to promote sustainability and increase resiliency in their recovery and rebuilding efforts
- Have considered or are in the process of considering changes to land use or street patterns during the process of rebuilding that will make their community more sustainable and resilient.

#### How it Works: Sustainable Neighborhood Assessment

Through a 3-day intensive visit and consultation, the Global Green team will evaluate how a specific neighborhood impacted by Hurricane Sandy can be replanned to promote smart growth and create a more sustainable, resilient community.

Prior to the visit the team will conduct an extensive review of prior plans, neighborhood form, the pattern of adjacent or existing development ,and future development constraints, including the possibility of more frequent and stronger storms along with sea level rise. During the site assessment the team will conduct an assessment of existing conditions including the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy, consult with community stakeholders in meetings and a public workshop, and identify major opportunities to improve neighborhood sustainability.



Example of neighborhood evaluation tools

Global Green's assistance is based on the LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) standard, which provides a nationally recognized method for creating neighborhoods that are walkable, bikeable, resourceefficient, equitable and resilient. LEED-ND includes criteria for resilient planning and design in both the physical realm, such as location of critical facilities, wetlands and habitat restoration, and development of renewable energy systems, and in the economic realm by promoting local businesses and finding the right balance of housing and jobs. Benefits of the measures promoted by LEED-ND include lower municipal operations costs, reduced infrastructure costs, increased use of non-motorized transportation options, improvements to public health, and environmental protection in the face of a changing climate.

At the conclusion of the visit the team will present recommendations for both physical and policy changes that may include street reconfiguration, ecological restoration, integrated energy and water infrastructure, and standards and incentives for mixed-use and transit-oriented development. Suggestions for revisions to the community's hazard mitigation, land use plan, and zoning code to support these recommendations may also be made. All of the recommendations will be based on the nationally recognized and peer-reviewed best practices contained in LEED-ND, adapted specifically for post-disaster situations by Global Green.

## **Application Deadline**

All applications must be submitted online through the Global Green web portal, located here: https://globalgreen26418.thankyou4caring.org/leedndtechassist.

The deadline for applications is April 30, 2013 at 6:00 PM PST. Applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed.



Examples of reports from Global Green's 2012 Neighborhood Assessments can be seen at globalgreen.org.

### **Application Review and Selection Criteria**

- 1. Need for Assistance and Urgency (30 points) How well does the description of damage done by Hurricane Sandy to the specific area or neighborhood demonstrate a need for sustainable neighborhood design assistance? How will the assistance build on any planning or rebuilding efforts that have already taken place in the area or neighborhood for which assistance is being requested? How does the assistance being requested have the potential to enhance the area or neighborhood's ability to sustainably rebuild? What is the opportunity for the requested assistance to influence local policy around resiliency and future disaster preparedness?
- 2. Leadership Commitment (30 points) -- Is the city, county, or comparable public agency able and willing to advocate for the implementation of sustainable and resilient rebuilding recommendations made by the technical assistance team, particularly those recommendations that require cross departmental coordination, or collaboration with state and federal agencies? (The application requires a letter of commitment signed by the mayor, chair of the county commission, or comparable elected leader.)

- 3. **Public Involvement and Team Support (20 points)** -- How much capacity does the applicant have to assist with public engagement and provide coordination and logistical support for the duration of the technical assistance effort? To what degree have local government, business, and community leaders demonstrated their commitment and capacity to participate in the technical assistance effort and rebuilding projects?
- 4. Ability to leverage other federal, state, or philanthropic funds (10 points) -- Has the city received federal, state, local or philanthropic aid that could support, leverage, or expand upon the technical assistance effort and natural disaster preparedness, particularly related to future sea level rise and climate change related storm events? Is the community concurrently applying for other assistance that could further leverage the assistance being requested here?
- 5. Equity and Community Engagement (10 points) -- To what degree does the identified area or neighborhood include low-income and historically disadvantaged communities? Is there a strong neighborhood organization working in the community or neighborhood on these issues that is willing to partner in this assistance effort?