

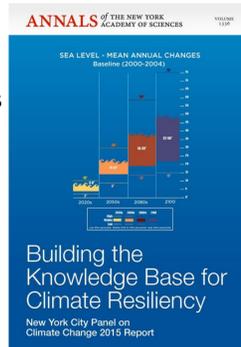
Introduction

Our study describes an on-going assessment of community-based equity in climate adaptation in New York City. It is being conducted through collaborative partnerships between the Community Equity Workgroup of the New City Panel on Climate Change and several long-established community-based organizations.

About NPCC3

The Third New York Panel on Climate Change

- An independent body that advises the City on climate risks and resiliency
- Workgroups in areas: *climate science, community-based assessment of adaptation and equity, critical infrastructure systems, and enhanced mapping protocols*
- The third NPCC report will be released in 2017.



About the Community Equity Workgroup

- Evaluates the current pattern of social vulnerability in NYC neighborhood
- Explores key climate and equity concerns in NYC communities
- Advises the city on ways it can facilitate community-based adaptation and resilience efforts.

Climate Justice, Environmental Justice and Equity

- Procedural (e.g. inclusion in decision-making process) vs. distributive (e.g. fairness based on redistribution); justice of recognition
- Differential climate impacts and connection with vulnerability
- State actors vs. local actors
- Appropriate scale for addressing climate adaptation
- Climate justice and intersection with traditional environmental justice (equity) concerns (Burnham et al. 2013).

Method

- Literature Review
- Gather neighborhood-level social vulnerability data
- Identify key resilience indicators
- Establish partnership with local urban communities
- Stakeholder engagement e.g. surveys, workshops, and interviews
- Coordinate with other NPCC3 Workgroups.

Selected NYC Neighborhoods and Community-based Organizations

West Harlem



- Located on the northeastern section of Manhattan
- Home to the MTA bus depots, North River Sewage Treatment Plant; major truck routes
- Population: ~700,000 people
- Historically made up of African-American and Latino residents; currently experiencing an increase of white and Asian populations.



- Started advocacy work in 1988
- Serves as the community's voice on issues such as environmental health concerns (e.g. toxic waste from treatment plant) and air pollution
- Current projects: *redevelopment of the Marine Waster Transfer Station; Northern Manhattan Climate Action Draft Plan; Energy Democracy Initiatives.*

Sunset Park



- Waterfront neighborhood located in the western part of Brooklyn
- Former industrial waterfront and upland residential community
- Population: 126,381 people
- Diverse neighborhood composition dominated by Latino and Chinese immigrants.



- Incorporated in 1966
- An advocacy organization for environmental justice on public health issues including waterfront redevelopment, brownfields, transportation, open space air quality, educational and youth employment
- Current projects: *Sunset Park Climate Action Adaptation and Community Resiliency Forum; Community Solar; NYC Climate Justice Youth Summit.*

Hunts Point



- A peninsula in the South Bronx
- Home to the Food Distribution Center, a wastewater treatment plant, and various expressways.
- Population: 27,204 people
- Neighborhood is predominantly made up of Hispanic and African-Americans.



- Founded in 1994
- Works in areas such as youth development, cultural and economic revitalization and environmental justice issues
- Current projects: *Hunt Points' Resiliency Project; Community Green Roofs and Green Space; South Bronx Waterfront Brownfield Opportunity Area.*

Preliminary Analysis

Environmental and Social-Economic Stressors

- Increased sea-level rise exacerbates flooding problems in communities
- Air pollution and heat risks are expected to get worse with rising temperatures
- Lack of accessible greenspace
- Gentrification and displacement.



Meaning of Equity

- The meaning of equitable climate adaptation is highly varied and sometimes politically contested.
 - City managers: equity is typically understood in terms of traditional measures of social vulnerability, whereby areas with high social vulnerability are identified and targeted for adaptation assistance.
 - Local urban communities: equity entails the inclusion of community representatives in both identification of local vulnerabilities and strategies for adaptation.

Next Steps

- Work one-on-one with individual community-based organizations to identify equity and climate concerns
- Develop a replicable process for community-based equity assessment

References and Acknowledgement

- Burnham, M., Radel, C., Ma, Z., & Laudati, A. (2013). Extending a geographic lens towards climate justice, part 1&2: climate change characterization and impacts. *Geography Compass*, 7(3), 239-248.
- Special thanks for members of the Community Equity Workgroup, the New York Panel on Climate Change, WeACT, UPROSE, and the Point.