



RISE TO RESILIENCE

OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR FUTURE

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RISE TO RESILIENCE APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF CLIMATE RESILIENCY DESIGN GUIDELINES BILL, INTRO 2092

New York City Council passes first-of-its-kind bill that establishes climate resiliency design guidelines requirement, resiliency score for all City-funded buildings and infrastructure.

Today, the [Rise to Resilience coalition](#), spearheaded by the [Waterfront Alliance](#), applauds the passage of New York City Intro 2092, a bill that requires City-funded buildings, infrastructure, and retrofits in every neighborhood to meet the City's Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines. This bill ensures that new City facilities—like schools, libraries, bridges, and affordable housing developments—are designed to withstand climate threats of the future.

Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines are an important step in making communities safer and less impacted by disasters and helps avoid dangerous and costly damage to the buildings and infrastructure. The bill also establishes a transparency mechanism by requiring a resiliency score for each project, to be posted on a public-facing website. In the same way that the City has established letter grades for building energy efficiency, this law creates an easier way for the City and members of the public to track resiliency to climate threats. Finally, the Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines serve as a stepping stone toward a future climate-resilient standard for all development and can foster New York City's status as a leader in climate-smart construction.

“Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines for City-funded projects are another important step in preparing for the climate future of a great city,” said **Cortney Worrall, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance**. Hurricane Sandy and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic, show the lack of preparedness for the climate crisis. Extreme storms, heat, and winds, among many other climate impacts, will change the longevity of infrastructure, impact how people live and get to work, and can determine if electricity and communication remain online during and after a storm. This bill can make communities safer and paves the way for a more comprehensive approach to climate risks in New York City and beyond.”

“As a city on the sea, we are literally on the front lines of the fight to secure a livable climate. That's why it's so critical that we set resiliency standards for everything we build in New York City. With the passage of Int. 2092, the city must create resiliency guidelines and a scoring metric for projects that sets a minimum standard for resiliency that every subsequent project

must meet. I want to thank the Rise to Resilience coalition for their support in helping us reach this climate milestone.” **New York City Council Member Costa Constantinides**

“I congratulate the Rise to Resilience coalition and Council Member Constantinides on today’s passage of this Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines for Capital Projects legislation,” said **New York Council Member Carlina Rivera**. “If the past year has taught us anything, it’s that a lack of preparedness leads to deadly consequences. Climate change is the single most significant threat to our City. We knew it when Hurricane Sandy ravaged our communities in 2012, and we certainly know it today. Implementing these climate resiliency standards for all future City projects is a critical step in ensuring we can deliver New Yorkers the safe, sustainable future they deserve.”

“The passage of this bill represents a massive step forward for resiliency in New York City. It will make our schools, libraries, roads, and affordable housing stronger and safer by requiring that all new City facilities are built to withstand the future impacts of climate change. Utilizing climate-smart design will also save taxpayers millions by preventing extreme weather damage,” said **Jainey Bavishi, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Resiliency**. “Using MOR’s Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines as a foundation, we will create a new resiliency scoring metric that will set stringent requirements for public projects. This will also provide greater transparency into how the City is assessing and addressing climate risks in the built environment. We thank Council for their partnership in passing this legislation and for their commitment to building a safer future for all New Yorkers.”

“The New York Building Congress commends the City Council for advancing efforts to create a more resilient and greener built environment. The passage of the resiliency design guidelines bill sends a strong message that New York City is a leader in climate policy and resilient construction. As climate change continues to exacerbate the frequency and intensity of disruptive events like storms and severe flooding, we must ensure City facilities and our infrastructure are prepared for the challenges ahead by proactively investing in resilient measures. The Building Congress looks forward to learning more from the pilot projects and to a continued partnership with the Council to help improve the resiliency of our city,” said **Carlo A. Scissura, Esq., President & CEO, New York Building Congress**.

"The Bronx River Alliance is proud to be a part of this effort to pass Intro 2092 and protect our communities and NYC as a whole from the impacts of climate change," said **Christian Murphy, Ecology Coordinator for Bronx River Alliance**. "Now more than ever we are seeing the challenges that vulnerable communities are struggling with, and now more than ever we need comprehensive legislation that guarantees NYC's resilience in the face of the worsening climate crisis. As a community-based environmental organization, we know that the time for action is now."

"Climate change is already negatively impacting the Rockaways on a regular basis; this is a much needed and overdue first step to ensure our buildings and infrastructure are designed to meet future threats," said **Judah Asimov, Senior Manager of Planning and Outreach for Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity (RISE)**.

"Intro 2092 underscores a common truth about climate change and resilience: #WeCantUnknowThis so we simply must deepen New York City resilience for the greater good," said **Dr. Janice Barnes, Founding Partner of Climate Adaptation Partners and member, New York City Panel on Climate Change**

"We need to be designing and building for a future in which, despite climate threats, there are no interruptions to service, all New Yorkers have access to cool homes, and heat and flooding are mitigated by beautiful rain gardens and green spaces throughout all corners of our City," said **Amy Chester, Managing Director of Rebuild by Design**. "Intro 2092 is an important step toward realizing this dream and will integrate resilience into how we design, build, retrofit, and maintain our infrastructure, from the Bronx to Staten Island."

"Intro 2029 is an important step towards making NYC more resilient in the face of climate change," said **Sarah Charlop-Powers, Executive Director of Natural Areas Conservancy**. We join with the members of the Rise to Resilience coalition to thank the City Council for their leadership."

"If done right, Intro 2029 stands to be the most common sense and effective approach to increasing the resiliency of NYC coastal communities yet. Newtown Creek and its surrounding communities stand to benefit greatly," said **Lisa Bloodgood, Director of Advocacy and Education, Newtown Creek Alliance**. "We look forward to working with the City, OLTPS, and our environmental justice and climate resiliency partners across NYC to shape the new design guidelines and resiliency scores. Thank you to the #Rise2Resilience Coalition for prioritizing this legislation on behalf of all vulnerable New Yorkers."

"As a proud member of the #Rise2Resilience Coalition, Brooklyn Greenway Initiative wholeheartedly supports Intro 2092 as it would require resiliency measures to be incorporated into city capital projects and the advent of a resiliency grade for our public infrastructure," said **Terri Carta, executive director of Brooklyn Greenway Initiative**. "Imagine more of our citywide greenways being GREEN beyond green paint -- landscaped carbon-capture and habitat corridors, incorporated with flood protection and stormwater capture systems, and means for significantly reducing GHG emissions by reducing vehicle use.... all the while increasing public access to the waterfront for all New Yorkers."

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The Rise to Resilience campaign is spearheaded by the [Waterfront Alliance](#). [Rise to Resilience](#) is a campaign and coalition of residents, leaders in business, labor community and justice, volunteer organizations, scientists, environmental advocates, and design professionals collectively calling on our federal, state, and local governments to make building climate resilience an urgent priority in 2020 and beyond.