



# LIST OF NRDC'S POST-SANDY PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTION

1

**Expand** availability of floodplain buy-out programs that compensate property owners who choose to relocate out of the most dangerous flood zones, so that those lands can be converted into wetlands, parks or other green spaces.

2

**Enhance** protections for wetlands and advance implementation of other "natural barriers" (e.g. oyster reefs, sea grass, dunes) to protect communities from storm surges and rising waters.

3

**Increase** investments in cost-effective "green infrastructure" to help absorb stormwater runoff (while beautifying both coastal and inland communities).

4

**Eliminate** incentives to live in flood prone areas. This means implementing reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program, including the phase-out of subsidized rates and updating of flood-risk maps (while finding ways to assist current property owners who are unable to afford the full costs of unsubsidized insurance premiums for their primary residences). It also means adopting laws and rules that require property owners in flood zones to rebuild smarter (including the adoption of tough new building resiliency standards).

5

**Ensure** that FEMA requires states to develop disaster preparedness plans that recognize increased flooding and other disaster risks from our changing climate.

6

**Reform** NEPA and state environmental review procedures so that proposed projects fully analyze resilience and energy efficiency alternatives in light of climate change realities.

7

**Protect** critical infrastructure and make it more resilient to future disasters, including our energy generation and distribution systems, our drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities and our public transportation and emergency response systems.

8

**Establish** environmental health protection, resiliency planning and recovery programs aimed specifically at protecting the most vulnerable populations, including environmental justice communities, persons with pre-existing medical conditions and persons without the financial resources to fully protect themselves and the health of their families.

9

**Require** federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations to develop and implement performance measures related to climate preparedness for all priorities under their jurisdiction.

10

**Address** the root causes of climate change to mitigate long-term changes in weather-related disasters, including by reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants, significantly scaling up energy efficiency, and increasing the deployment of renewable energy, clean distributed generation and electric vehicles.