**Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Report Cards**

**The President & Federal Agencies: HUD, FEMA, & ACOE**

**Overall: C-**

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| Issues | Score | Why? |
| **Leadership** | **C** | The President worked to get funding for New Jersey and has announced a Climate Action Plan. Obama called for HUD to oversee the Sandy Rebuilding Taskforce |
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| **Responsiveness** | **D+** |  |
| Transparency | **C** | HUD had a stakeholder process and posted materials on its website for the public  FEMA and the ACOE have not been transparent with no open process |
| Accountability | **D** | When people raise problems to HUD staff and leadership they received responses and often changes were made.  FEMA has been horrible to deal with, especially in the flood insurance program. FEMA made changes to the mapping based on political pressure rather than science.  ACOE is not accountable to anyone and is moving forward with beach replenishment projects that do not consider future sea level rise or climate change |
| Public Process | **D** | HUD had a relatively good public process with open meetings and invited in stakeholders  FEMA meet with some towns after the mapping was proposed, but had a relatively closed process around the flood insurance and relief funding. They did establish a Natural Resource Committee but that had limited public input  ACOE did not have an open process |
| **Policy and Planning** | **B** |  |
| Science-based Policy Decisions | **B** | The Obama Administration believes in climate change and is taking action. The President and HUD call for science-based planning but we will see if it gets implemented  FEMA and ACOE are not looking at climate change or sea level rise in their decision making |
| Regional Planning | **C** | HUD calls for regional planning and is providing funding but we not seeing it being implemented by the state |
| Mitigation and Adaptation Planning | **C** | The HUD Taskforce Report calls for climate and sea level rise adaptation planning but they are not requiring the states to do it.  Other Sandy impacted states are implementing these changes while New Jersey lags behind |
| **Action** | **B-** |  |
| Addressing Climate Change | **B** | In June, the President released his Climate Action Plan including scaling up responsible clean energy production on public lands and using the Clean Air Act to cut dangerous carbon pollution from power plants. Last month EPA has released draft regulations to limit such carbon pollution  In September HUD released their Sandy Rebuilding Strategy Taskforce Final Report, implementing the President’s Climate Action Plan  The EPA released their Carbon Rule this year to cut emissions from power plants |
| Restoring Natural Systems | **C** | HUD calls for restoring natural systems such as wetlands and natural dunes over engineered systems  ACOE fails to reflect this reality. They are not requiring dunes north of Manasquan. Even dunes do not fully prevent flooding, especially on the Bay side, and there is no plan in place to protect those areas. |
| Energy Efficiency and Green Building Codes | **B** | The President’s Climate Action Plan includes new energy efficiency standards for federal buildings and appliances  The HUD Taskforce Report calls for the most up to date building codes to be used |
| Infrastructure | **C** | HUD is calling for not just hardening the grid, but making it more resilient including distributive generation, microgrid, combined heat and power, smart grid, renewable energy and energy efficiency. HUD also called for hardening other vulnerable infrastructure including phone lines, cable lines, water, sewer, etc. They are also calling for addressing climate change and sea level rise in rebuilding, not just hardening.  EPA has giving funding for water and sewer and addressing storm surges, but necessarily storm surges and sea level rise |
| Regulatory Issues | **C** | Different agencies need to adopt the regulatory changes proposed in the Sandy Taskforce Plan including resiliency, climate change, restoring natural systems, and addressing sea level rise and that has not happened yet  The EPA released their Carbon Rule this year to cut emissions from power plants |
| **Outcomes** | **D** |  |
| Oversight | **D** | Oversight on the State of New Jersey has been lax |
| Implementation | **D** | The recommendations in the Taskforce Report will help make states more resilient. However they are not requiring states to do it. |

**Congress was not included because they have shown no leadership on the issue. They were a major hurdle to getting funding for the Shore Communities and they have refused to take action on climate change.**