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On the ground – and at the table.

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Report Shows How New York City Can Protect Itself from Worst Effects of Climate Change under Trump

New York, NY – With Trump operating as the Climate Change Denier-in Chief, and federal budget cuts expected for key environmental protection programs, a group of influential advocates have moved quickly to put together a new report showing how New York City can protect low-income communities of color that are most vulnerable to extreme climate events.

Today, the [New York City Environmental Justice Alliance \(NYC-EJA\)](#) released [Climate Justice in a State of Emergency: What New York City Can Do](#), a pragmatic [roadmap](#) for how a progressive city can lead the way on environmental and climate issues while challenging the reactionary policies of the Trump administration.

The [report](#) focuses on five key areas of city government action and policy: 1) urban heat island mitigation; 2) food system resiliency; 3) renewable energy and energy resiliency; 4) air quality and low-emission zones; and 5) coastal resiliency.

“Under Mayor de Blasio’s leadership, New York City can take bold action right now to protect our communities from the worst effects of climate change under Trump. Our new report offers specific policy recommendations and concrete ideas for how to protect communities that will be exposed to the greatest climate threats and risks while Trump is in the White House. We are eager to partner with the de Blasio administration to defeat the worst of Trump’s climate change denialism, and to implement the best of what the environmental justice movement has envisioned for a better and more resilient future,” said **Eddie Bautista, Executive Director of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance**.

Some key recommendations in the [report](#) include: creating comprehensive, neighborhood specific plans to boost community preparedness in areas where heat-related mortality rates will rise the fastest; pursuing comprehensive food mapping at the community level to ensure that emergency food supplies are more readily available locally in advance of extreme climate events; increasing the city’s share of wind energy sector to meet local energy demands and create jobs; establishing low-emission zones to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve public health, especially in communities overburdened by truck traffic; and broadening coastal protection in Significant Maritime and Industrial Areas (SMIAs), where the clustering of potentially noxious and polluting infrastructure poses high risk of toxic exposure to residents.

For recommended programs and actions that require new funding, the report shows how revenue can be raised to pay for them. A citywide fund could be created by adding a \$100 fee on all NYC Department of Buildings permits issued, with the potential to generate more than \$19 million annually. Another revenue proposal is to ask businesses within the SMIAs to contribute \$0.10 per sq. foot of property to a citywide fund, with the city matching private contributions at 25%. Under that proposal, the South Bronx could generate almost \$4 million a year.

About the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA)

Founded in 1991, [the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance \(NYC-EJA\)](#) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 city-wide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA empowers its member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable environmental burdens through the coordination of campaigns designed to inform City and State policies. Through our efforts, member organizations coalesce around specific common issues that threaten the ability for low-income communities of color to thrive.

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