

SESSION III: REFLECTING ON HURRICANE SANDY: NEW & RE-EMERGING INEQUITIES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

ANA ISABEL BAPTISTA, PHD

Milano School of International Affairs, Management & Urban Policy, THE NEW SCHOOL
New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

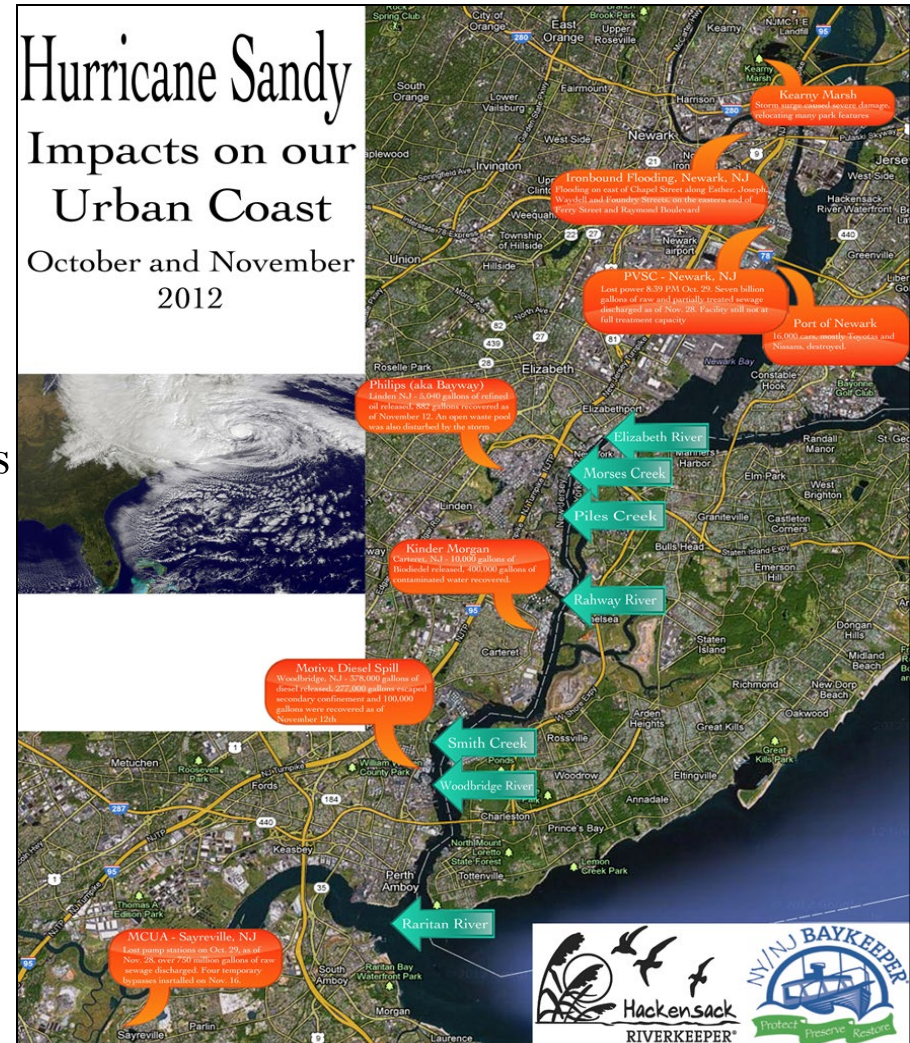
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GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE & INEQUALITY:
LOCAL TO GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

WHAT SANDY REMINDED US ABOUT INJUSTICE & VULNERABILITY

- Vulnerable Industrial waterfronts
- Disproportionately Exposed to Pollution
- Housing Insecurity
- Health Disparities
- Aging, failing infrastructure
- Limited access to resources for recovery
- Weak communications & disaster systems
- Importance of Social Resilience
- Worker Safety compromised



The Second Disaster: Hidden Victims of Sandy

Environmental justice is about slow-motion disasters—and disasters reveal environmental injustice in a fast-forward mode. Both revolve around the axes of disparities of wealth and power.
(Pastor, 2006)

Ways that Sandy Continues to be felt in EJ Communities:

1. Exacerbation of Toxic Exposures & Disparities
1. Displacement & Community Dissolution
1. Trauma & Long term Health Impacts
1. Marginalized from Recovery & Resiliency Processes
2. Exploitation by Disaster Capitalists

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Climate justice acknowledges that in the face of potentially catastrophic climatic change, significant challenges threaten the human world, the non-human world, sustainability, governance and decision-making
(Adger et. al. 2006).

5 Aspects to understanding climate justice (Barnett, 2006):

1. Responsibility for climate change is not equally distributed
2. Climate change will not affect all people equally
3. Vulnerability is determined by political-economic processes that benefit some more than others
4. Climate change will compound under development because of the processes of disadvantage embedded within the status quo
5. Climate change policies may themselves create unfair outcomes by exacerbating or ignoring existing & future inequalities