



APRIL 12, 2024 | NEW YORK CITY

# RESILIENCE SUMMIT



OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

# ELIJAH HUTCHINSON

Mayor's Office of Climate and  
Environmental Justice



# **BUILDING A RESILIENT NYC**

Elijah Hutchinson, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of  
Climate and Environmental Justice



# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Overview of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice
3. Impact of Sandy on New York City's resilience planning
4. What have we learned
5. What challenges remain

# Elijah Hutchinson, Executive Director of MOCEJ



# MOCEJ Overview



# What is MOCEJ?

The Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) is committed to doing the critical work of **addressing climate change** in our city with a focus on **equity, justice, and public health**. By leading the city's strategy to confront our climate crisis, we're creating a **more sustainable and resilient future** for the 8.3 million people who call our five boroughs home and for future New Yorkers.



# Our mission

Develop **world-leading climate policies and programs** with innovation, creativity, and inclusivity to **improve quality of life** now and into the future, address the **drivers of climate change**, and achieve **environmentally and economically just outcomes** for all New Yorkers.





# We're connected to three other Mayoral Offices



# Together, we lead an ambitious climate agenda for the City



Reduce citywide emissions **100% by 2050**



**Carbon-neutral emissions** from our largest buildings by **2050**



Reduce embodied carbon **50% by 2033**

# Our priorities for 2024 include:

## Decarbonization

- Develop LL97 funding and financing solutions
- Advance policies to reduce embodied carbon
- Collaborate on fossil fuel phase out planning
- Implement Public Solar
- Catalyze energy storage

## Environmental Justice

- Grow Climate Strong Communities
- Release EJNYC Plan

## Project Implementation

- Climate Budgeting

## Resiliency

- Complete Rainproof NYC workshops
- Launch Housing Mobility programs and services
- Advance Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines (CRDG) Pilot and climate resilience scoring metric
- Extreme Heat:
  - Advocate for Maximum Indoor Temperature Legislation
  - Initiate Urban Forest Plan

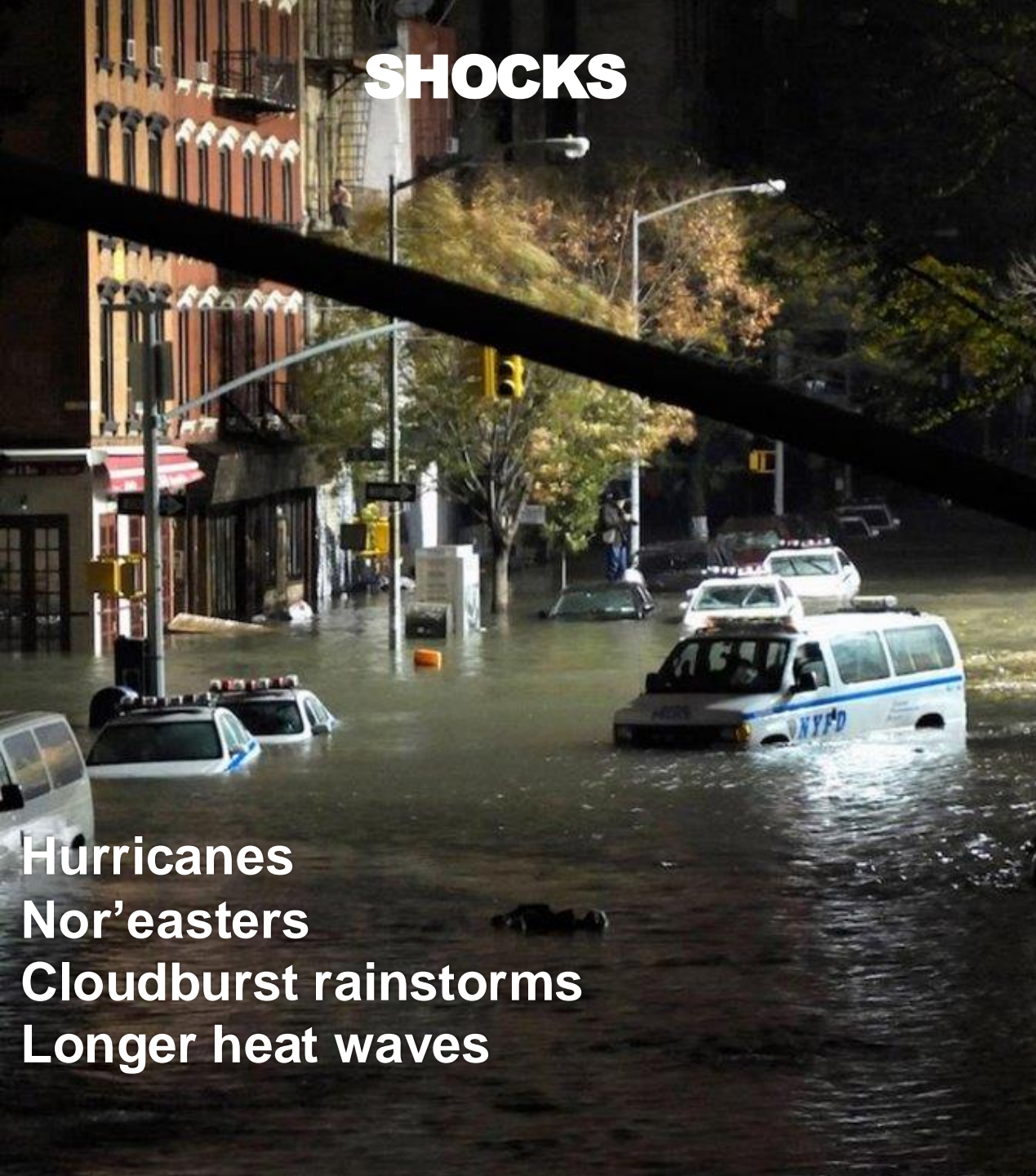
## Transportation

- Conduct Electric School Bus Citywide Resilient Infrastructure Plan
- Deploy micromobility and EV charging infrastructure

**In 2012, Superstorm Sandy hit our shores. This fundamentally shifted how we think about our risks and vulnerabilities.**



# SHOCKS



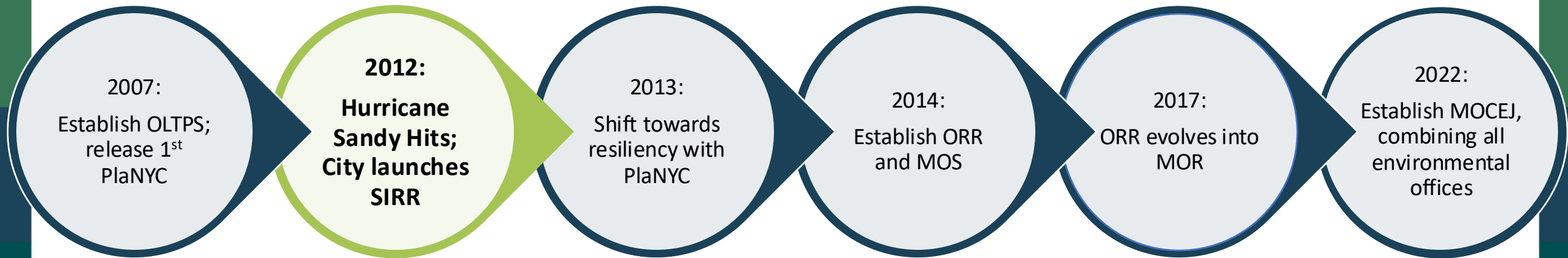
Hurricanes  
Nor'easters  
Cloudburst rainstorms  
Longer heat waves

# STRESSES



Tidal flooding  
Higher average temperatures  
Groundwater rise

# The City stood up structures to address these risks,



# Leveraged infrastructure funding,

In the wake of Sandy, New York City received **nearly \$17B in federal funding** to **both rebuild and protect from future threats.**

We've learned important lessons from this process, informing how we approach future federal funding opportunities and how we realize these large-scale projects



# Built emergency preparedness into climate strategy

Climate policy must both **plan ahead to prevent future risks**, while also **build out our emergency responses**, allowing us to support New Yorkers during time of acute needs.





# Today we are preparing for a range of climate hazards



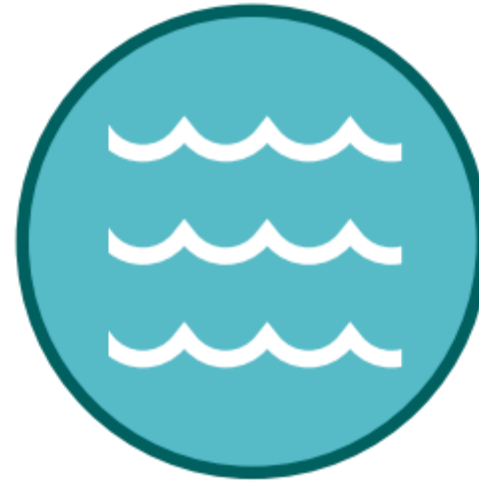
EXTREME HEAT

Projected 4x more heat waves by the 2080s



EXTREME RAINFALL

Up to 22% more precipitation by the 2080s



CHRONIC TIDAL FLOODING

Up to 3.75 feet of sea level rise by the 2080s



COASTAL SURGE FLOODING

# Our work is rooted in the latest climate science

As an office, we work directly with leading climate scientists and research institutions to understand the **local impact** of **global climate trends**, ensuring our projects and priorities **reflect the latest understanding of risks and vulnerabilities**. This work includes:

- New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC)
- Climate Vulnerability, Impact, and Adaptation (VIA) report



# Climate Strong Communities: the next generation of resiliency projects

CSC is a new engagement and planning program that:

- **Invests in communities** left unaddressed by limited Hurricane Sandy recovery funding
- Is a **community-centered planning** process that proactively engages with stakeholders
- Maximizes **federal and state funding opportunities**
- Leverages **existing resiliency and sustainability planning and capital commitments**



**With Sandy as a catalyst, New York City is now a leader in bold climate policy and sets a global precedent**



# Delivering coastal resilience infrastructure

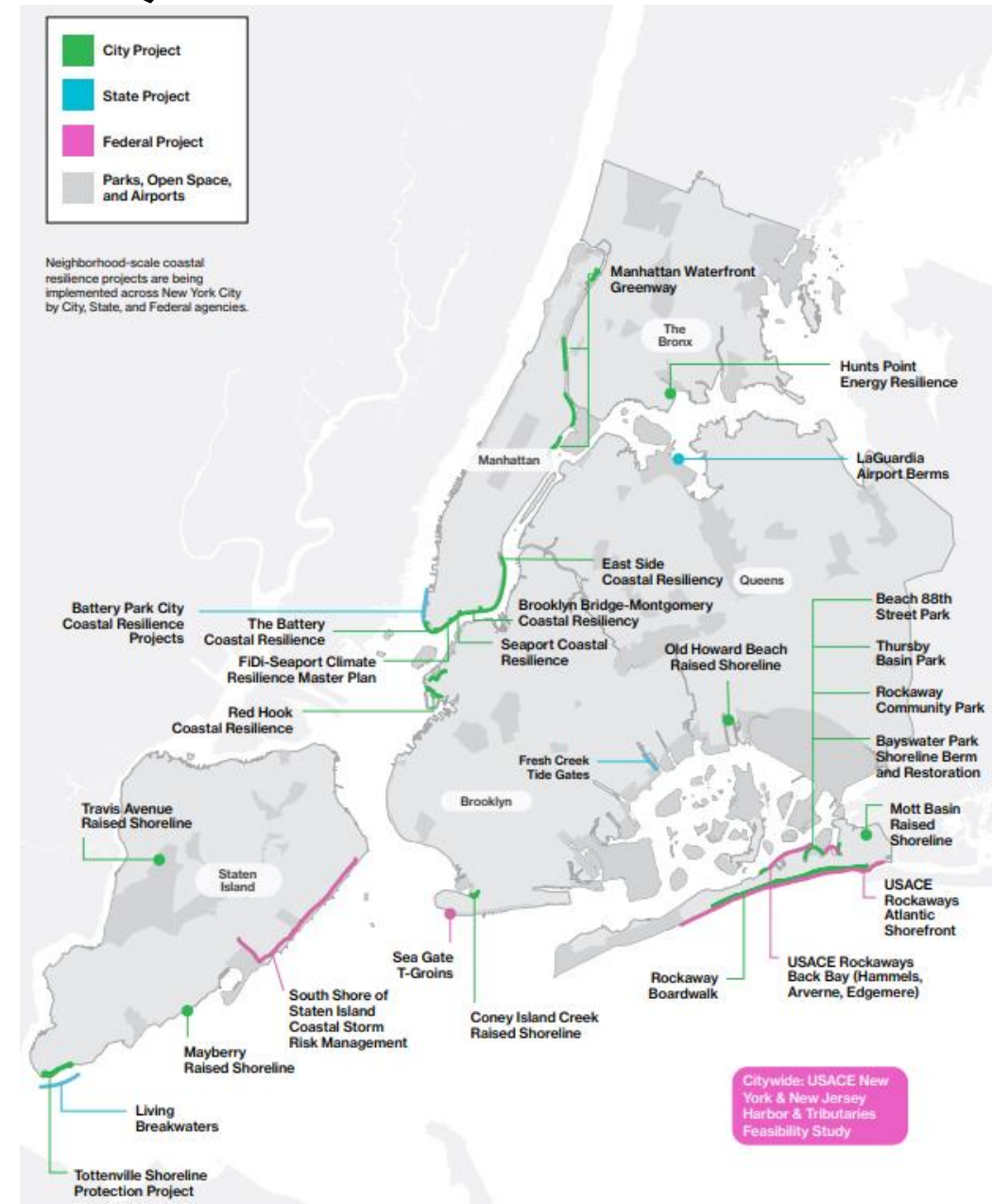
- Addressing **multiple hazards** and creating multi-purpose solutions in a **dense, urban environment**
- Planning for **future risk**
- Prioritizing the **most vulnerable populations**
- Taking a tailored, **community-by-community** integrated approach
- Conducting robust **public engagement**
- Incorporating **natural and nature-based solutions** wherever possible



# Working with city, state, and federal partners

We are working closely with the newly formed **Bureau of Coastal Resilience** on our coastal portfolio, thinking about **future projects and the long-term maintenance and operations**

We are also coordinating with the **US Army Corps of Engineers** on the New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries study, providing comments on the initial recommendations and thinking through implementation



# Rethinking our open spaces, especially along the water

We're delivering coastal protection projects that accomplish important co-benefits, such as:

- ESCR delivering a new Asser Levy Playground
- LMCR providing greater waterfront access
- BMCR creating new recreational spaces beneath the FDR



# Reducing emissions from our largest buildings

Part of the Climate Mobilization Act, LL97 is a **first-of-its-kind legislation** that places **limits on New York City's large buildings**

Accomplishing this goal will require **close partnership** between building owners, State, City, Federal government, private sector, utility companies, etc

Some ways we're accomplishing this include:

- Standing up Mobilization Council Taskforces
- Creating new funding and financing mechanisms + outreach to owners





# Supporting low-carbon construction

To achieve our goals of reducing the construction industry's carbon footprint by 50% by 2023, **we're working with City agencies, the private sector, and research institutions** to increase material efficiency and expand the use of low-carbon materials.

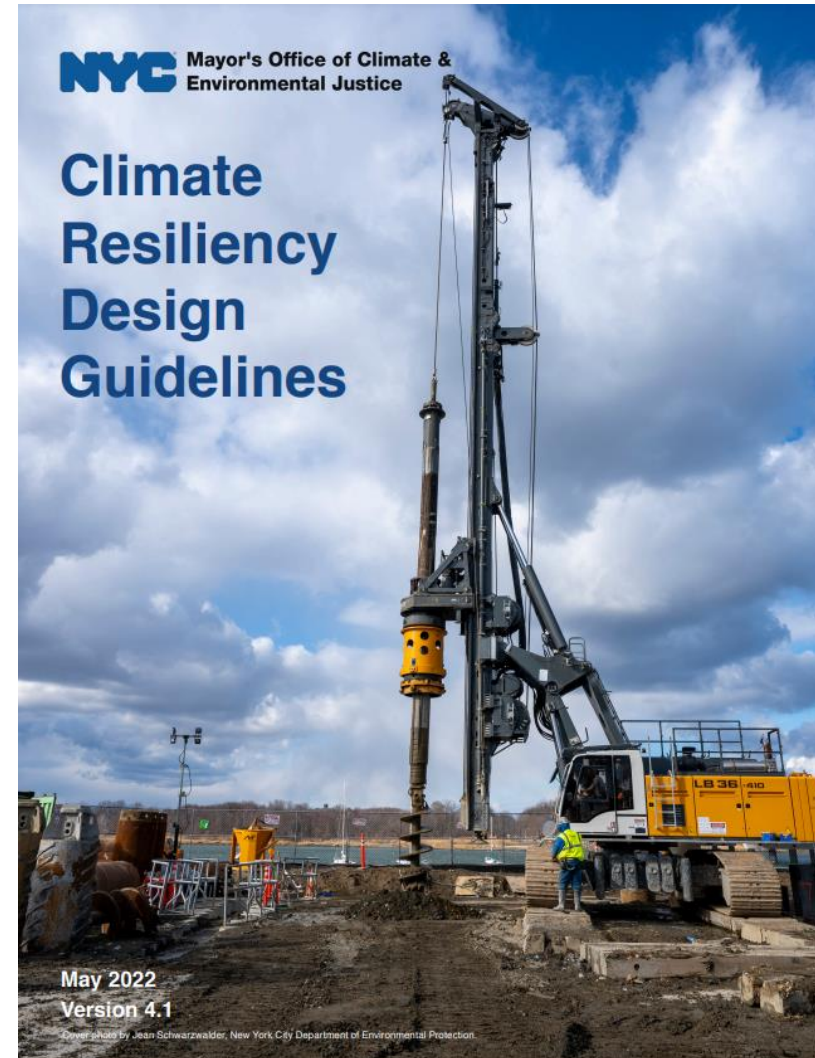
This includes partnerships around **mass timber, ground glass pozzolan for concrete, environmental product declarations for concrete and steel, whole project life cycle assessments, and more**



# Implementing Climate Resilient Design Guidelines

Provides step by step instructions about how to go beyond building code, **ensuring new City-led developments are incorporating resiliency measures**

Over the next five years, the City is piloting the guidelines and scoring criteria, **working towards a full roll out and mandate by 2026**



# Embedding climate into all funding decisions

New York is **the first major city to implement climate budgeting**

Working with OMB, we are ensuring that climate is considered in **all future city investments**

- This is a process to make **smarter climate decisions in budget review and planning**
- Will ensure our **spending reflects climate science**



**This work comes with its  
challenges, and we continue to  
push against them**



# Getting a fair share

New York City **comprises roughly 45% of the state's population and 59% of its disadvantaged communities.** However, many state funding programs **have caps on the amount of money any one municipality can receive,** limiting the amount of state money that can go towards this work



# Slow pace of building infrastructure

It's challenging to build infrastructure in a dense, urban environment. It takes years to **bring a project from inception to completion**, creating time gaps in delivering critical resiliency infrastructure that **addresses urgent needs today**.



# Political headwinds

Despite a **shared sense of urgency amongst New Yorkers**, the challenges with implementing a policy like congestion pricing highlights the **political difficulties** these projects and programs can face.



# Maximizing impact of our private partners

We can't reach these goals alone -- as we work towards a sustainable and resilient future, we know we need **to work closely across sectors**.

Programs like the **Carbon Challenge and Plant Power Challenge** creatively engage the private sector, **leveraging their resources to amplify impacts**.

## Carbon Challenge

- Public-private partnership to meet goals around decarbonizing our buildings
- Over 100 participants, including universities, hospitals, residential property firms, hotels, commercial offices and retail organizations

## Plant-Power Challenge

- Public-private partnership to reduce emissions related to food systems
- Partners commit to reducing food-related emissions by at least 25% by 2030



# Embedding environmental justice

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, we released **the first ever EJNYC report**, highlighting the disparities that exist within New York City. The findings from the report will help us pursue additional funding opportunities, **bringing critical resources to vulnerable communities**.

The report is just the first step; up next is the EJ plan, which will **create a roadmap for closing those gaps**.

The EJNYC report and plan highlight the goals and questions this office grapples with: how do we use **data to inform investments**? How are we **embedding equity** in all that we do? And how does our work **tangibly improve the lives of New Yorkers**?

