



After Sandy: A Note from USGBC

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Credit: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Northeast Region

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The devastation left behind in the wake of Hurricane Sandy is tragic and sobering, and we've been working to stay in touch with our chapters who were in the path of the storm. At Urban Green in Lower Manhattan, all the team is safe though some remain without power. The office hopes to reopen next week. At the New Jersey chapter in Morristown, the office has power but there are issues related to getting the gas turned back on. Everyone is safe, and residential power is slowly being restored. In Connecticut, the local library opened its doors for re-charging tech tools but getting the power back on is still a slow process.

Elsewhere, power, wireless and cable outages are still compromising communication and recovery.

We're deeply hopeful that every member of our extended family is safe. We also know that all of these communities will need each and every one of us to help during the recovery and as they rebuild if people are to return to some semblance of normality in the near term. We're encouraging all our chapter members and all our national members to remember the people who need our assistance. Please find a way to help those whose lives have been turned upside down by contributing to the American Red Cross and to volunteer assistance wherever possible.

At USGBC we've been talking a lot about resiliency this year, especially in the context of recovering from natural disasters. It's clear it doesn't matter whether you are a big city or a small town, at the center of the world's capital with all its infrastructure expertise and first-responder support or in an impoverished country like Haiti, where the storm also left its mark. We all are vulnerable.

What gets us through is knowing that we have each other. And together we are working towards a built environment of the future that helps us make decisions that make us stronger and in the face of weather, may help us bounce back faster. We keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers.

1 comment

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Michele Skupic
Fidelity National Financial, Inc.

2 years 11 weeks ago

Great message and I am sure all of us from the extended USGBC family share your sentiments, thoughts and prayers. Thank you for letting us know you've been in touch with our extended USGBC family and for the most part they are safe albeit struggling. We are a national company and have hundreds of employees and offices in dire situations. Your call for all of us to continue to support donations to the Red Cross is still VERY critical to restore just the basic human necessities. We do have each other and as a nation these disasters really show what we are made of. It's times like these that our collective human spirits and acts of kindness shine brightest to support our fellow citizens, family and friends.

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