



New Climate Data Depict a City More at Risk

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The [Bloomberg administration](#) on Monday issued new warnings about New York City's vulnerability to [climate change](#), offering updated data to encourage businesses, residents and perhaps even future mayors to better prepare against hotter weather, fiercer storms and increased rainfall.

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Administration officials estimated that more than 800,000 city residents will live in the 100-year flood plain by the 2050s. That figure is more than double the 398,000 currently estimated to be at risk, based on new maps the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) released Monday.

Many more businesses and jobs will also be at risk.

[The data was released a day](#) before Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg was to issue a report on how the city can better prepare for major weather events, including those like [Hurricane Sandy](#).

Administration officials said that between 1971 and 2000, New Yorkers had an average of 18 days a year with temperatures at or above 90 degrees. By the 2020s, that figure could be as high as 33 days, and by the 2050s, it could reach 57, according to data collected by the New York City Panel on Climate Change.

The panel, formed in 2008 to assist in [PlaNYC](#), Mr. Bloomberg's sustainability initiative, [presented its findings in 2009](#). The mayor asked that the panel accelerate its updates for the post-Hurricane Sandy report.

A lot has changed in a short time, the panel concluded.

In 2009, it projected that sea levels would rise by two to five inches by the 2020s. Now, the panel estimates that the sea levels will rise four to eight inches by that time, with a high-end figure of 11 inches. Between 1900 and 2013, sea levels in New York City rose about a foot, administration officials said.

"It will not take another 100 years to get another foot," said Caswell F. Holloway IV, a deputy mayor.

Even as the mayor's office was presenting its climate data, FEMA was releasing its preliminary maps for the city, which are the first step in creating the final flood insurance rate maps that determine who lives in flood zones and how much they will pay in flood insurance.

When Hurricane Sandy hit on Oct. 29, the federal agency's flood maps were already

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considered outdated. They were revised in 2007, but had used data from 1983. In an attempt to help people rebuild, [FEMA released new advisory maps in January](#).

But those maps drew protests because they more than doubled the number of structures included within flood-prone areas, to 70,000 in New York City (out of a total of nearly one million structures), [making people vulnerable to sharp flood insurance rate hikes](#).

The maps released on Monday slightly reduce that number of affected structures, to 67,700.

According to the maps, which face an approval process of roughly 18 months, the most significant increase in flood-prone properties occurred in Brooklyn, where 25,800 structures are now considered at risk, up 253 percent.

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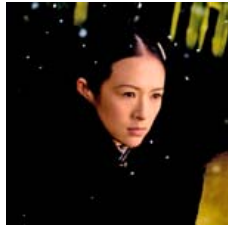
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