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Special Issue: *Advancing Tools and Methods for Flexible Adaptation Pathways and Science Policy Integration*

FOREWORD



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

March 2019

Dear Friends:

Hurricane Sandy struck on October 29th, 2012, and the morning after this devastating storm, New Yorkers awoke to a new reality. Our understanding of the acute impacts of climate change was forever altered. Sandy served as a call to action for our residents, a warning that we could lose our planet and must fundamentally change how we live, work, and build. In the years that have followed, people across the country have joined us in acknowledging these hard truths and taking steps to build a more sustainable, more resilient world.

In this report, published on the tenth anniversary of its founding, the New York City Panel on Climate Change outlines our growing understanding of just how extreme the effects of climate change may become. In doing so, it has given added urgency to the groundbreaking work New York City is undertaking to fight for a sustainable future.

Our city's historic climate change agenda includes a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050, aligning with the Paris Agreement's reach goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and a comprehensive resiliency plan to help ensure that we will be ready to withstand and emerge stronger from the impacts of climate change. Last year, we also announced a bold, first-in-the-nation goal to divest from fossil fuels and set an ambitious plan of doubling our pension funds' investments in climate solutions to \$4 billion by 2021.

These are ambitious goals, and we know they won't be accomplished overnight. But through a collaborative effort between government, civic leaders, the private sector, and the scientific community, we are confident that they are not only achievable, but eminently possible.

As we take steps to address the greatest environmental challenge of our time, we will continue to rely on the rigorous science provided by the NPCC and its dedicated members. We are united in our belief that ambitious policy grounded in sound science will help us forge a stronger, cleaner, and fairer New York City for all.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

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