



# Briefing Notice

## How Can Cities Become More Resilient to Extreme Weather?

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Monday, September 11, 2017

Room 122 Cannon House Office Building

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: [www.eesi.org/091117resilientcities#rsvp](http://www.eesi.org/091117resilientcities#rsvp)  
Live webcast (connection permitting) will be streamed at: [www.eesi.org/livecast](http://www.eesi.org/livecast)

Mayors are on the front lines when natural disasters and other catastrophic events threaten lives and property. The **National League of Cities** (NLC) and the **Environmental and Energy Study Institute** (EESI) invite you to a briefing about what cities throughout the United States are doing to protect their communities by investing in resilience. Infrastructure dollars are only part of the story. Equally important is funding for planning that accounts for new weather patterns with more severe impacts than we've seen in the past and preemptive action to keep people and structures safe and functional. Coordinating land use; updating building codes; and strengthening social networks, lifelines and communications are just a few examples. These investments are resulting in additional community benefits: lower monthly expenses for households, businesses, and the city itself; the protection and restoration of natural resources; and local economic growth and job creation.

The United States is experiencing more heat waves, more heavy downpours, more floods, and more droughts, according to the 2014 National Climate Assessment. Tropical cyclones cause the most damage—more than \$580 billion since 1980, followed by droughts (\$232 billion), severe storms (\$200 billion), and inland flooding (\$118 billion). More than 9,600 Americans have lost their lives in the 212 largest weather disasters since 1980. Certainly the enormous disaster in Texas is weighing heavily on the hearts of Americans across the country.

This briefing's speakers will showcase some of the concrete, actionable steps their cities are taking to reduce their vulnerability to extreme weather and the costly and deadly impacts of these events, and share lessons learned.

- **William Peduto**, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh (PA)
- **Nicole Antonopoulos Woodman**, Sustainability Manager, City of Flagstaff (AZ)
- **Cooper Martin**, Program Director - Sustainable Cities Institute, National League of Cities

Selected as one of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities in 2014, Pittsburgh was able to hire a Chief Resilience Officer, who is tasked with implementing the city's resilience plan. In 2012, Flagstaff, AZ, completed its Resiliency and Preparedness Study to assess the vulnerability of 115 of its critical, weather-impacted operations and has begun work on a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. NLC's Leadership in Community Resilience Program provided technical assistance in 10 cities to help strengthen local resilience initiatives.

This briefing is part of a series on "Building Resilient and Secure Infrastructure." Other briefings will examine building materials and methods, the role of federal R&D, coastal resilience, and national security.

**This event is free and open to the public.**

**For more information, contact Ellen Vaughan at [evaughan@eesi.org](mailto:evaughan@eesi.org) or (202) 662-1893.**

