

# Request for Nominations for New York City Panel on Climate Change Members

The Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) strives to adapt New York City to the unprecedented challenge of climate change, creating a more resilient, equitable, and vibrant city for the New Yorkers of today and generations to come. Through science-based analysis, policy and program development, and capacity building, MOCEJ leads the City's efforts to ensure that New York City is ready to withstand and emerge stronger from the multiple impacts of climate change in the near- and long-term.

The New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC) is a critical part of these initiatives. NPCC is a Mayor-appointed advisory board of researchers and practitioners with expertise on issues pertaining to climate change. NPCC's main charge, as stated in Local Law 42 of 2012, is to provide an authoritative source of actionable information on future climate change and its potential impacts to support City decision-making. NPCC achieves these goals through climate analysis and assessment every three years.

With this request, MOCEJ is seeking nominations for authoritative, representative, and diverse scholars and scientists committed to New York City's longstanding climate response. MOCEJ will work with NPCC leadership and City agencies to evaluate the nominations and identify approximately 15 individuals covering a range of scientific and research disciplines. More information on NPCC5 can be found below.

***Nominations must be submitted using this [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. Eastern time on August 19, 2024.***

## Evaluation Criteria

The City and MOCEJ are striving for NPCC to be authoritative, representative, and diverse. Because NPCC is an integral and important part of the City's climate response, we are seeking people who are committed to rigorous and actionable assessment and to public outcomes. Local Law 42 of 2012 stipulates that NPCC members serve at the pleasure of the Mayor without compensation. However, MOCEJ will support the NPCC to identify resources wherever possible to support the process.

MOCEJ will work with City agencies and NPCC leadership to evaluate the nominations on the following basis, listed in no particular order of priority:

**Expertise:** Nominees should have a well-established or promising record of scholarly contributions reflected in the number and influence of peer-reviewed publications and/or written products. Nominees should demonstrate dedication to their respective field through service roles in professional societies and recognition as thought leaders in their field. A concentration in urban systems (human and natural) is a plus. Familiarity with New York City is necessary.

**Applications Experience:** Nominees must have extensive experience making the results of their research useful for decision-makers and vulnerable populations, from producing or coproducing actionable data and findings to contributing to capacity building efforts. A commitment to shared learning, as evidenced through iterative exchange with a particular sector or community, is ideal.

**Assessment Experience:** Nominees must have experience with complex technical and scientific assessments. Experience with assessments related to climate and its impacts are ideal, but not necessary. Nominees must be able to work collaboratively with diverse experts from various stages in their career and from different research disciplines or practical fields. Nominees should have experience contributing constructively to expert elicitations. Familiarity with assessing and communicating scientific uncertainty is necessary.

**Accessibility and Availability:** Nominees must be able to dedicate between 10-15% of their time over the span of the NPCC5 process (see details on NPCC5 below). Periodically, nominees must be able to travel to New York City for in-person meetings and events, and whenever necessary to support the collaborative process, nominees should be available to meet in person or via virtual meetings. They must be available to respond to inquiries from the City and MOCEJ in a timely manner.

**Communications Experience:** Nominees must demonstrate their ability to communicate to a wide variety of audiences, from residents to legislators, and be open to communicating through a variety of media. Nominees should demonstrate an ability to speak on behalf of NPCC or a collective research endeavor and distinguish communications from their individual research interest.

## Requirements for Nomination

Interested persons may nominate themselves or third parties and may nominate more than one person, with a maximum of three nominations per person. Each nomination must include:

- 1. Curriculum vitae (CV)** (no more than 4 pages): CVs should include: a) full name, title, institutional affiliation, and contact information; b) the nominee's area(s) of expertise; c) a list of recent scientific publications, which should include peer-reviewed publications and may include technical reports, d) recent communications for a general audience and/or policy makers (e.g. briefs, public talks or lectures, etc.), and d) a list of participation in and any roles served for professional societies or other advisory committees.
- 2. Use case for research** (approximately 500–1,000 words) [not required for returning members]: A brief written statement on how the nominee's work has contributed to: a) societal outcomes; b) decision support products, tools, or applications; and/or c) cases where research has supported action or capacity-building. Please emphasize experience working collaboratively with other researchers and with the public sector.

3. **Reference or endorsement:** One reference or endorsement from the nominees' home organization or institution. This should support the nominee's ability to: a) work in teams; b) work across disciplines and topics relating to multiple climate impacts and hazards; c) synthesize complex subject matter into actionable findings; and/or d) familiarity with and commitment to climate resiliency and adaptation in New York City.
4. **Current and pending commitments** (no page limit): A list of current and pending commitments on other projects during the timeframe of NPCC5 (Fall of 2024 – Spring of 2027).

A short list of applicants may be contacted for interview during the summer of 2024.

## Target Expertise

MOCEJ encourages and welcomes a wide range of expertise across natural, social, and health sciences to help make NPCC5 useful and relevant to the City's climate response. The list below provides a sample of research disciplines and technical and/or practical fields or issues; it is intended as an example of the range of expertise sought for NPCC, not a definitive list.

- Architecture and design
- Atmospheric science
- Behavioral or cognitive psychology
- Biology
- Climatology
- Coastal hazards
- Communications
- Decision support science
- Ecology
- Economics
- Engineering
- Epidemiology and public health
- Geology, geomorphology, hydrogeology
- Social and environmental justice

## NPCC5 Impact

NPCC provides authoritative, city-specific climate information that serves as the cornerstone of the City's overall risk management response to climate change. For example, in 2013, NPCC science was the basis for the City's rate case testimony that led to \$1 billion in resiliency investments by Con Edison. Additionally, NPCC climate projections have informed local laws incorporating additional safety measures into the building code to address events like Hurricane Sandy. Looking ahead, the City is making new investments in flood protection, energy supply, and building retrofits to address growing climate risks, all of which rely on NPCC assessments. The final scope and details of NPCC5 will be determined in the second half of 2024, in collaboration with successful nominees, new NPCC leadership, MOCEJ, and stakeholders.

## Roles of Authors and NPCC leadership

The NPCC co-chairs will work closely with program support staff and MOCEJ to oversee and guide the assessment process. The leadership team will also symbolize and strengthen the longstanding commitment to an integrated knowledge base spanning research to practice.

Through this call, we are seeking nominations for approximately 15 panel members.

Benefits of being an NPCC member include:

- Opportunity to learn more about and contribute directly to New York City's climate response.
- Interaction with City personnel in a variety of sectors.
- Recognition as an emerging or established leader in climate research.
- Opportunity to contribute to the City's climate research and monitoring agenda.
- Collaboration with other leaders in the field.
- Experience with cutting-edge assessment and risk communication techniques.

## Expectations

The City shall:

- a. Serve as the primary convener and liaison for the NPCC.
- b. Nominate NPCC co-chairs.
- c. Select NPCC panelists, through an open application process, to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.
- d. Provide administrative support to the NPCC.
- e. Coordinate opportunities for NPCC to engage with the public, with NYC agencies, and with other city advisory boards as needed.

The NPCC panelists shall:

- a. Serve in a voluntary capacity and commit to equal participation.
- b. Dedicate 10-15% of their time over the span on the NPCC process.
- c. Perform literature review and synthesis and analyze complex data.
- d. Produce written reports and visualizations (maps, figures, graphics).
- e. Seek to make their products as accessible and useful as possible to a policy and general audience.
- f. Avoid advocating for particular solutions or approaches.
- g. Maintain standards on information quality and data transparency.
- h. Engage in periodic outreach and engagement activities (presentations and workshops) with various NYC audiences.
- i. Participate in regular working group meetings and two all-hands meetings per year (the latter likely in person in New York City).
- j. Respond to comments from city and peer reviewers, and those that arise from public engagements.

## Scope of Work

One assessment report covering the following areas, and with a cross-cutting focus on equity and health implications throughout:

1. Further analysis of climate science projections published in 2024
  - a. Generating scientific guidance on percentiles and scenarios for NYC and the watershed
  - b. Geospatial map products that communicate uncertainty, risk, vulnerability, and resiliency
  - c. Possible updates to the Flood Vulnerability Index
2. Analysis of compound climate impacts
  - a. Groundwater flooding: analysis of current impacts and future projections
  - b. Forecasting extreme events, including drought
    - i. Impacts of drought on water supply
    - ii. Impacts of drought in the city
    - iii. How heat and precipitation projections relate to drought
  - c. Additional information about how outdoor temperature projections interact with indoor temperature, including by different housing types, and with the existing urban heat island effect
    - i. Assess new evidence on co-occurring poor air quality events, health, and power outages
    - ii. Impact of heat on building materials and risk to infrastructure
3. Regional climate impacts: how climate events in other regions could affect NYC and the watershed
  - a. Extreme heat and heatwave estimation
  - b. Air quality and impacts from wildfires
  - c. Impacts of sea level rise on saltwater intrusion, water supply availability and quality
4. Case studies of nature-based solutions in urban environments
  - a. Identify and analyze case studies of co-benefits, multi-hazard solutions, and on-the-ground impacts
  - b. Lessons learned from other cities, locally and globally
  - c. Attributing and accounting for benefits; identifying limitations

*There may be space to develop additional, one-off NPCC briefs responding to pressing climate topics.*