

After superstorm Sandy, Liers look to the future

April 27, 2013 by OLIVIA WINSLOW / olivia.winslow@newsday.com

How has superstorm Sandy changed the future of [Long Island](#)?

Newsday asked a cross-section of Long [Islanders](#) for their insight on this question, asking them to speak to their specialties and to be specific.

Here are their responses.

John D. Cameron Jr.

Chairman, [Long Island Regional Planning Council](#), managing partner, Cameron Engineering & Associates

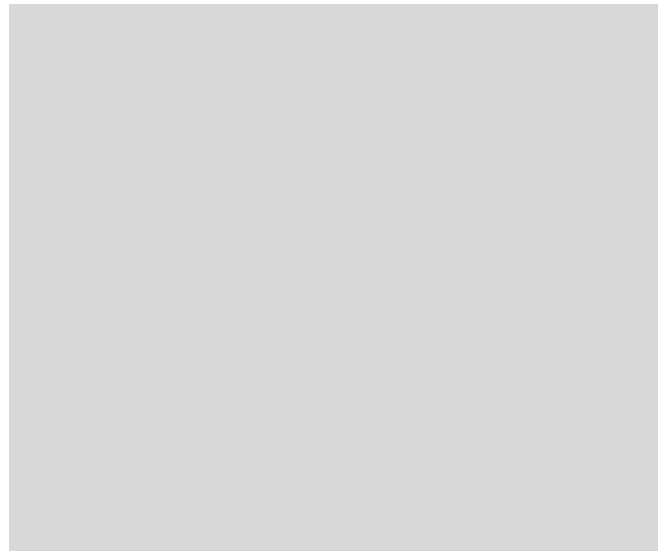
The impacts of superstorm Sandy on [Long Island](#) were physical, economic and psychological in nature. The weaknesses in our natural and built environment were exposed. In order for [Long Island](#) to survive future such events, it is critical that we assess our vulnerabilities and address them.

Buildings and bulkheads will need to be elevated, building codes revised, drainage systems upgraded, critical environmental and utility infrastructure made resilient, health care facilities protected and housing options, especially rental housing, expanded. Regional Emergency Preparedness Systems will need to incorporate state-of-the-art technologies to facilitate effective communication.

The economic impact of superstorm Sandy will be felt for years to come here on [Long Island](#). The short-term boost of federal subsidies into the construction industry will also be accompanied by a concomitant change in tax bases for many impacted communities. Assessment challenges will have a resulting tax increase on unaffected properties. Flood insurance rates for noncompliant properties will skyrocket.

Undoubtedly, the psyche of many, including some lifelong stalwarts in affected shoreline communities, has certainly been wracked. The uncertainty of funding has left many in a quandary as to whether or how to rebuild.

The future viability and sustainability of many shoreline communities and ultimately all of Long Island will depend upon our collective ability to deal with an issue that many have been up till now averse to accept -- change.



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