

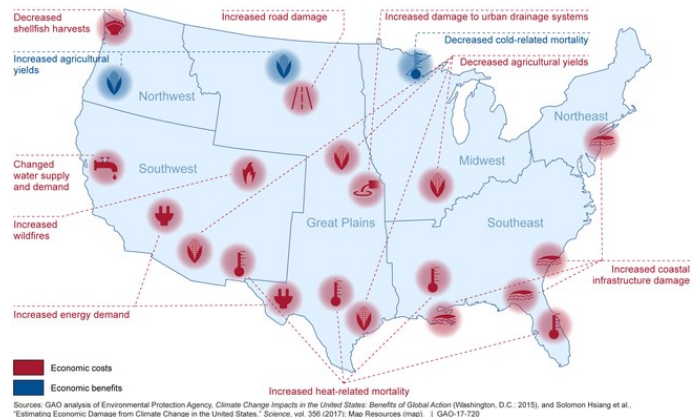
## *Hurricane Sandy's Legacy: Climate Resiliency Needed*

It's been five years since Hurricane Sandy slammed the Northeast with unprecedented fury. I'm reminded especially of this as I was working in Brooklyn at the time for one of the local utility companies serving customers in New York City and Long Island. "Restore, reconnect, rebuild," was the mantra coined by a senior leader in the operations center in the immediate aftermath of Sandy. If I could go back in time, I would have added in a final line: "for the future."

Sandy exposed vulnerabilities in the infrastructure of the Northeast. Energy infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, housing infrastructure; all were impacted by Superstorm Sandy. But it also helped spur the growth of green banks, microgrids, and adaptive solutions across the region. The first green bank in the US was started in Connecticut in 2012, with New York and New Jersey following in 2013.

According to Greentech Media, in 2014 the Northeastern states spent \$84 million on microgrids.

As extreme weather events increase in frequency and ferocity due to the effects of climate change, there will be more Sandy's, Harvey's and Maria's in the near, middle, and distant future. The Government Accountability Office published a long awaited report this past Tuesday which found that the federal government has spent over \$350 billion since 2007 in response to severe weather events. Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine and Democratic Senator Patty Murray of Washington requested this [GAO report in 2015](#).



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