



# Building Sustainable Communities Through Resilient Design

# Resilient buildings are central to a healthy and well functioning community, before **and after** natural disasters





# Natural disasters...

...threaten decades of progress in climate mitigation

## HURRICANE SANDY DAMAGES

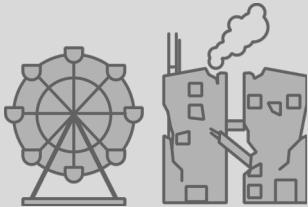
**305K**

Housing units in  
NEW YORK



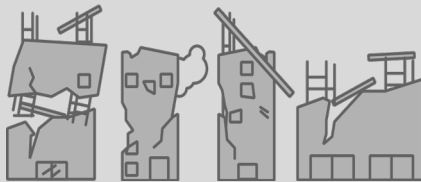
**346K**

Housing units in  
NEW JERSEY



**10M**

tons of debris  
generated



Vulnerable populations disproportionately live and work in **OLDER BUILDINGS** that may not be safe

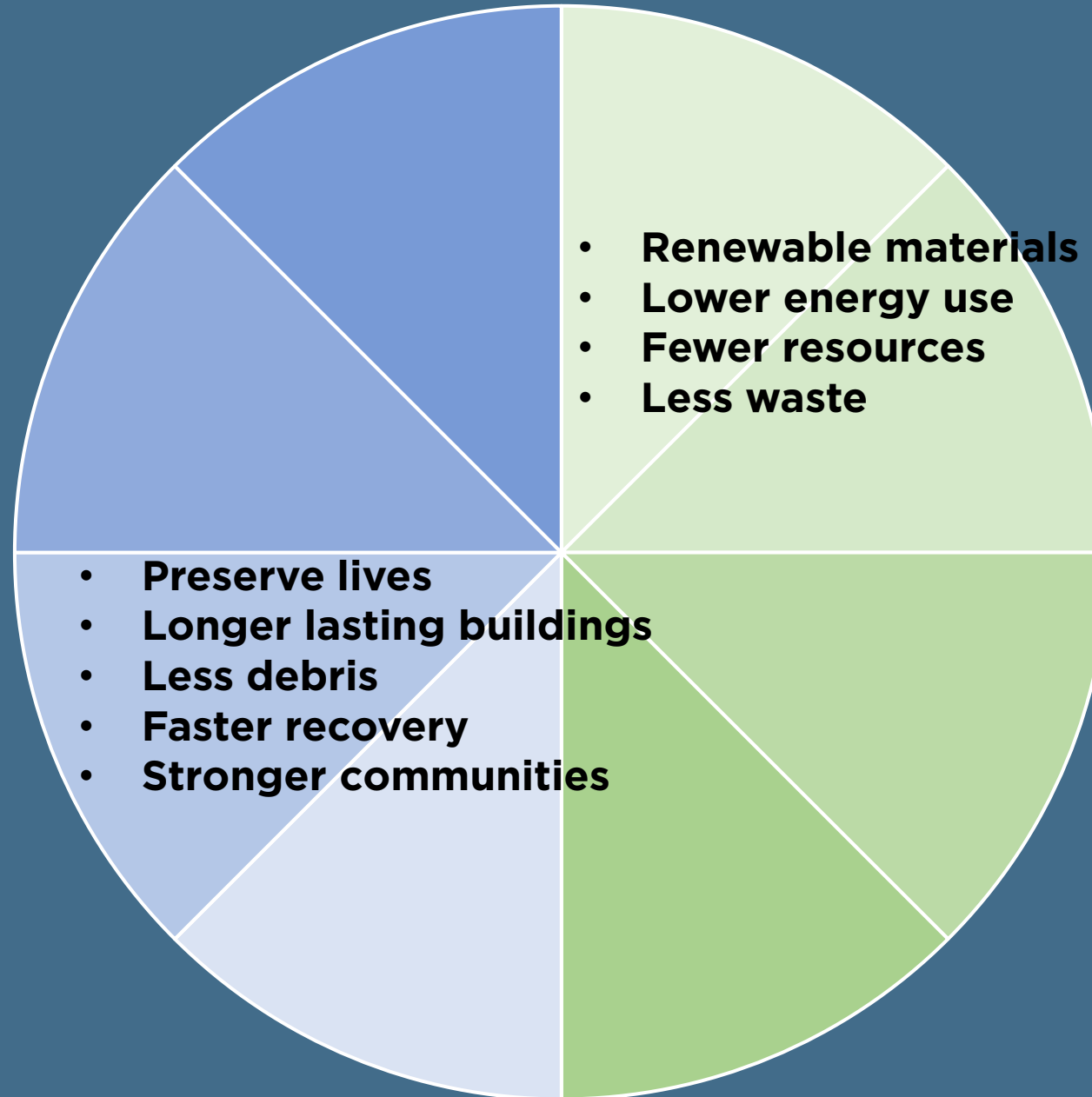


The impacts can hit **VULNERABLE POPULATIONS** harder, and for longer.



...don't discriminate, but recovery does

# Green + Resilient Design = Sustainability



## **Principle 1**

**Facilitate Integrated Demand**

**and**

**Supply-side Resource Planning**

# The USRC E<sup>4</sup> Principle



# Shared Benefits Justifies Shared Costs





# The USRC in Action – 2022 California Budget Act



**Soft Story buildings**, often used as low-income housing, are at extreme earthquake risk. Over 100,000 may exist in California alone.



Building a new affordable apartment costs \$400,000 to \$700,000 per unit



Retrofitting a soft story building costs \$5,000 - \$10,000 per unit



Protecting  
200,000 tenants

\$250 million in California  
grant funding



Matched by  
building owners

Retrofitting  
75,000 units





# The US Resiliency Council



A 501(c)3 organization



Engineering in the service of **equity**, the  
**environment** and the **economy**