

# REBUILD BY DESIGN

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## New Jersey Stands to Gain 26,000+ Jobs through \$3 Billion Investment in Climate Resilience, Backed by Overwhelming Public Support

*Rebuild by Design and AECOM Report Quantifies Job and Economic Benefits of Resilient Infrastructure in New Jersey as FDU poll finds 76% Support for Public Bond*

September 8, 2025 - Seventy-six percent of New Jersey residents support a \$3 billion public bond for climate resilience infrastructure, according to a poll released by Fairleigh Dickinson University today. Rebuild by Design's companion analysis finds that the same investment would support between 26,000 and 45,000 jobs.

The report released today, [\*Understanding the Potential Economic Impacts of Climate Resilience Investment Scenarios in New Jersey\*](#), was conducted by infrastructure firm [AECOM](#) and analyzes two funding scenarios for how New Jersey can create reliable state-level resilient infrastructure funding: \$3 billion and \$9 billion. For each scenario, the analysis identifies potential job creation both as standalone funding sources and under the assumption that the funds could be used to leverage additional federal programs. If combined with federal funds, the investments could support up to 45,000 and 134,000 jobs, respectively--the majority in the construction industry. Each scenario provides an opportunity to reduce risk to extreme weather hazards and stimulate New Jersey's job economy.

"Across New Jersey, communities are designing solutions to lower risk from extreme weather. We now know that residents overwhelmingly support these efforts," **said Amy Chester, Director of Rebuild by Design**, "A voter-approved ballot question or a modest surcharge on certain types of property and casualty insurance can fund new infrastructure, ready communities for the future, and support up to 134,000 jobs.

Investment in climate-resilient infrastructure would benefit construction, engineering, planning, environmental restoration, and long-term operations and maintenance. Beyond job creation, they could expand workforce development through apprenticeships and targeted local hiring, prioritizing communities most impacted by climate change and economic inequality.

"Investing in resilience now can provide quantifiable benefits to New Jersey residents and businesses," **said Ann DeBoer, Assistant Vice President and Associate Principal**,

**Buildings + Places Consulting at AECOM.** "A fund for resilience can both attract investment and strengthen New Jersey's long-term economic competitiveness."

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS BY INVESTMENT SCENARIO\*

| Impact                            | \$3 Billion Investment Scenario (Bond Act) |                      | \$9 Billion Investment Scenario (Insurance Surcharge) |                      |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|----------------------|
|                                   | Without Leveraged Funds                    | With Leveraged Funds | Without Leveraged Funds                               | With Leveraged Funds |
| <b>Direct Spending (Millions)</b> | <b>\$3,000</b>                             | <b>\$5,200</b>       | <b>\$9,000</b>  | <b>\$15,600</b>      |
| Direct Jobs                       | 13,000                                     | 23,000               | 40,000  | 70,000               |
| Indirect Jobs                     | 4,000                                      | 6,000                | 11,000  | 19,000               |
| Induced Jobs                      | 8,000                                      | 15,000               | 25,000  | 45,000               |
| <b>Total Jobs</b>                 | <b>26,000</b>                              | <b>45,000</b>        | <b>77,000</b>   | <b>134,000</b>       |

Source: AECOM Analysis.

New Jersey experienced 14 federally declared climate disasters between 20011-2024, and every county in the state received at least five disaster declarations, costing U.S. taxpayers over \$7.9 billion in recovery spending ([Atlas of Disaster: New Jersey](#)). Despite this, New Jersey currently lacks any dedicated, long-term funding to prepare for escalating climate impacts. A U.S. Chamber of Commerce report finds that every [\\$1 invested in resilience infrastructure saves \\$13](#) in future disaster costs.

The research models targeted investments across three categories:

- 40% for Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration
- 40% for Water Infrastructure
- 20% for Climate Resilience (e.g., urban cooling, community-scale adaptation, nature-based solutions)

Also released today, an opinion [poll conducted by Fairleigh Dickinson University](#) of likely New Jersey voters found that:

- More than 2 in 3 New Jersey voters say Trenton should be doing more to protect the state from extreme weather events.
- More than 3 in 4 New Jersey voters support a \$3 billion bond to fund flood risk reduction and protection projects.
- More than 3 in 4 New Jersey voters are concerned about the rising damage caused by extreme weather events, such as flooding.

"Extreme weather is already impacting New Jersey families and their pocketbooks, with the state facing \$277 billion in property value and \$3.2 billion in annual tax revenue at risk from flooding," **added Amy Chester, Director of Rebuild by Design**, "New Jersey voters overwhelmingly support actions to help communities adapt to increasing weather events. By planning ahead, we can mitigate loss of life, loss of homes, and loss of tax dollars."

These priorities align with the state's most urgent infrastructure needs and provide measurable co-benefits, from improved water quality and environmental health to lower heat exposure and reduced displacement.

[To read the full report, click here.](#)

[To download the executive summary, click here.](#)

\* **Direct impacts** result from spending on the initial project. For example, direct job impacts from a waterfront revitalization project might include designers, engineers, and on-site construction workers.

\* **Indirect impacts** result from funds going to the suppliers providing materials and equipment for the project, who, in turn, can grow and hire more workers.

\* **Induced impacts** result from direct and indirect workers spending their earnings on goods and services.