Econ 2505 -Environmental Economics

Class group project

November 18, 2016

Prof. S. MacDonald

After having read the posted article, “Five Ideas for Protecting New York from the Next Sandy,” New York Launches $19.5 Billion Climate Resiliency Plan”

you will complete the following group project assignment. The information you have reviewed on “green” occupations that are growing and projected to be in demand in the near future in New York (and nationally) should also help to inform your analysis, discussion and responses to the following questions.

The articles detail several project proposals, which would place protective infrastructure around the southern parts of lower Manhattan. Considering the kind of planning and innovation this project will involve, discuss and provide your answers to the following questions.

1. What kinds of occupations and skills would be involved and required in planning, designing and implementing this project? (think broadly about this) If ***you*** were involved in this project, what features, changes, etc. would you recommend? **Explain WHY.** What are some examples of jobs that could be created **directly**, indirectly and by ***induced effects?***
2. Which of the proposals or combination of proposals discussed does the group believe could be most effective in protecting the City against another major storm? Please explain your reasoning.
3. What sectors of the City’s economy would be potentially affected by the proposed changes? (i.e., tourism, recreation, residential life, commercial/businesses activity? Describe **how two of these sectors** would be affected by the project (either positively or negatively).
4. Do you believe this project has the ability to generate new types of businesses and sources of economic growth for the City’s economy? Provide an explanation and cite an example.
5. Consider the data on the ***economic costs*** ***and losses*** caused by the last storm. Would the project be an efficient investment in the City’s protective infrastructure? Do you believe the benefits of the project outweigh the costs of building it? Explain why. Is the design of the project ***sustainable*** from an environmental perspective? Why/Why not?

\*This project may be submitted hand-written at the end of class; alternatively, one member of a group may volunteer to type it up and submit it in the next class on November 25.