

Our December Focus: Elevating potential policy and investment solutions to combat the nation's maternal health crisis. (More below)



MATERNAL HEALTH: Our team released a [maternal health white paper](#) in collaboration with NYU's Rory Meyers College of Nursing highlighting the potential for investments in baby bonds, building a diverse maternal care workforce, home nurse visitation, and other interventions to preserve the health—and lives—of mothers and babies. [Read more.](#)



Ideas: At a recent New York Fed convening, activists and entrepreneurs talked about ideas to tackle hunger, ranging from an equitable grab-and-go dining franchise to diverting commercial kitchens' food waste to nonprofits. [Read more.](#)



Actions: Johnson & Johnson discusses its [race to health equity](#); The Brotherhood Sister Sol, a nonprofit, feeds [500 families](#) a week in Harlem; and CVS Health [invests](#) in affordable housing.



PATHWAY TO BETTER CREDIT: Property developer Related Cos. is working with fintech startup Esusu on a project aimed at helping thousands of residents in affordable housing [boost their credit scores.](#)

The partnership, covering 50,000 units of Related's affordable housing, gives tenants who pay rent on time a chance to establish credit histories and improve credit scores.



Actions: We wrote about how Fannie Mae is also using a history of [on-time rental payments](#) in the evaluation of mortgage applications by first-time buyers. We also wrote about what else can be done to [foster low-income homeownership.](#)



Ideas: The New York Fed's Dyvonne Body spoke on a [recent panel](#) about the nation's broken debt collection system and pioneering efforts to ensure debt collection litigation doesn't permanently damage debtors' financial security.

Also: The Federal Reserve Board of Governors and the St. Louis Fed have released a book, [Investing in Rural Prosperity](#), showcasing stories of how rural communities achieved economic progress. The book includes contributions from 79 authors in the U.S. and abroad. Look for an invitation next year to a New York Fed webinar or event highlighting the book and planned work from our team on broadband access.



GREEN BANKS: The 27 green banks in the world are "[pioneering financing products](#)" for a clean energy transition, a recent piece notes.

Clean energy investments driven by the banks will lead to a reduction of [48.03 million metric tons](#) of carbon dioxide emissions annually, according to a recent report, equal to taking 22.4 million cars off the road.



Ideas: Compressed air could be a storage solution for a grid running mostly on wind and solar, according to a recent report. Canadian company Hydrostar has filed applications to build two California plants that would [pump compressed air](#) into underground caverns, then release it to generate electricity by turning a turbine.

Also: A new study finds [bottom-up change](#) may work better than top-down efforts to reduce emissions. For example, [160 citizens](#) were chosen in a weighted lottery in Germany to represent the demographics of the nation. After a series of 12 meetings with professional facilitators, they wrote a list of 84 detailed climate policy recommendations, including drastically reducing meat and dairy consumption, eliminating coal use faster than currently planned, and requiring communities to complete climate protection plans by 2023.

INCLUSIVE CAPITALISM: Four members of The [New Capitalism Project's](#) design team talk about the current failures of the economic system and the possibilities presented by a different approach.



Ideas: Read about the [ESG Data Convergence Project](#) and the [Global Impact Investing Network's](#) efforts to standardize Environmental, Social and Governance reporting standards.

The New York Fed's Community Development unit works with community leaders to understand community needs and with capital providers to foster economic opportunities. We are searching for ideas that can tear down barriers to economic mobility for low- and moderate-income people; our focus is on the economic drivers of health, household financial well-being, and climate-related risks. Our goal is to elevate those ideas and connect them with funding. To see our [past events](#) and learn more, visit our [website](#).