



Anniversary Report
February 2012

GREEN CODES TASK FORCE 2010-2012

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URBAN GREEN COUNCIL

Urban Green Council is the New York Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Our mission is to lead the advancement of sustainability in urban buildings through education, advocacy and research.

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Thank you to The New York Community Trust and The Overbrook Foundation for their ongoing support of the Green Codes Task Force.

INTRODUCTION

Two years after the NYC Green Codes Task Force released its influential report, 29 of its 111 recommendations have been incorporated into laws and practices, with many others in the pipeline. By 2030, the measures already implemented will reduce citywide carbon emissions by almost 5%, lower daily water consumption by the equivalent of 30 Central Park Reservoirs, and divert 100,000 tons of asphalt from landfills annually, all while helping ensure that NYC's real estate industry takes a leadership role in creating new jobs in the clean tech economy.

While code changes often occur below the radar, they have profoundly influenced energy consumption, water conservation, air quality, public health, and use of recycled materials and will continue to do so for decades. Building codes are the DNA of a city – rules that are applied many times over in literally millions of design and development decisions every year, having an exponential impact on how the city functions.

Many of the new code changes remove barriers to green building, reducing red tape and updating outdated provisions written for another era. Some changes have facilitated renewable energy use, cleared the way for modern lighting controls, and put us on a path to encourage better buildings through zoning. Other changes improve enforcement of rules already on the books and educate the real estate industry and other actors on those codes. Still others add or update the codes with common-sense standards like metering electricity use in tenant spaces, sending rainwater to rivers instead of sewage treatment plants, and ensuring the carpet installed in New York City homes and offices doesn't release toxic fumes.

Greening the codes is good for health, energy costs, and the environment, but it's also essential

GREEN CODES SCORECARD

29	Enacted
	20 Laws
	8 Rules
	1 Program
8	Active
37	of 111

The Scorecard tallies enacted city, state and federal laws, new city regulations and programs, and Task Force recommendations under development.

if New York is to remain a competitive center for jobs and innovation. We look forward to further improving the DNA of our city over the next two years.

Urban Green Council thanks the Mayor's Office of Long-term Planning & Sustainability and City Agencies, the New York City Council and Council Staff, the Real Estate Board of New York, and the members of the Green Codes Task Force for their extraordinary efforts in making so many Task Force recommendations a reality.

To see the original Task Force report and current news, please visit our website.

ADDING IT UP

5% Less CO₂

That's the amount of citywide greenhouse gas emissions that will be reduced by 2030 from the green codes already passed. Adding in Task Force recommendations from the *Greener, Greater Buildings Plan*, the reductions rise to 7%.

2,100 Architects & Engineers Trained

To spread the word, we've made sure those designing and retrofitting buildings receive customized training on the NYC Energy Code.

10% Lower Lighting Energy Costs

The four laws passed on lighting efficiency will reduce electricity used for lighting in the average office by 10%.

100,000 Tons of Asphalt Diverted

Requirements for recycled asphalt will divert thousands of tons of waste from landfills each year.

30 Central Park Reservoirs Conserved

Thanks to new standards for plumbing fixtures, by 2030 we will save the equivalent of 30 Central Park Reservoirs annually (30 billion gallons).

15 Million Gallons Treated

Each year, concrete mixer trucks send millions of gallons of rinse water more caustic than Drano into streets and sewers. Starting in July, they will have to treat it.

800 City Blocks

Starting in July 2013, carpet sold or installed in New York City must meet strict standards for chemicals that off-gas into rooms. The amount of carpet impacted each year will be enough to cover over 800 city blocks. That's a lot of toxins that won't be going into New Yorkers' living rooms.

\$400 Million Saved

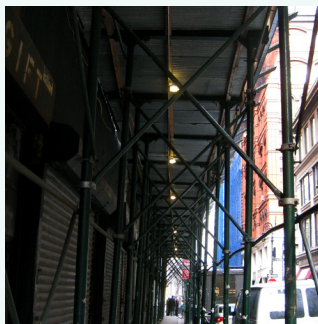
By 2030, the green codes enacted to date will substantially reduce New Yorkers' energy costs.



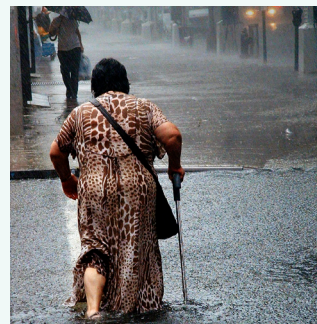
HT 20: Thirsty? Don't have \$1.50 for a bottle of water? No problem, pure Catskill Mountain water will be increasingly available in public places, now that vending machines can no longer serve as substitutes for water fountains in renovations or new construction.



EF 17: The Task Force proposed that biofuels should be legal heating fuels. City Council built on our proposal to require that 2% of heating oil be biofuel, and cooking oil that was lost as waste is now being converted to fuel oil and burned – a direct reduction in carbon emissions.



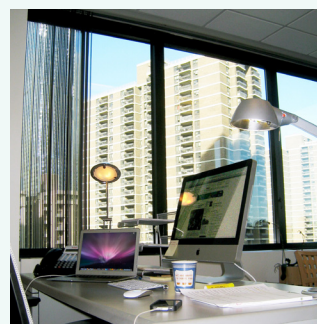
EE 16: Sidewalk sheds have become a permanent part of the New York City environment. Old regulations encouraged excessive use of inefficient incandescent bulbs. Now shed lighting must meet efficiency standards and can use modern methods to provide reasonable levels of lighting.



SW 2: Rainwater in the streets or down the sewers doesn't help street trees grow or lower summer temperatures. New regulations will increase the use of trees, planting, and other green infrastructure to capture and retain stormwater.



EF 11: Of course black roofs make the space beneath them hot, but they have an even greater impact on the spaces above them and our urban heat island. Recent legislation strengthens, tightens, and extends cool roof requirements, ensuring at least some mitigation of the hotter weather to come.



EO 2: Many commercial spaces have no electric meters, with charges included in the rent. This results in wasteful behavior. The *Greener, Greater Buildings Plan* incorporated a proposal similar to ours while the Task Force report was under development. As a result, most commercial spaces will be metered by 2025.



TWO YEARS OF GREEN CODES

TASK FORCE PROPOSAL	STATUS	CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY SPONSOR
OVERARCHING CODE ISSUES		
Add Environmental Protection as Fundamental Principle of the Construction Codes (OC 1)	Local Law 49 of 2010	James F. Gennaro
Don't Exempt Existing Buildings from Green Codes (OC 3)	<i>Active: Addressed on case-by-case basis as green codes enacted</i>	N/A
Streamline Approvals for Green Technologies & Projects (OC 6)	Local Law 5 of 2010	James F. Gennaro
Enhance Code Training for Architects & Engineers (OC 7)	Training developed and delivered by DOB, Urban Green, AIA, and others	N/A
HEALTH & TOXICITY		
Limit Harmful Emissions from Carpets (HT 1)	Local Law 2 of 2012	Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Restrict Cancer-Causing Formaldehyde in Building Materials (HT 3)	Federal Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act	N/A
Filter Soot from Incoming Air (HT 5)	Local Law 72 of 2011	Margaret Chin
Phase Out Dirty Boiler Fuels (HT 9)	NYC Rules, Title 15, Ch. 2 (DEP) & Local Law 43 of 2010	James F. Gennaro
Treat Corrosive Concrete Wastewater (HT 13)	Local Law 70 of 2011	James F. Gennaro
Reduce "Red Tape" for Asbestos Removal (HT 14)	NYC Rules, Title 15, Ch. 1 (DEP)	N/A
Increase Availability of Drinking Fountains (HT 20)	Local Law 55 of 2010	Mathieu Eugene

TASK FORCE PROPOSAL	STATUS	CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY SPONSOR
ENERGY & CARBON EMISSIONS: FUNDAMENTALS		
Promote Super-Insulated Exterior Walls (EF 4)	<i>Active: Zone Green (City Planning)</i>	N/A
Allow External Insulation Beyond Zoning Limits (EF 5)	<i>Active: Zone Green (City Planning)</i>	N/A
Increase Allowable Size of Solar Shades (EF 6)	<i>Active: Zone Green (City Planning)</i>	N/A
Minimize Air Leakage Through Building Exteriors (EF 7)	2010 NYS Energy Code Ch. 5 & ASHRAE 90.1 2010 Ch. 5	N/A
Reduce Summer Heat with Cool Roofs (EF 11)	Local Law 21 of 2011	Daniel R. Garodnick
Clarify Standards for Attaching Rooftop Solar Panels (EF 13)	<i>Active: Standards being developed by DOB</i>	N/A
Allow Large Solar Rooftop Installations (EF 14)	Local Law 20 of 2011	Erik Martin Dilan
Remove Zoning Impediments to Alternative Energy (EF 15)	<i>Active: Zone Green (City Planning)</i>	N/A
Remove Landmarks Impediments to Alternative Energy (EF 16)	NYC Rules, Title 63, Ch. 1 (Landmarks)	N/A
Allow Use of Biofuels (EF 17)	Local Law 43 of 2010	James F. Gennaro
ENERGY & CARBON EMISSIONS: OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE		
Re-tune Large Buildings Every Seven Years (EO 1)	Local Law 87 of 2009	James F. Gennaro
Measure Electricity Use in Tenant Spaces (EO 2)	Local Law 88 of 2009	Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.

TASK FORCE PROPOSAL	STATUS	CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY SPONSOR
ENERGY & CARBON EMISSIONS: ENERGY EFFICIENCY		
Increase Lighting Efficiency in Apartment Buildings (EE 7)	Local Law 52 of 2010	Eric Ulrich
Provide Ventilation Air Only as Needed in Large Spaces (EE 12)	<i>Active: Standards being developed by DOB</i>	N/A
Use Manual On - Auto Off Lighting (EE 13)	Local Law 48 of 2010	Daniel R. Garodnick
Reduce Artificial Lighting in Sunlit Lobbies & Hallways (EE 15)	Local Law 47 of 2010	Fernando Cabrera
Increase Lighting Efficiency on Construction Sites (EE 16)	<i>Active: Partially implemented by Local Law 51 of 2010</i>	Stephen T. Levin
Ensure Lighting Systems Function Properly (EE 26)	NYC Rules, Title 1, Ch. 5000 (DOB)	N/A
RESOURCE CONSERVATION		
Use Recycled Asphalt (RC 4)	Local Law 71 of 2011	James F. Gennaro
WATER EFFICIENCY		
Enhance Water Efficiency Standards (WE 1)	Local Law 57 of 2010	Jessica S. Lappin
Catch Leaks by Measuring Water Use (WE 3)	Local Law 56 of 2010	Brad Lander
Stop Wasting Drinking Water for Cooling (WE 6)	Local Law 54 of 2010	Inez E. Dickens
STORMWATER		
Reduce Stormwater Runoff from New Developments (SW 2)	NYC Rules, Title 15, Ch. 31 (DEP)	N/A
Send Rainwater to Waterways (SW 4)	NYC Rules, Title 15, Ch. 31 (DEP)	N/A
Encourage Innovative Stormwater Practices (SW 5)	NYC Rules, Title 15, Ch. 31 (DEP)	N/A
Maintain Site-Based Stormwater Detention Systems (SW 6)	NYC Rules, Title 15, Ch. 31 (DEP)	N/A

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