

GREENER, GREATER BUILDINGS PLAN

Lighting Upgrades

Summary of proposed legislation - Earth Day 2009

General

The proposed legislation requires that lighting systems in large buildings be upgraded to meet the requirements of the New York City's Energy Conservation Code at the time of renovation or by December 31, 2022.

Requirements

This legislation will apply to buildings on tax lots with 50,000 or more gross square feet of built area.

Prior to December 31, 2022

When commercial and retail tenant spaces are renovated in buildings covered by the law, the lighting in rooms being renovated must be brought up to the lighting provisions of the energy code. This will not apply to renovations costing less than \$50,000, nor will any room need to be upgraded more than once.

By December 31, 2022

Lighting in buildings, excluding multi-family residential units, must meet the lighting provisions of the energy code or have been upgraded since July 1, 2010. Documentation will be required to be submitted to the Department of Buildings.

Benefits

In New York City, lighting accounts for approximately 20% of the energy used in buildings and roughly 20% of a building's carbon emissions. During the past few decades there have been rapid improvements in lighting technology, which have resulted in a dramatic reduction of energy required for lighting. Lighting upgrades generally pay for themselves in 18-24 months, making them highly cost effective. By addressing lighting in the city's largest buildings, New York City can reduce its CO₂ emissions by a projected 1.0-1.5% by 2023, helping achieve the city's 30% carbon reduction plan.

Effective Date

This law will go into effect on July 1, 2010.



New York City Council
Speaker Christine C. Quinn



City of New York
Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

A GREENER, GREATER NEW YORK

To learn more visit www.nyc.gov/planyc2030 and www.council.nyc.gov

This piece of legislation is part of an overall package – the Greener, Greater Buildings Plan – that will foster the continuing improvement of large buildings in New York City. It will reduce energy consumption, save money, create jobs, decrease air pollution, and shrink the city's carbon footprint.