

GREENER, GREATER BUILDINGS PLAN

New York City Energy Code

Summary of proposed legislation - Earth Day 2009

General

New York State is one of 42 states that utilizes the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). However, New York is the only state that amends the IECC with a 50% exclusion rule. This amendment exempts renovations impacting less than 50% of a building system or subsystem from complying with the energy code. Since New York City's large buildings are typically renovated floor by floor or tenant space by tenant space, this exemption means we are not accruing energy efficiency improvements as our buildings are renovated.

New York State Energy Law allows a municipality to adopt its own energy code as long as it is more stringent than the State's code. Therefore, Int. 564-A creates a New York City Energy Conservation Code by adopting the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code (ECCCNYS) without the 50% exclusion rule, thereby making it more stringent.

Requirements

The New York State energy code requires new construction, additions, and some renovations to comply with the provisions of the code. Under the New York City Energy Conservation Code, all renovations will need to comply with the provisions of the code. Only those elements being renovated or altered will be affected by this change, and unaltered portions will not need to be upgraded. The Department of Buildings will develop rules with examples outlining how the code will be applied to different types of renovations. In general, if a discrete component, such as a window or a hot water heater, is being replaced the new unit must be code-compliant. For replacements of continuous systems, such as insulated roofs or walls or curtain walls, the Department of Buildings will develop rules based on scale, practicality, and technical feasibility.

Benefits

By making this simple switch in the energy code, the city will reduce CO₂ emissions by a projected 1.0-1.5% over the next 20 years, helping the city meet its target of a 30% reduction by 2030. Space in New York City is constantly being renovated and improved. In fact, it is estimated that most construction projects in the city are renovations rather than new construction. Accordingly, removing the 50% exemption means that a larger percentage of properties in the city will be made more energy efficient. Since 85% of New York City's buildings in 2030 will be buildings that exist today, ensuring that renovations comply with the energy code is essential to reducing our energy use.

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.