NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Allow Large Solar Rooftop Installations

Implemented
Local Law 20 of 2011

Summary
Current regulations limit the area of roof that solar panels can cover without counting as
another floor. This can increase the effective cost of solar panels, or prevent their installation.

Local Law 20 of 2011 amended the New York City Administrative Code and Building Code, to
allow large solar rooftop installations.

New Requirements or Changes

Effective: April 29, 2011. These changes do not apply retroactively; they are only triggered
when construction activity requires a permit for work covered by this section of the
Construction Codes.

Amendments to Section 27-306 and 27-306.1 of the New York City Administrative Code, and
Section 504.3 of the New York City Building Code:

• Exempts solar thermal and solar electric equipment and their supporting equipment
  from:
  o Being considered part of the height of a building
  o Limitations on the amount of a rooftop that may be covered with mechanical
    equipment (normally 33 1/3%) before being considered an additional floor

Enforcement

These new and revised provisions are a standard part of the Building Code. They will be
enforced by the Department of Buildings in the same manner as any other element of the
Construction Codes.

These new and revised provisions are standard parts of the Zoning Resolution and Building
Code. They will be enforced by the Department of Buildings in the same manner as any other
element of the Zoning Resolution or Building Code.

Implementation

There are no known issues for implementation of this Local Law. The use of solar thermal and
solar electric equipment is optional for owners.