GCTF Proposal
Remove Landmarks Impediments to Alternative Energy

Implemented
Chapter 2 of Title 63 of the Rules of the City of New York

Summary

In historic districts, rooftop equipment – including solar panels, wind turbines and micro-turbines – is not permitted if visible from the street without a lengthy review by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

This revised rule expands the definition of “mechanical equipment” to include alternative or distributed energy equipment.

New Requirements or Changes

Effective: July 26, 2011. These changes do no apply retroactively; they are only triggered when work is being done on a building under the jurisdiction of the Landmarks Preservation Commission by virtue of its status as a landmark or being in a historic district.

Amendments to Chapter 2 of Title 63 of the Rules of the City of New York, Sections 11 & 19:

• The definition of mechanical equipment was amended to include “alternative or distributed energy systems, such as solar panels, wind turbines, or micro-turbines.” As a result, these structures may be eligible for a Certificate of No Effect, or a Permit for Minor Work, which streamlines the approval process. They must either not be visible from a public thoroughfare or only “minimally visible.”

Enforcement

These amendments are a standard part of the rules of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and will be enforced in the same manner as any other element of the rule.

Implementation

There are no known issues for the implementation of this rule.