NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Provide Recycling Areas in Apartment Buildings

Implemented
Local Law 60 of 2012

Summary
In many buildings, the lack of dedicated space for sorting and segregating recyclables impedes recycling efforts. By increasing the allotted space for recycling bins and thus increasing awareness and accessibility for recycling measures, this law will increase the recycling rates for multi-family residential buildings.

New Requirements or Changes
Effective January 1, 2014. These changes do not apply retroactively; they are only applicable to construction of new residential buildings.

Amendments to Section BC 1213.1 of the New York City Building Code:

- Sets a minimum space requirement for storage space for refuse and recyclables, of at least 1.5 sf per apartment (1.0 sf in buildings with a compactor) but not less than 350 square feet.
- Refuse/recycling storage areas that are indoors must meet fire resistance standards. Areas that are outdoors must have an extra 4 sf in addition to the minimum requirement above, and must not be in a public right-of-way.
- In buildings with refuse chutes, each refuse chute access room must have a minimum of 5 square feet of floor area for the temporary holding of recyclables.
- Buildings that have a chute system that provides for source separation of refuse and recyclable materials are not required to provide either a storage area for recyclables or extra space in the refuse chute access room.

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

Implementation
There are no known issues for implementation of this Local Law. Compliance with the code encourages recycling and is not expected to have any significant impact on capital costs.