NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Catch Leaks by Measuring Water Use

Implemented
Local Law 56 of 2010

Summary
Leaks and equipment malfunctions waste a tremendous amount of water in New York City buildings, and they can persist undetected for years. Submeters attached to major water-using equipment can help detect those leaks.

This local law requires the installation of overflow alarms on water storage roof tanks and the installation of sub-meters on water supply lines to commercial cooking facilities, commercial laundries, commercial gyms, spas, swimming pools and evaporative cooling towers.

New Requirements or Changes
Effective: January 1, 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 Plumbing Code.

Amendments to Sections 202, 606.5.4.1, 606.7 and 608.16.2 of the Plumbing Code:

- Adds definitions for “Water Meter” and “Water Sub-meter”
- High water level alarm must be installed on roof storage tanks
- Sub-meters must be installed on water lines feeding:
  - commercial cooking facilities
  - commercial laundry faculties
  - commercial gyms or spas
  - makeup water lines feeding boilers, cooling towers, and swimming pools
- Sub-meters are not required on swimming pools in Occupancy Group R-3 and boilers serving buildings less than six stories

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

Implementation
Water meters must meet Department of Environmental Protection specifications and submeters must have electronic output in either a pulse or encoder format. The law recommends that sub-meters and alarms be monitored to detect leaks and save water, but does not require meter reading or alarm monitoring.
Special thanks to Hershel Weiss (Ashokan Water Services), member of the NYC Green Codes Task Force Committee on Water Efficiency, for his assistance in preparing this summary.