NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Forecast Non-Flood Climactic Hazards to 2080

Implemented
NYC Panel on Climate Change Report; Local Law 141 of 2013; Local Law 81 of 2013

Summary

New York City will face a series of risks associated with climate change whose impact has not been adequately studied. These risks include heat waves, electrical grid disruptions and other extreme weather events. The New York City Panel on Climate Change has issued a report that includes analysis of such risks, pending updates to the building code will include wind exposure maps, and a new law requires a report on wind risks.

Studies Completed/In Progress

NYC Panel on Climate Change Report, June 2013:

In June 2013, the New York City Panel on Climate Change issued “Climate Risk Information 2013,” a report predicting the effects of climate change on the New York City region through 2080 for mean annual temperature and precipitation, heat waves, intense downpours and droughts, sea level rise and coastal flooding events. The 2013 report built on findings presented in the Panel's report of May 2010. Unsurprisingly, both reports found that mean annual temperature in the NYC region is expected to increase, that overall precipitation may increase, and that there will be more heat waves and intense downpours.

New Building Code, Local Law 141 of 2013, Section 1609.4:

The new NYC Building Code includes maps of various levels of wind exposure along New York City’s shorelines. The new code includes improvements to the wind resistance required of certain new buildings in exposure categories defined by these maps, and future wind-protection measures will also be able to take advantage of this mapping.

Local Law 81 of 2013, enacted October 2, 2013:

This legislation requires the Mayor’s Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability to issue a detailed report by October 2, 2015 on the impact of heavy winds on city buildings. The report is to include:

- An analysis on the types of existing buildings that are at risk for falling or flying debris;
- An analysis on the effects of wind on buildings that are unusually structurally vulnerable;
- An analysis on the effects of wind on buildings that are under construction;
- An analysis of forecasts related to potential changes in typical future storms;
- An examination of the benefits of installing weather stations across the city to better understand localized wind patterns;
- Recommendations on revising building and construction codes in light of the report’s findings.
**Enforcement**

The report of the NYCPCC is already complete. The new building code is pending upcoming enactment and will be enforced in the same way as other code provisions. Any enforcement of the obligation of the Mayor’s Office to complete the wind study would occur through City Council oversight hearings.

**Implementation**

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