NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Increase Lighting Efficiency on Construction Sites

Implemented
Local Law 51 of 2010 and Local Law 18 of 2014

Summary
The standards for temporary lighting on construction sites are outdated, allowing for inefficient fixtures and wasteful practices. Local Law 51 of 2010 permits natural light to illuminate foot bridges, temporary walkways and sidewalk sheds. Intro 0263-2014 requires the use of high-efficacy lamps for all temporary lighting on construction sites.

New Requirements or Changes
Local Law 18 of 2014, effective: October 1, 2014. These changes do not apply retroactively; they are only triggered when construction activity requires a permit for work covered by this section of the Building Code.

Amendments to Section 3303.2.3.1 of the Building Code:
• Temporary lighting for a construction site must use high-efficacy lamps with minimum requirements of:
  o 60 lumens per watt for lamps over 40 watts
  o 50 lumens per watt for lamps from over 15 to 40 watts
  o 40 lumens per watt for lamps 15 watts or less

Local Law 51 of 2010, effective: July 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 Building Code. The changes remove impediments to illuminating with natural light.

Amendments to Sections 3307.2.1, 3307.2.1 and 3307.6.5 of the Building Code:
• Temporary walkways, foot bridges and the underside of sidewalk sheds:
  o May be lit either by natural daylight or electric light
  o Removes requirement for specific lamps, and instead creates performance standard of 1 foot candle of illumination at the ground
  o Lamps must have a minimum luminous efficacy of 45 lumens per watt or greater, be rated to operate at 54°F or higher, and be enclosed in vandal-proof fixtures
  o Photosensors are permitted to control electric lighting. They must be equipped for fail safe operation that if the sensor or control fails, the lamps will provide the minimum required lighting levels

The Task Force recommended requiring general lighting to be separately circuited from life safety lighting, controlled by convenient master switches, and turned off at night, but these provisions are not included in either law.
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.

Implementation

The technology and equipment promoted by this proposal are readily available: LEDs and CFLs fit existing fixtures commonly used in construction lighting and lamps specifically designed for rough duty are available. Some manufacturers offer LED lighting specifically designed for construction sites. Photocell sensors are widely used for other applications.

Unless the industry begins making left handed screw CFL or LED lamps, electrical contractors will need to replace the lamp sockets on their temporary light stringers to accept conventional right-handed screw lamps. Conventional sockets are readily available.