NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Reduce Excessive Paving of Sites

In Progress
Chapter 31 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York

Summary
Due to excess stormwater, 27 billion gallons of sewage are released directly into New York harbor each year.¹ Paving over the ground exacerbates this problem. This revised Department of Environmental Protection rule dramatically decreases the allowed stormwater release rate for new developments and alterations for combined sewer connections, effectively limiting site impervious area.

New Requirements or Changes

Effective: July 4, 2012. These changes do not apply retroactively; they are only triggered with new development or alteration in combined sewer areas of the city.

Amendments to Chapter 31 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York, Sections 2 and 3:

• For new developments and alterations with combined sewer connections, the maximum release rate must be the greater of 0.25 cfs or 10% of the allowable flow. For alterations, the allowable flow for the new area is the ratio of altered area to total site area multiplied by the release rate for the entire site.

• The DEP will accept applications that minimize the runoff coefficient of the entire site by maximizing open areas and areas with grass or vegetative cover, green roofs, permeable pavements with suitable infiltration, or other techniques.

Rules applying to sites with runoff less than 0.25 cfs are unchanged, so smaller sites are generally unaffected by this rule. Since the total impervious area located in small sites is significant (backyards are 27% of the city's area, equivalent to 62 Central Parks²), Urban Green will continue to pursue full implementation of this recommendation.

Enforcement
These amendments are a standard part of the rules of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP will enforce them in the same manner as any their other rules.

Implementation
There are no known issues for implementation of this rule. The materials and methods required to reduce stormwater runoff are widely known and available.