

V.I.E.W.S.

IEWS & INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL & WORKPLACE SAFETY



THE GREENING OF NEW YORK CITY GOVERNMENT



What do the Queens Botanical Garden, Office of Emergency Management, and DEP's Remsen Yard Maintenance Facility have in common?

They are all **Green Buildings**. A Green building is an environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy place to live and work. What's more

is that in New York City green building is now the law. Green buildings increase productivity, improve health—rather than jeopardize it—and conserve the Earth's limited resources. Buildings, whether commercial or residential, consume 82% of electricity and 30% of primary energy in NY State and approximately 80% of the drinking water in New York City, so it is well worth it to assure that resources are well-managed. And surprisingly, the natural benefits of green buildings come at a cost less to operate and maintain than your business-as-usual building.

The good news is that **green building**—the practice of increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their locations use energy, water, and materials, and reducing the impact of buildings on human health and the environment—has become the rule in NYC for both the construction and the renovation of City owned and City funded buildings. Reducing the impact of buildings on human health and the environment through better design, construction, operation, and maintenance is now regulated by law. This situation is also the goal of Citywide Green Purchasing, also called Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (**EPP**), initiatives. As the Environmental Protection Agency defines these practices, EPP encourage buying and using “products and services that

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have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.”

As of January 1, 2007, City agencies are required to follow environmentally preferable purchasing standards. These standards address certain agency practices such as the power saving functions of office equipment and printing and photocopying, which must be double-sided, while virtually all paper supplies purchased through DCAS must contain 30% post-consumer (recycled) content. EPP jurisdiction over products sets requirements for agency purchasing and use practices. Products generally covered by EPP laws fall under the following categories: recycled materials, electronic devices and equipment including Energy Star, light bulbs and fixtures, architectural coating such as paints, carpets, plumbing, and HVAC equipment, and landscaping products. New contracts for goods are affected positively because DCAS has incorporated EPP purchasing requirements into its contracts.

All construction of City owned and funded buildings is now governed by a [Green Buildings Law](#) (Local Law 86), which will have a 12 billion dollar impact on planned construction over the next 10 years. The **EPP** Laws now in effect are Local Law 119, [Energy and Water Efficiency](#); 120, [Hazardous Materials](#); 121, [Recycled Content and Waste Reduction](#); and 123, [Green Cleaning](#). The Green Cleaning initiative currently underway requires the City to establish a pilot program under the direction of MOCS' Director to study the feasibility of using environmentally approved cleaning products in City facilities. **DEP** is one of ten agencies that have signed on to this pilot program to assess the effectiveness of green products in daily office management. (See V.I.E.W.S. March 2008 on Pipeline.) The expectation is that green products may result in improved indoor air quality and enhanced environmental health for employees and other building users. Hazardous materials, regulated by local law 120, regulates a City plan for the reuse and recycling of E-waste, the elimination of electronic devices containing heavy metals and brominated flame retardants, as well as for determining minimum efficiency and maximum mercury of florescent lighting. Waste reduction, regulated by local law 121, requires that printers and copiers must be capable of double-sided copying and that all documents and reports prepared for City agencies must be printed on paper containing 30% recycled material.

Any way you look at it, Green Buildings equipped with Green Products are economically good for government, healthy for those who work for government, and good for the communities that share ground with government buildings and activities.

*Primary Information Source: "Environmentally Preferable Purchasing & Green Buildings: Principles & Requirements,"
MOCS Training, June, 2008*

DEP's First Annual Awards Ceremony Honors Excellence in Leadership, Integrity, and Environmental Health and Safety



On Thursday, June 19, 2008 Commissioner Emily Lloyd welcomed several hundred DEP staff members and Bureau heads to the Queens Museum of Art, to be recognized at DEP's First Annual Awards Ceremony Honoring Excellence in Leadership, Integrity, and Environmental Health and Safety.

These awards recognized the outstanding work of DEP employees who have dedicated their careers to serving the fundamental needs of 8 million residents of New York City and about a million more people in other parts of New York State.

A key component of the awards ceremony was the Health and Safety Awards: Eyes on Environmental Awareness and Serious about Safety, and, for the first time, staff were also presented with Bureau awards for Integrity, Innovation, and Outstanding Work Performance, as well as a Commissioner's Award.



Bureau heads nominated people on their respective staffs who had distinguished themselves, their bureaus, and the agency in the past year. The Commissioner's Award recognized a very large group of DEP staff members who performed with enormous distinction, dedication, and perseverance during last year's PERC incident that affected a number of neighborhoods in southeast Queens. The award highlighted the high quality of inter-bureau coordination that existed throughout this incident.



Commissioner Lloyd also introduced **DEP's new Environmental Health and Safety communications campaign**, which features posters of staff members from various bureaus, promoting the importance of following proper health and safety procedures.

While at the event, DEP staff were also able to preview a new exhibit: "A Watershed Moment: Celebrating the Homecoming of the New York City Watershed Relief Map." The watershed map, created for the 1939 World's Fair, has been beautifully restored and will be on long-term loan and public display at the Queens Museum of Art.



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