

Funding Opportunities for Green Roofs and Other Green Infrastructure in NYC



New York City offers some exceptional funding opportunities to accelerate implementation of green infrastructure such as vegetated green roofs. Capitalizing on the recently enacted tax abatement program can help finance a GreenGrid® Vegetated Roof System. A snapshot of these programs is presented here. Taking advantage of the funds available can help offset from 25% to 100% of the cost to design and install a GreenGrid green roof system. Weston Solutions Inc, of New York, can provide professional services for design engineering, and maintenance services to make sure you're fully compliant with the funding requirements up front, and to help you keep your system thriving for years to come.

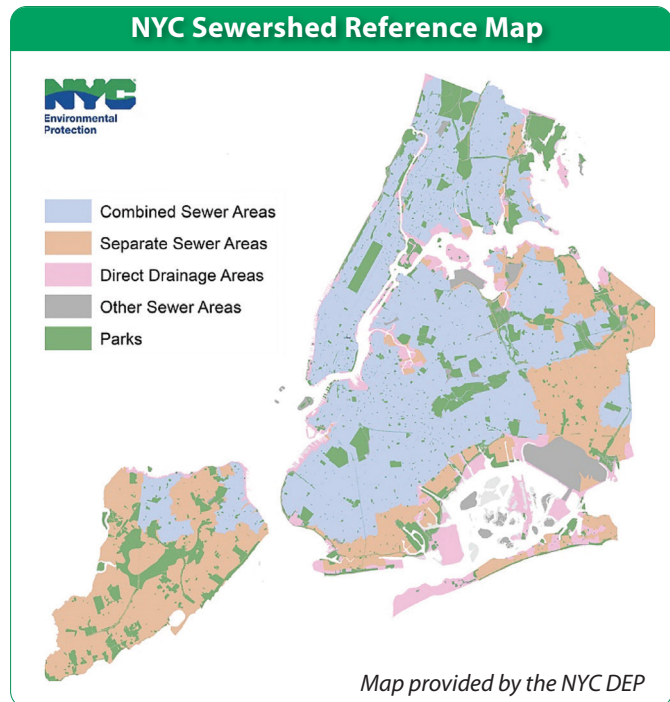


New York City Green Roof Tax Abatement Program

Senate Bill S5554B was passed on June 18, 2019 and signed on July 3, 2019. This bill reinstated a tax abatement for green roof systems of \$5.23 per square foot city-wide (max) \$200,000.

An enhanced abatement of \$15.00 per square foot (not to exceed \$200,000) is offered for green roof systems with a growing media layer of at least 4" in depth that are built on properties located within specifically designated NYC community districts. These districts will be selected on a rolling basis over a period of three years by an agency designated by the mayor of the city of New York. Communities located in the combined sewage overflow tributary areas and areas identified as significantly lacking green space will have priority for eligibility in the enhanced abatement program.

The aggregate amount of tax abatements allowed for any tax year commencing on or after July 1, 2015 is a maximum of \$1,000,000. The tax abatement program is available for properties that fall under Tax Classes 1, 2, and 4. For more information on the regulations regarding the Tax Abatement Program, please refer to the New York State Real Property Tax Law, Article 4, Title 4-B.



In order to be eligible for the Green Roof Tax Abatement Program, Green roofs in New York City must meet the following requirements:

- A layer of vegetation that covers 50% of the rooftop.
- Sedum, or drought-resistant, live plants must be spaced to cover at least 80% of the planted layer on the roof.

In addition to the requirements listed above, proposed green roofs must also have a four-year maintenance plan prepared by a State of New York-licensed professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, or horticulturist. Weston Solutions, Inc. provides technical experts and landscape professionals to prepare your plan.

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Green Roof Requirements in New York City – Climate Mobilization Act

Effective November 19, 2019, The New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) announced that Local Law 92 of 2019 and Local Law 94 of 2019 require all new buildings and existing buildings undergoing certain major roof renovations to have a solar photovoltaic system, a green roof system, or a combination of the two. These systems must cover 100 percent of any applicable roof.

All new application filings for new building projects and alteration projects that include vertical and horizontal enlargement or replacement of the entire roof deck, must include a form certifying their compliance with Local Laws 92 and 94 prior to plan approval from the DOB. Detailed requirements for compliance with Local Law 92 and Local Law 94 are provided in the associated Service Notice and Buildings Bulletin 2019-010.

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/buildings/bldgs_bulletins/bb_2019-010.pdf



New York City Green Infrastructure Grant Program

New York City also offers a grant program supported by the New York Department of Environmental Protection (NY DEP). NY DEP will fund the design and construction costs for selected green roof projects and green infrastructure projects that promote infiltration. All non-city-owned buildings are eligible to apply for funding.

Requirements for this grant program include the following:

- The project must be completed within one year from the construction start date unless otherwise agreed upon.
- Building plans must provide for at least 20 years of maintenance.

Funding for green roofs is determined by the green roof area and the depth of the soil. Minimum criteria for this type of project must be met in order to be eligible for funding. These criteria include the following:

- The presence of a root barrier, drainage layer, filter layer, growing media, and vegetation.
- At least 3,500 square feet of green roof and at least 1.5" of soil depth.

Reimbursement rates for green roof projects are as follows:

Green Infrastructure Grant Program Green Roof Reimbursement Rates	
Soil Depth (in.)	3,500-20,000 (SF)*
1.5-1.99	\$10
2.0-2.99	\$15
3.0-3.99	\$25
4.0+	\$30

*Reimbursement rate for SF of planted area over 20,000 SF is calculated using 50% of the rate shown above.

Other green infrastructure projects that promote infiltration, including rain gardens, pervious pavements, and subsurface retention, are also eligible for funding. To be eligible, the projects must incorporate the following:

- Manage 1" of rainfall from the contributing impervious surface.
- Be cost-effective and more than \$35,000.
- Have a geotechnical analysis conducted after the conditional award is given.

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Canadian patents 2,416,457 / 2,416,463 / 2,418,262