

## Green Roofs Rewarded in NYC

Building owners in New York City are now eligible for up to \$100,000 in tax credits if they install green roofs on at least 50 percent of available rooftop space, thanks to the recent passage of bill A.11226. This credit amounts to \$4.50 per square-foot of roof area that is planted with vegetation, or 25 percent of the typical cost to install such a roof.

There are many benefits to green roofs. "Each 10,000 square-foot green roof can capture between 6,000 and 12,000 gallons of water in each storm event," said Paul S. Mankiewicz of the New York City Soil and Water Conservation District board.

Reducing water runoff means the city also saves money in energy cooling and stormwater management costs. "This is rainfall that will never enter the sewer. At the same time, the evaporation of this rainfall will produce the equivalent of between 1,000 and 2,000 tons of air conditioning, enough heat removal to noticeably cool 10 acres of the city," said Mankiewicz.

Applications for the tax credit will be available January 1, 2009. This pilot program is slated to continue through at least March of 2013.

### More Info:

[www.environmentalleader.com/2008/06/29/tax-credits-for-green-rooftops-in-nyc](http://www.environmentalleader.com/2008/06/29/tax-credits-for-green-rooftops-in-nyc) – Environmental Leader article on NYC tax credit

[www.ssbx.org](http://www.ssbx.org) – The Sustainable South Bronx website offers additional info on green roofs in NYC

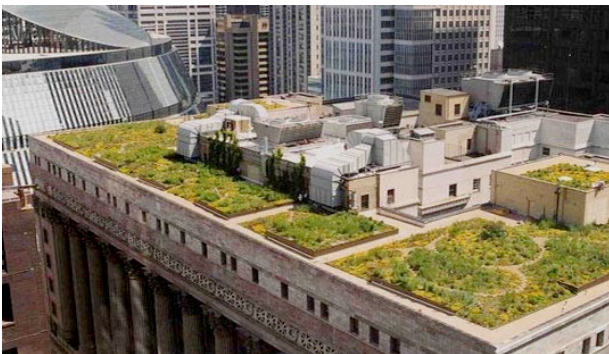


Image from [www.inhabitat.com](http://www.inhabitat.com)

### Did You Know...?

If every home in the U.S. viewed and paid its bills online, we would reduce solid waste by 1.6 billion tons per year and curb greenhouse gas emissions by 2.1 million tons per year.

From [www.greendaily.com](http://www.greendaily.com)

## Marine Transfer Station Reactivated

In late June the New York City Council along with Mayor Bloomberg, Governor Paterson, Assembly Speaker Silver, and Majority Leader Skelos announced plans to reactivate the Marine Transfer Station on Manhattan's Gansevoort Peninsula, allowing for Manhattan's recyclables to be shipped to processing facilities by barge instead of by truck.

This agreement, which will take 30,000 truck miles off the City's road each year, is a key part of the City's Solid Waste Management Plan of 2006.

"The reactivation of the Marine Transfer Station will have a long lasting impact on our city's recycling program and will serve as a model plan on waste management and the transportation of recyclable materials," said Governor Paterson.

"This consensus agreement will help to ensure that Manhattan's waste will not continue to be trucked to overburdened neighborhoods in the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn, further exacerbating already high rates of asthma," said Senate Majority Leader Skelos. "Once operational, the marine transfer station will reduce truck traffic and emissions by handling recyclables generated in Manhattan. In addition, the new facility will help teach school children and others about a simple way to preserve the environment through recycling."

### More Info:

Press Release at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov)

## Say Bye Bye to Bottled Water

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has joined more than 60 mayors around the U.S. and Canada who are taking a stand against bottled water. First the New York City speaker's office announced that City Council will no longer purchase bottled water for their offices and official functions; filtered tap water will be offered instead. A week later at the Conference of Mayors meeting in Miami, Bloomberg was a co-sponsor of a resolution to stop spending taxpayer money on bottled water. The resolution passed by a majority of 250 mayors.

The decision to reduce bottled water in NYC is due, in part, to the excellent municipal water resources supplying the city. "This is the best water in the world," said Mayor Bloomberg. "Restaurants like to sell bottles of water, I understand, but I always drink tap water."

Environmental concerns over using a petroleum-based disposable product were also factors in the decision. Last year, the NYC Council's downtown offices went through at least 6,000 single-



-serve bottles. According to the Sierra Club, in the U.S. over 17 million barrels of oil were used in 2007 to make one-time-use plastic water bottles. Though the bottles are recyclable, many end up in the landfill.

Additionally, there is a major cost difference between bottled and tap water; bottled water costs typically 4,000 to 10,000 times more than tap water. "When people complain about buying \$4-a-gallon gasoline but buy \$7-a-gallon drinking water, I think that disconnect needs to be recognized," said Dan Coody, co-chairman of the Conference of Mayors' Water Council. The environmental campaign Think Outside the Bottle has been educating on this topic for years. Their website offers the latest news along with a pledge where political figures, environmental groups, school groups and others have signed on to reduce their bottled water consumption.

If your building or office is looking to reduce waste and encourage eco-friendly practices such as drinking tap over bottled water, contact your Great Forest representative for ideas.

### More Info:

[www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org) – Environmental campaign Think Outside the Bottle

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) – "City Council Shuns Bottles in Favor of Water From Tap" June 17 2008.

[www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp) – NRDC site about bottled water facts

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## Free E-Waste Recycling at Select USPS Locations

With 'mail-in' recycling programs for items such as electronics and compact fluorescent lightbulbs gaining popularity, the United States Postal Service (USPS) is a natural partner in promoting recycling. A new pilot program offers free prepaid envelopes to recycle small electronics items, such as cell phones, digital cameras and printer cartridges at 1,500 post office locations.

Envelopes are shipped to Clover Technologies Group, which then recycles, remanufactures, or resells the products. Clover is committed to a 'zero waste' policy, properly managing waste so as to avoid disposing of any materials in landfills. If successful, this pilot program may expand nationally.

"We know our customers are interested in real solutions for proper disposal of personal electronics,"

said Anita Bizzotto, the Postal Service's Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer. "Everyone from consumers to businesses to non-profit organizations use the mail, and the Postal Service works to manage resources wisely to minimize environmental impact."

Contact your local post office to inquire about their participation in the free e-waste recycling program. Looking to recycle e-waste in your office? Contact your Great Forest representative.

### More Info:

[www.greenbiz.com/news/2008/03/18/clover-technologies-joins-usps-e-waste-program](http://www.greenbiz.com/news/2008/03/18/clover-technologies-joins-usps-e-waste-program) – Article from GreenBiz.com

[www.usps.com/green](http://www.usps.com/green) – USPS green website