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Green Roofs explained by Landon Malloy

Article published on November 28th 2011 | Environment

If a new or existing roof has a high-quality waterproofing and root-repellent system, a drainage system, a filter cloth, a lightweight growing medium and plants then it is a green roof.

Green-roof systems may be integrated, with drainage layers, filter cloths and growing plants already organized in movable, interlocking grids. Or at times each part is installed separately. The creation of "contained" green space on the top of a building is what green roof development involves.

No single kind of green roof works for all buildings, climates and client needs. No-body will have the same roof as anybody else. Based on the deepness of growing medium, garden roofs are categorized as "intensive" or "extensive".

An extensive roof has 6 inches or less of growing medium. It also has lower weight, plant diversity, costs and maintenance.

An intensive roof has more than six inches of growing medium and tends to have greater plant diversity, as well as higher weight, costs and maintenance.

Green roofs can provide cost savings on heating and cooling. The size of the building, the climate and the kind of living roof will mean that outcomes will vary. Generally a 6 inch extensive roof decreased heat gains by 95% and heat losses by 26% in comparison to a conventional roof.

Green roofs briefly store water so a green roof can decrease excessive volumes and reduce drain overflow. By lowering peak flows, living roofs also can minimize flooding and erosion damage to buildings.

Some green roofs can provide provisions for wildlife, although they are not intended to be replacements for true natural areas. Within the urban setting they can complement wildlife habitats. In vastly populated areas, green roofs could represent island habitats or, better yet, stepping stones for wildlife movement. Green roofs can attract birds and beneficial insects such as bees and butterflies, even in densely populated areas.

Growing your own fruit and vegetables on your living roof can be beneficial to our pockets as well as our carbon footprints: it avoids the need to go to the shop when running out of fresh fruit and vegetables which will in turn reduce the need to travel in your car.

As temperatures increase the efficiency of crystalline silicon-based solar photovoltaic panels reduces. A green roof can boost solar-panel efficiency, and the amount of power they create, by reducing the roof's surrounding temperature. In turn, solar panels can help protect the green roof from wind damage.

Green roof systems come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and overall everyone is a winner.Installation of the living roof is not time consuming nor very costly: the experts will lay a single ply roofing membrane down to stop water penetrating your home, then it is all down to you.

Article Source:
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For more info on how installing a a green roof can save you money, please visit a www.icb.uk.com

Article Keywords:
green roof, green roofs, living roofs,

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