

Join the Green Roof Movement



Vegetated roofs have been planted for thousands of years. The Guinigi Tower in Lucca, Italy, which was built in the 14th century, has a roof with seven oak trees. In the U.S.,

green roofs have been growing on New York City's Rocketeller Center since the 1930s. In addition to creating pleasant rooftop areas, green roofs can:

- Reduce city "heat island" effect
- Improve air quality
- Reduce carbon dioxide impact
- Reduce summer air-conditioning cost
- Reduce winter heat demand
- Double or even triple roof life
- Remove nitrogen pollution in rain
- Neutralize acid rain effect
- Reduce noise
- Reduce pollution runoff to waterways
- Provide attractive outdoor space
- Provide habitat for songbirds



Cities like Chicago provide incentives such as expedited permitting for builders who incorporate green roofs into their designs, and millions of square feet of rooftops have been planted there.

Companies like the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan found it was cheaper to plant a square green roof to treat storm water runoff than building traditional stormwater treatment facilities.

Contractors can enhance their sustainability with green roofs. Ask your elected officials to consider modeling policies on communities which have successful programs. For examples visit: www.usgbc.org/greenroofs

