



Why Green Roofs?

The Importance of Growing and Healing Green Systems

The benefits of green roofs are indisputable.

Green roofs have proven their efficiency from the beginning, but the numbers we're seeing today are staggering.



Green roofs can provide an energy savings between 10-15%

Green roofs can achieve full ROI in 2-4 years [i]

A midsize tree can add \$90 per year to property value [ii]



Green roofs add 16% to average residential rental rates [iii]

They dramatically expand the available area for wildlife habitat

Higher levels of vegetation are associated with reduced crime [iv]



Green stormwater management infrastructure is \$1.5 billion less expensive than gray in a city the size of NYC [v]

Green roofs are growing in popularity all the time.

The number and square footage of green roofs is skyrocketing in recent years.

- The North American Green Roof Industry recorded 982 green roof projects in 2012 [vi]
- By 2017, just 14 members of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities alone reported more than 1,000 projects collectively [vii]
- According to 2017, statistics, there exists 5.4 million (or more) square feet of green roof in 39 states and 5 Canadian provinces.
- DC alone is adding approximately million square feet of green roof annually and Chicago continues to be in the top 10 metropolitan regions for green roof installations [viii]
- More than 5.6 million square feet of green roofs had been built in Chicago as of 2013 [ix]



What happens to untended green roofs?

Sadly, green roofs that get built and then left to their own devices suffer, can fail and lose their cost benefits.

Believe it or not, as much as 50% of green roofs suffer some level of neglect. Without proper care ...

<p>As much as 50% of green roofs suffer some level of neglect.</p>	<p>Plant diversity is significantly reduced.</p>	<p>The ecosystem becomes stressed and vulnerable.</p>	<p>Stormwater management is compromised.</p>
<p>Growth media is prone to wind erosion.</p>	<p>Pollinator habitat is negatively impacted.</p>	<p>Energy savings drop by 10-15%.</p>	<p>You may lose your surety bond or other incentives.</p>



Plus, natural beauty within an urban setting – a key benefit – is greatly diminished.

Stewardship to the rescue!

- Maintenance is fine for simply keeping weeds pulled, but at Ecogardens, we take a stewardship approach.
- Stewardship means careful and responsible management, understanding the green roof component/system as a whole, and respecting the design intent of the roof.
- By effectively nurturing and protecting your green roof over time, Ecogardens will help protect your investment for years to come.

What necessitates green roof first aid?

If you see any of the following, your roof needs help!

- Runaway weeds
- Unseasonal plant die-off
- Roof leaks
- Standing water
- Invasive plants
- Poor design or installation
- Bad soil or media
- Crummy components
- Just plain neglect

On the other hand, a well-tended green roof can live 30-50 years ... or longer.



How often should you schedule site inspections for your green roof?

- Every 2-3 months during the growing season for regular stewardship
- Any time you notice the above issues
- If your green roof looks sickly

At the end of the day, green roofs need love just like anyone else. With good stewardship, however, they can live and provide their benefits for decades. The good news is, regular visits to healthy green roofs cost relatively little compared to reviving or reinstalling failing green roofs, so schedule a checkup today!



(i) http://www.worldgreenroof.org/files/pdf/161017_financialadvantage.pdf
 (ii) <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/>
 (iii) <https://www.epa.gov/G3/green-jobs-your-community>
 (iv) <https://www.epa.gov/G3/green-jobs-your-community>
 (v) http://water.columbia.edu/files/2014/04/Green_Infrastructure_FINAL.pdf
 (vi) <https://www.go-gba.org/resources/green-building-methods/green-roofs/>
 (vii) <https://livingarchitecturemonitor.com/news/2018/7/25/2017-green-roof-industry-survey-shows-washington-dc-in-top-spot-for-most-green-roofs-installed>
 (viii) https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/4115293/2017_Green_Roof_Market_Survey_Results_Media_Release.pdf
 (ix) https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/chicago_green_roofs.html

