

Green Roof Service LLC presents:

March 14, 2013

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GREEN ROOF TECHNOLOGY
WE KNOW FORM AND FUNCTION

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Green Roofs & Solar: Double the Benefits

This past Thursday, Ryan Miller & Jörg Breuning were featured on the Green Roofs & Walls of the World - Virtual Summit 2013. Check out the details on our blog!



Brush up on your green roof plant knowledge with a new plant every month! Only on our Green Roof Plant Blog!



Aquascape Sues Over Collapsed Green Roof

Back in February of 2011, the lower end of Aquascapes headquarters collapsed after a heavy snow event that blanketed Chicago. Now, two years later, Aquascape has sued 9 different contractors, construction companies, engineers and architects for \$13 million in damages.



UMD to Install More Green Roofs

Two graduate students were recently rewarded a grant by the University of Maryland's Council on the Environment. These students plan to use this money to extend their research on solar energy and vegetated roofs. UMD built their first green roof in 2008, and many more are to come.



Green Roofs & Solar: Double the Benefits

Green Roofs & Walls of the World - Virtual Summit 2013 is striving to inform, share and create a global social media experience for learning and networking around green roofs and living walls.

Join Jörg Breuning & Ryan Miller on Thursday March 7th at 1pm Eastern time as they discuss the benefits of combining solar power and vegetated roofs!

Immediately after Green Roof Technology's video, a 15 minute live Q&A will take place with Jörg and Ryan. The video will touch on the benefits of a solar green roof, cost-benefit analysis, two interviews with the president of Solar Gaines, Hans Wittich and Artie Rollins, the assistant commissioner for city-wide services with the NYC Parks & Rec Building, along with much more.

If you're interested, tune into the video and Q&A session, you may register on the Summit Website.



Aquascape Sues Over Collapsed Green Roof

Back in February of 2011, the lower end of Aquascape's headquarters collapsed after a heavy snow event that blanketed Chicago with 2 feet of snow in 24 hours. The building once held the title as the "largest sloping green roof in North America," covering over 256,000 square feet.

In a blog post, Green Roof Technology covered the roof collapse back in 2011, blaming the failure of the green roof on poor engineering regarding the drainage of the system. Blog post 09/06/2011

We also wrote a Case study about the dilettantism and ignorance of so-called experts that are designers, engineers and construction companies when it comes to modern green roof technology (download PDF: Fixer Upper or Lawsuit? Sloped Extensive Green Roof Critique).

Since we've collected even more examples that are not mentioned in the press, that are fixed "quietly" or where the client has been convinced that certain problems are "normal" for a green roof. We estimate the potential of law suits on existing green roofs over 80 million Dollars, which is probably more than the entire Grant money spent so far for the implementation of green roofs.

Many of these self-promoted experts are still playing an important role in the American green roof education system (GRP) and within the North American industry. It is interesting to mention that in other countries where green roofs have been established over decades and where there are 10 times as many built annually, that there were never such incidents reported. These countries not even have a "highly developed" green roof professional education system. What they have is called Common Sense; the understanding of how small indicators could cause huge problems and they understand their responsibility to the industry even when they are not directly involved. There is no ignorance, dilettantism or vanity—just pure professionalism based on solid education.

Now two years later, Aquascape has sued 9 different contractors, construction companies, engineers and architects for \$13 million in damages. These companies include Artisan Design Build LLC, Senektaks, Tricon Construction, Olsson Roofing, Tecza Environmental Group, Applied Ecological Services, Metallic Building Company, Area Erectors and Dewberry Architects (Read the Daily Herald Article) and we still have the cart in front of the horse.

At Green Roof Service LLC/Green Roof Technology we obviously can't change the system, but we will continue to support owners of green roofs to get what they deserve and what they are paid for.



University of Maryland to Install More Green Roofs

The University of Maryland installed their first extensive green roof back in the fall of 2008 on Cumberland Hall. Approximately 6,000 square feet of the rooftop is covered in vegetation. The Adele H. Stamp Union building also completed renovations which involves yet another two new green roofs in 2009.

Summer of 2010 brought a Rooftop Food Garden on top of the South Campus Dining Hall. Planters made from salvaged wooden pallets hold all sorts of food including cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, mint and lavender, to name a few. In addition, the space is available for individual gardening projects and other student research or coursework. In the fall of 2011, the Denton Dining Hall followed suit, when the re-opened building integrated green and cool roof systems.

Although this makes up very few of the many buildings at the University of Maryland, each green roof helps to alleviate storm water runoff, the heat island effect, and each building's heating or cooling costs.

The University of Maryland's Council on the Environment recently rewarded a grant to two graduate students, to extend on their solar energy and vegetated roof research.

Read the full story by the Diamondback [here](#).

In the future, it wouldn't be surprising to see more building constructed or renovated complete with green roof systems. The technology is available and the industry has definitely grown in the past few years.