

Green Roof Service LLC presents:

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GREEN ROOF TECHNOLOGY
WE KNOW FORM AND FUNCTION

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Modular Office Farming - Hybrid Office & Modern Green Roof Technology

Urban rooftop gardens have been a hot topic lately, but maybe we should put some thought into plant systems inside the office. With the aid of some natural sunlight and TLC, many plants can thrive inside too. Live plants help to create a healthy atmosphere by boosting morale and filtering the air.



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



New Green Roof at Fire Station #3

Fire Station #3 is home to the newest green roof in the city of Lancaster, PA. The 2640 sf extensive green roof was completed in only 2 days! This was the second green roof to be installed under Lancaster's Green Infrastructure Initiative.



Green Roof Industry - Learning by not doing?

Sedum cuttings are a smart tool for any blossoming green roof. Roots sprout best from these cuttings when the plant's energy is not distracted by excess foliage, making the late winter to be the best time to spread them. The biggest issue right now is the lack of available cuttings until the later spring months.



Modular Office Farming - Hybrid Office & Modern Green Roof Technology

Now that rooftops have been discovered to be a potential area for urban farming, many people believe this is the solution for providing healthier and locally grown produce. They believe in this place despite its over average air pollution, lack of natural symbiotic opponents, high costs for water, poorly nutrient retaining soils, high labor costs and no machinery.

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.

However and completely disconnected from all the above mentioned disadvantages food can also grow in the inside of any building. Modern green roof technology implemented in old yogurt containers to act like a modular system and can easily find a place close to a light source. Depending on the system, they require less than once a week watering. The water could even be recycled cold coffee (no sugar), tea or flat sparkling water before it is dumped into the sink. Instead of sieving out of the tea leaves or coffee grounds these waste products can be supplements to regular plant fertilizer. The run-off of these simple systems is zero since nobody wants water puddles in the living room, office or conference room. The results can be remarkable and some additional vegetables for lunch are always good.

The systems work without high tech, with fully recycled and recyclable materials, comes without an App, no power outlet and any other gimmicks. The fresh green of the plants creates a nice living and working atmosphere, keeps the humidity in the comfort zone and additionally cleans the – already filtered – air. In our office peppers and pineapple are the favorites.

Green Roof Service/Green Roof Technology

Your Green Roof Technology team is able to develop low maintenance concepts for plants far beyond yogurt container solutions in private-, professional- and public environments. Furthermore, we design individual service packages concerned with the maintenance, health of plants and plant arrangements. From European studies we know that a better professional environment increases the motivation of people.





Fire Station #3, located at 333 E. King Street, is home to the newest green roof in the City of Lancaster, PA. The 2,640 square foot extensive green roof was completed last week in only 2 days. Once again the weather was not ideal. On Tuesday it poured all day and overnight the temperature dropped. Wednesday was cloudy and quite cold. But through thick and thin the mission is always completed on time and in style.

Fire Station #3 is the 2nd green roof installed under the Lancaster's green infrastructure initiative. So far the total green roof area installed is 9,675 square feet.

New Green Roof at Fire Station #3



Green Roof Industry - Learning by not doing?



For eleven years, the green roof industry has been running into the issue of finding a lack of Sedum cuttings between November and May. Green roof plant nurseries are not able to produce Sedum cuttings during this time because they obviously never learned better. During this time they rather grow these plants in pre-vegetated plastic or metal boxes, sitting in a controlled greenhouse for bigger sales in late spring and leaving the clients alone later when exactly these expensive and high carbon foot print containers do not acclimate in their final destination. They call themselves green roof plant experts but hardly understand the typical life cycle of the plants they are growing.

When average temperatures drop most Sedums (most plants) store their nutrients and energy produced during the growing season in their stems and roots. The best indicator for that is the changing color of the leaves in the fall and when under stress. Once these reserves are stored in the little stems, they are extremely powerful and “programmed” for rooting - not for producing leave mass. Many Sedums root quicker in winter than in hot summers where they have to deal with high evapotranspiration because of their denser leave mass while their roots are not able to supply them with water to offset the water loss.

Utilizing Sedum cuttings on green roofs can reduce the cost for plants and planting by 90%, assuming the applicators know what they are doing. At the end, the overall costs will drop dramatically which leads into more green roofs and less subsidies from public agencies and non-profit groups. The plant pieces broadcasted in winter are most likely adapted to the conditions in their final location in less than 2-3 months and hardly require watering on hot spring days or in summer. This also reduces maintenance time and costs.

Jörg Breuning: “The lack of common sense and real expertise is the biggest problem in the North American green roof industry. My person is controversial discussed, many feel intimidated based on my experience and that I address problems directly, which are avoided by other professional or trade associations. I see myself as the stimulus in a literally growing industry.

From an environmental point of view longevity at acceptable costs, low maintenance, no supplemental watering, and the long-term health of the plants are crucial for ongoing success. Customer orientated work requires that we adjusted to nature – nature will never adjust to humans.”

