



September, 2010

growing livable communities using living materials

Solar Panels and Green Roofs are More Than Compatible Neighbors



Solar panels on a green roof

Green roofs are known for their benefits to the environment, people and communities. Now there is increasing evidence that green roofs are beneficial to solar energy technologies too. By combining a green roof with a solar installation on a building's rooftop, the efficiency of the solar panels is increased and the workload of the array is lowered.

Efficiency: Green roofs reduce the surrounding air temperature. If a solar array is installed above a green roof, the solar panels are cooler and operate at higher efficiency. More of the solar energy collected is captured and used for the building's electricity. This effect has been known for years where green roofs

have been installed near conventional HVAC equipment.

Lower Demand: Green roofs help cool buildings. The plants' process of evapotranspiration reduces summer roof top temperatures, thereby decreasing the transfer of warmer outside air. This can greatly affect the indoor temperature, keeping it more stable. As a result, heating and cooling equipment switches on less frequently and has a reduced work load, ultimately lowering the demand for energy. The energy collected by solar panels can then be used more sparingly, over greater periods of time.

Solar panels do good things for green roofs too. Because of the shade provided by the panels periodically through the day, a wider range of species can be planted on individual green roofs. These array-created microclimates improve the water use and promote biodiversity on vegetated roof systems. The result: good neighbors indeed!



Green Roof Installation

DC Greenworks is lining up a fantastic volunteer event with American University for Labor Day weekend. Over 5 days, 60 volunteers will get their hands dirty adding almost 2000

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* A gift of \$25.00

square feet of vegetated roof to the Kogod School of Business. The two terraces will be plug-based extensive assemblies using 4" of lightweight growing media. An educational model will be included in the project to expand the learning opportunities well beyond the weekend installation.



Green Collar Job Training



Rain barrel installed by Columbia Heights/Shaw FSC trainees

Over the past month and a half, DC Greenworks has installed 100 rain barrels through the RiverSmart Homes Program. That is the equivalent of 13,200 gallons of stormwater captured! DC Greenworks also completed a rain barrel training program in partnership with the Columbia Heights/ Shaw Family Support Collaborative, and presented certificates to trainees. Three members of the CHSFSC Green Team completed the training, and received a full rain barrel tool kit to assist with installations in their community. We continue to donate defective rain barrels that have been converted to raised planter boxes to a local community garden. Each barrel is converted to about 15 square feet of planting beds, which can produce enough vegetables to feed one person, every day.



Urban Agriculture

DC Greenworks is gearing up for the 2010-2011 school year with a project at Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School. Over two weeks an under-used courtyard will be transformed into an outdoor learning oasis! Along with a native plants garden and pollinator garden, the courtyard will feature 4 raised beds brimming with vegetables for students to tend. A seasonal rotation of crops will allow for year-round interest and an abundance of learning opportunities, as well as nutritious bounty!



provides a shovel, trowel and gloves to a community gardener.

* A gift of \$50.00 outfits a volunteer for a green roof training experience.

* A gift of \$100.00 funds the installation of a rain barrel.

* A gift of \$250.00 delivers hands-on education for school children planting a vegetable garden.

* A gift of \$500.00 purchases all of the green roof plants for a typical rowhouse installation.

* A gift of \$1,000.00 provides one day of training in green infrastructure technologies to vocational students.

Please go to www.dcgreenworks.org to learn more!

Make checks payable to:
DC Greenworks

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help us find them good
homes!

Contact Kathy for
more information!

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