

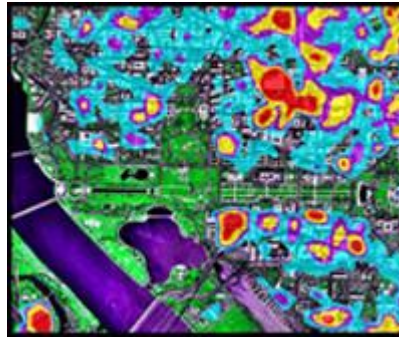


August, 2010

growing livable communities using living materials

DC's Hot Summer and the Urban Heat Island Effect

The past few weeks have been hot...very hot. The temperature on July 11th rose above 90 degrees for the seventeenth time in 21 days! July arrived like a blast furnace setting records up and down the East Coast and cities registered the highest temperatures. This is known as the "Urban Heat Island Effect". The solar energy absorbed into the denser structure of a city's buildings and streets is changed into heat, making urban areas hotter than surrounding areas. A rooftop in DC can reach 190 degrees on a hot afternoon!



Green roofs have many benefits, among them is mitigating the Urban Heat Island Effect. Measurements have shown that green roofs cool surrounding near-surface air temperature on average 61.5 degrees. Rooftop HVAC equipment is cooler, runs more efficiently and lasts longer. The same is true for solar panels. We know that green roofs capture air pollutants improving outdoor air quality. Indoor air quality may be improved too as described in anecdotal reports of less frequent replacement of system filters in buildings with green roofs.

There are many benefits to choosing a green roof for your home or office. We have only scratched the surface of the many economic, social and environmental rewards. This summer we can hope for cooler temperatures, and we can green roof our way to a cooler city!



Urban Agriculture

DC Greenworks recently joined Top Chef's Spike Mendelsohn and Garden District in planting the Good Stuff Gardens atop DC's KIPP Academy in Anacostia. The event allowed 36 youth an opportunity to plant their own produce atop the school's roof, setting the stage for a bountiful fall harvest. The collective effort serves to educate urban youth on the possibility of growing

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Make a gift to DC Greenworks today!

Now more than ever, your donation will support our expanding efforts.

A gift of **\$50.00** purchases 35 square feet of green roof plants.

one's own food while providing fresh, healthy and delicious alternatives to standard lunch fare.

Just before the summer heat hit, DC Greenworks staff and five summer volunteers aided two Columbia Heights homeowners in turning a garage roof into a roof garden.

The 600 square foot installation features a flagstone seating area with a pergola, 300 square feet of perennial beds, and an herb garden filled with basil, sage, rosemary, lavender, and more!



This once unused, unsightly garage roof is now actively employed as the couple's back yard, while at the same time reducing run off by nearly 400 gallons in a typical 1" rain storm!



Green Collar Job Training

DC Greenworks recently started a rain barrel training program with Columbia Heights Shaw Family Support Collaborative (CHFFSC). During the course of 2 weeks, Four employees of the CHFFSC Green Team will work towards achieving certification in rain barrel installations.

DC Greenworks also assisted the DC Prep Academy with the conversion of five 55 gallon drums into rain barrels. These barrels will be installed on the Prep Academy building to supply irrigation for a community garden on the adjacent slope, visible from the newly finished Metropolitan Branch Trail!



A gift of **\$25.00** provides a shovel, trowel and gloves to a community gardener.

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

Make checks payable to:
DC Greenworks

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Brought To You By The Letter H!



Project H Planters are still available. Please help us find them good homes!

Contact Ashley for more information!

ashley@dcgreenworks.org

Stormwater Mitigation



Since the last newsletter, DC Greenworks has installed more than 60 rain barrels through the District's RiverSmart Homes Project. That's a capacity of over 8000 gallons!

Always looking for new ways to reuse defective rain barrels, two leaky barrels were cut up and converted into containers for raised bed gardening at a local housing project.

Rain Barrel

Rebate Program

New to RiverSmart Homes is the Rain Barrel Rebate! This program will provide a rebate for District homeowners who install rain barrels on their house. Currently, there are seven rain barrels that qualify for the program, with a rebate of \$50 for barrels that are 50 to 74 gallons, and \$100 for 75 gallons and over (maximum of two per property). Contact Cody for more information (cody@dcgreenworks.org).



Picture of the Month



Green Summer youthworking hard!