

Green Roofs

A green roof includes layers of soil and plants on top of the roof. Like a traditional roof, there is a waterproofing layer under the soil and plants. Rain water that falls on the roof is absorbed by the soil and taken up by the plants. As a result, less rain water runs off of the roof and into the nearby storm drains and streams.

The benefits of a green roof include:

- Extending the life of your roof by reducing temperature fluctuations that can damage roofing materials.
- Providing additional insulation for your home, which conserves energy, and saves you money.
- Reducing runoff from your home, which can help alleviate any drainage or runoff problems that occur in your yard.
- Reducing the quantity of runoff, sediment, and pollutants that wash into local streams.
- Improving air quality. The plants take up carbon dioxide and release oxygen.

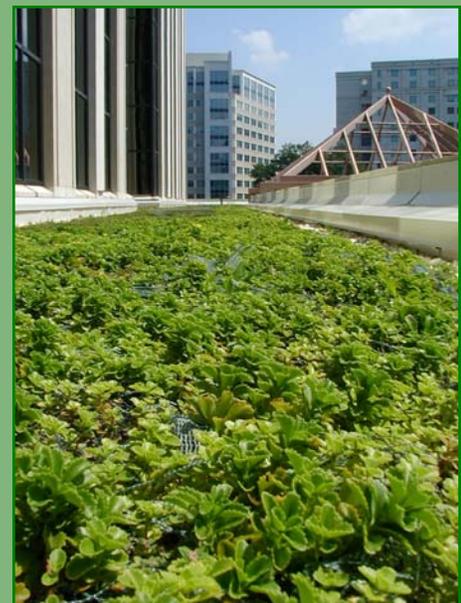
Green roof plants are low growing and do not need mowing or trimming. Your roof may need to be weeded a few times per year. You may also need to inspect the waterproofing layer and drains periodically. The company that installs your green roof will have recommendations for maintaining it in good condition.

Learn more about green roofs at www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/Roofs/green-roofs

Arlington's StormwaterWise Landscapes Program
www.arlingtonva.us/stormwaterwise



Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington VA 22201
703/228-4488/TTY/TDD 703/228-4611
des@arlingtonva.us



Sedums (top) are a common choice for green roof plantings.

Arlington County Courthouse Plaza (middle) and Walter Reed Community Center (bottom).

Top banner: Private residence green roof North 16th Street.