

Trinity Episcopal Church takes “Green” to new heights with a Green Roof

In May 2009 Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 301 North Chester Road in Swarthmore, PA installed a green, vegetated roof over its Education Wing. Installation services were provided by JIG, Inc. of Philadelphia, a company authorized to install Roofscapes designs.

The green roof is a low-maintenance, long-lasting roof, planted with hardy succulent ground cover. Its lifespan is expected to be 40-60 years, and it will contribute to stormwater management in the Crum Creek Watershed by absorbing stormwater instead of sending it into the storm sewer system. A green roof’s environmental and energy benefits include keeping the building cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter and therefore reducing cooling and heating costs.

Although only now becoming widely known in the United States, green roofs have been tested and embraced in Europe for decades. For example, about 150 million square feet of green roofs are installed in Germany each year. As the long-term benefits have been proven, the technology has made its way west.

In North America, the cities of Chicago, Portland, and Toronto have garnered attention for installing numerous green roofs on municipal and other buildings. The corporate

headquarters of Ford Motor Company and the Gap boast massive green roofs, and Baltimore's Montgomery Park Business Center now is topped by a 30,000 square foot Green roof. Green roofs may be found on St. Philip's Episcopal Academy in Newark, NJ and on the Oregon Episcopal School in addition to numerous other religious buildings in the United States. As religious, civic, and corporate organizations around the world consider their operating costs and environmental impact, green roofs are proving to be effective and responsible solutions to roofing and water management problems.



For more information, go to <http://www.trinityswarthmore.net/green.html> or contact greenroof@trinityswarthmore.org