

working for clean rivers

Portland's

ECOROOF

Program

2011

working for
clean rivers,
healthy
watersheds,
and a livable,
sustainable
community

Environmental Services is expanding the city's green stormwater management infrastructure to restore healthy watersheds. Green stormwater management systems use vegetation and soil to slow and filter runoff close to its source, and allow stormwater to soak into the ground.

To expand its green infrastructure, the city must strategically integrate green streets, rain gardens, ecoroofs and other green stormwater management facilities into impervious urban areas like parking lots, streets, and rooftops.

Ecoroofs in Portland

Ecoroofs are also known as extensive green roofs. They are living, breathing, vegetated roof systems that provide a sustainable alternative to conventional roofing. Unlike roof gardens, ecoroofs have shallow soils and use drought tolerant plants that require minimal irrigation. They are light weight, low maintenance, and as self-sustaining as possible.

Ecoroofs are part of a growing national effort to promote sustainable development and improve watershed health. Portland homeowners, business owners, and developers are installing ecoroofs on properties all around Portland. In May 2011, Portland had 288 ecoroofs covering nearly 14 acres. The city's goal is to reach 43 acres of ecoroofs by 2013.



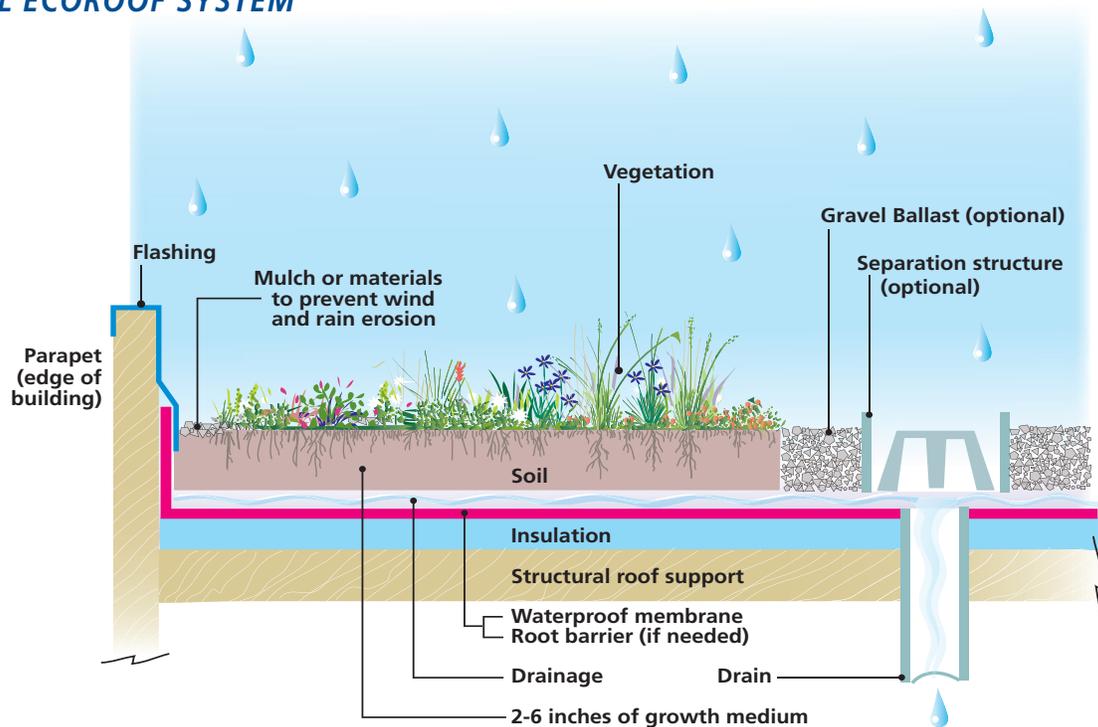
commercial and residential ecoroofs



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Dean Marriott, Director

A TYPICAL ECOROOF SYSTEM



Ecoroof Benefits

Ecoroofs provide benefits that conventional roofs don't. In Portland, a city with about 12,500 acres of roof space, ecoroofs actually help fix problems that conventional roofs cause:

Ecoroofs manage stormwater and protect streams

Vegetation and soil in ecoroofs capture rain, filter and slow stormwater, and reduce the amount of stormwater that flows from roofs to the sewer system or streams.

Ecoroofs cool cities and clean air

In hot weather, impervious roofs and pavement can increase temperatures over dense urban areas. Ecoroofs improve air quality by reducing this urban heat island effect and absorbing pollutants.

Ecoroofs conserve energy

Ecoroofs insulate buildings and decrease cooling and heating costs.

Ecoroofs provide habitat

Ecoroof plants and soil provide food and habitat for insects and birds.

Ecoroofs save money

Ecoroofs can last twice as long as conventional roofs, and save money on replacement costs and materials. Properties with ecoroofs may also be eligible for a stormwater fee discount.

How to Get Involved

The City of Portland promotes using ecoroofs on public and private property to manage stormwater on-site. The city offers building owners and developers an incentive of up to \$5 per square foot for an approved ecoroof project.

The city also offers resources and technical assistance to property owners, businesses, and professionals interested in getting involved in the ecoroof industry. Go to www.portlandonline.com/ecoroof to get more information about:

- How ecoroofs help keep rivers, streams and watersheds clean
- Where you can see Portland ecoroofs
- Starting your own ecoroof project
- Selecting ecoroof plants and finding local ecoroof professionals
- City ecoroof policies, permitting requirements, and codes
- Upcoming events, project highlights, and announcements on the ecoroof blog

For more information

website: www.portlandonline.com/ecoroof

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