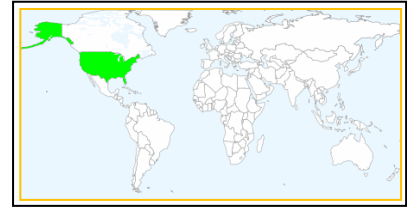


International Green Roof City Network

Case Study Chicago, Illinois USA



1) City Data

Location

Chicago is located in the mid-west of the United States. It is situated on the southwest corner of Lake Michigan.

Area

237 sq miles (approx. 614 km²)

Population

2.7 million

Other Information

The Chicago River runs through downtown Chicago.



Chicago City Hall

2) Description of the local Green Roof Policy Initiative

2.1 Start

Year 2000

2.2 Expected environmental benefits

- Stormwater management
- Biodiversity
- Urban Heat Island Effect
- Air Quality
- Climate Change
- Energy Savings
- Beautification of the City

2.3 Environmental benefit that is the carrier of the green roof initiative

Overall, the main environmental benefits are reducing urban heat island and stormwater management.

2.4 Support instruments that are used by the municipality to promote green roofs

- Building, landscape, energy, or other code or policy (e.g. land-use plan, green roof bylaw, zoning code, green factor, design regulations, etc.)
- Reduced stormwater fee
- Financial Incentives
- Tax Credits
- Favourable Credit Terms
- Density Bonus
- Demonstration Projects
- Ecological Labels
- Press, Internet
- Education and Information (e.g. seminars, conferences, green roof tours, etc.)
- Research
- Local Green Roof Guidelines
- Consultancy offer for constructors, investors, building owner
- Other instruments

Description of support instruments

Building, landscape, energy, or other code or policy: Chicago's Sustainable Development Policy requires development projects that receive assistance from the City to include sustainable elements including a green roof and LEED certification.

Examples of financial assistance include, but are not limited to: receiving tax increment financing or purchasing property from the City at a reduced cost.

Development projects that are part of a Planned Development because they exceed certain thresholds for height, area, or number of units, must also comply with the policy.

All projects located along the Chicago River or in the Lake Front Protection Zone must also comply.

Through Chicago's green permitting program, a green roof helps a project qualify for the expedited permitting process.



Chicago's stormwater ordinance promotes green roofs. All projects that disturb more than 15,000 square feet (1,393.5 m²) of land must have a stormwater management plan. The plan must address stormwater runoff volume and flow rate control. Green roofs are one measure that can be used to comply with these ordinances.

Density Bonus: New Buildings in the downtown zoning districts of Chicago that include a green roof are allowed to build more square footage than the code would otherwise allow.

Demonstration Projects: The City Hall was the first green roof on a public building in Chicago and is used as a demonstration roof for visitors and for research.

Education and Information: Green Tech University, which is part of the Chicago Center for Green Technology, frequently offers classes on green roofs.

Research: The Chicago City Hall green roof is used for biomonitoring and temperature monitoring. In addition, Chicago has used satellite imagery to complete an inventory of green roofs that have been built in the city.

Chicago conducted monitoring on a series of experimental test plots on the roof of the Chicago Center for Green Technology. The research compared the temperature and stormwater runoff characteristics of a variety of green roofs to conventional roofs. Results are available on line www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/doe/general/GreenBldsRoofsHomes/2006_Annual_Project_Summary_Report.pdf

Consultancy offer for constructors, investors, building owner: The city maintains a list of green roof providers.

3) Number and area of green roofs

359 green roofs, 5.5 million square feet (approx. 511,000 m²)

4) Challenges and future prospects

Chicago will continue to investigate issues related to green roof maintenance.

5) Contact persons

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6) Internet resources

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/chicago_green_roofs.html