

# International Green Roof City Network

## Case Study Hanover, Germany



### 1) City Data

#### Location

Hanover is the state capital of Lower Saxony (German state) in the Hanover Region.

#### Area

204.13 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Population

522,686 (2011)

#### Other Information

Hanover makes up part of the Hanover-Braunschweig-Göttingen-Wolfsburg metropolitan region.

Hanover lies on the main German north-south and east-west rail and road junction

## 2) Description of the local Green Roof Policy Initiative

### 2.1 Start

Year 1994: Building Code

Year 2001: Reduced stormwater fee

Year 2012: Financial incentives

### 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

The city quickly recognized that green roofs would make a sensible contribution to improving urban ecology. The advantages of green roofs were laid out in the environment section of the urban development plan as early as 1987.

## 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:** Exact specifications were included in the city council's "Guidelines for Green Roofing in Urban Development Plans" in 1994. Green roofs also form part of the mitigation and compensation measures. The environmental standards for construction in municipal areas states that all suitable flat roofs (with a pitch to 20%) on new buildings have to be equipped with green roofs.

**Reduced stormwater fee:** Green roof owners have received a 50% reduction in stormwater taxes since 01.01.2001.

**Financial Incentives:** Financial support schemes are to be looked into from 2012. A model project is underway in one suburb.

**Education and Information:** Green roofs have been described in the publications “Guidelines for environmental construction” and “Guidelines for handling rainwater in built up areas” since 1994. Future publications will be targeted.

**Research:** Green roof research is being carried out at the Leibnitz University in Hanover.

**Consultancy offer for constructors, investors, building owner:** Training in green roof techniques and materials has mainly been carried out by the administration so far. In the above mentioned model project however, prospective customers were targeted and advised. An interdisciplinary training event discussed the possibilities and opportunities of combining green roofs with solar plants.

### 3) Number and area of green roofs

2,251 green roofs, 638,500 m<sup>2</sup> (including underground garages)

### 4) Challenges and future prospects

Not specified

### 5) Contact persons

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### 6) Internet resources

<http://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Umwelt/Naturschutz/Mehr-Natur-in-der-Stadt/Aktuelle-Projekte/Begr%C3%BCntes-Hannover>

(German language)