

International Green Roof City Network

Case Study Vancouver, BC Canada



1) City Data

Location

Vancouver, a seaport city on the mainland of British Columbia, is located on the Pacific Coast just north of Washington State.

Area

114.97 km²

Population

603,000

Other Information

Not specified

2) Description of the local Green Roof Policy Initiative

2.1 Start

The City of Vancouver's Green Building Strategy includes supporting or promoting uptake of green roofs. The City does not currently have a specific policy with regard to green roofs.

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

Urban heat island, stormwater management and climate change are all areas of focus for the City of Vancouver. In terms of Vancouver's approach to green building policy, greenhouse gas reduction is the primary objective, which accounts for the City's focus on passive design and energy efficiency.

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

Demonstration Projects: The 2010 Vancouver Olympic Village, a sustainable community demonstration project and LEED Platinum neighbourhood has 50% green roof coverage.

Ecological labels: Vancouver has a policy that requires LEED certification for all rezoning applicants, which has resulted in an increase in green roof installations. Green roofs have been installed on City-owned facilities constructed in recent years.

3) Number and area of green roofs

Not available

4) Challenges and future prospects

The City of Vancouver intends to encourage and/or support uptake of green roofs by means of adopting supportive policy, or supporting industry education and capacity building, or removing barriers. In order to encourage increased development of landscaped areas including green roofs in our urban environment, the City has considered an approach such as that of the City of Seattle's green factor program.

5) Contact persons

<http://vancouver.ca/your-government/contact-the-city-of-vancouver.aspx>

6) Internet resources

<http://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/greenest-city-action-plan.aspx>