

Green Roofs



Augustenborg's Botanical Roof Garden





Healthier Cities

Our cities are constantly both expanding and becoming more compact. Natural greenery is lost to sealed asphalt or concrete surfaces. The loss of green environments affects our well-being and the ecological balance.

We need new ways to replace lost green space.

One way is to create green roofs. There are millions of square metres of rooftops that can easily become natural green spaces.

What is a green roof?

Living green roofs can be found in many different shapes and sizes. Extensive green roofs are light-weight with a very thin layer of soil using primarily drought resistant plant species such as sedums and mosses. These roofs survive on natural rainfall and do not need more maintenance than an annual check and a limited feed with nutrients.

At the other end of the weight scale is intensive roof vegetation, roof gardens or even parks. These, of course, need as much maintenance, watering and weeding as other gardens.

In between these extremes are a wide range of different kinds of roof vegetation with varying soil depths and plant types. Some, like meadows, need occasional maintenance whilst others need more looking after.

When you create a green roof you do yourself and the environment many favours. The roofs are attractive and can give urban dwellers a positive view and also an improved micro-climate. Wild animals and plants find habitat on the roofs in the midst all the asphalt and concrete and these roofs can compensate for lost green space on the ground, to a certain extent.

There are also financial benefits to green roofs as the roofing material lasts longer and the cost of heating and cooling the building decreases.

Increased green space and more permeable surfaces in the city results in a natural management of much of the rain-water, which leads to decreased costs for drainage and the rainwater does not need to unnecessarily increase the load on the sewage treatment works.

Living roofs are a way of contributing to a more sustainable development in our cities.

Green roofs

- take care of rain water
- provide a better micro-climate
- increase the life expectancy of the roofing material
- contribute to biodiversity
- decrease noise levels
- reduce cooling and energy needs
- can be used for recreational purposes
- decrease the overheating of cities
- are beautiful!

A world first

The creation of the world's first botanical roof garden started in May 1999 in conjunction with a green roof seminar in Augustenborg in Malmö. The roof garden, covering almost one hectare, was opened to the public in April 2001 and is a unique attraction for Malmö and Sweden.

The initiative and enthusiasm of the Service Department in Malmö and housing company MKB made the project possible. The Swedish Department of the Environment and EU-LIFE provided SEK 10M for the creation of the roof garden.

The aim of the project is to promote the use of vegetation on roofs for the long-term sustainable development of our cities. Researchers meet at Augustenborg's Botanical Roof Gardens to advance the state of the art for green roofs. People from the construction industry can find information about their benefits. Anyone with an interest in gardening can be inspired by the beautiful gardens.

A source of inspiration

Augustenborg's Botanical Roof Gardens are regularly renewed in order to meet the constantly developing demand for new research. The demonstration gardens are also updated to visualise the opportunities that roof greening provides. The exhibitions on the roofs and in the information centre are regularly changed.

We train architects, property owners, urban planners and other professionals, as well as students who will shape the cities of the future. We also welcome children and anyone else who is interested in plants, gardens and technological solutions for sustainable development.

Augustenborg Botanical Roofgarden is situated next to Augustenborg Ecocity. Here, green roofs and open storm water management is used to create beautiful outdoor environments and a more sustainable housing area.





The Scandinavian Green Roof Association is a not-for-profit organisation working to develop knowledge and spread information and inspiration about green roofs in order to improve the environment in our cities. Scandinavian Green Roof co-ordinates education and research on green roofs and living facades.

Scandinavian Green Roof is furthermore responsible for the operation of Augustenborg's Botanical Roof Gardens. Augustenborg's Botanical Roof Garden is a unique development with over 9 000 square metres of living roofs of many different types. Here you can find extensive sedum roofs and imaginative inspiration gardens and a special roof for endangered plant and animal species. There is also an information centre with exhibitions on sustainable urban development.

More information on green roofs, opening hours etc can also be found at www.greenroof.se

For visits and guided tours: +46 40 948520 or info@greenroof.se



Malmö stad



Scandinavian Green Roof
Visiting address: Ystadvägen 56, Malmö

Phone: +46 (0)40-94 85 20
e-mail: info@greenroof.se

www.greenroof.se