

Green Roofs

Morgan Processing and Distribution Center NY, NY and Colvin-Elmwood Post Office, Syracuse, NY

The U.S. Postal Service's first green roof atop the Morgan Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) is another example of its proactive environmental leadership, and continues the Postal Service's commitment to reducing its impact on the environment. The Morgan P&DC is a showcase of resource conservation and innovation.

- The Morgan P&DC was built in 1933, and was designated a historical landmark in 1986. It features 1,600 windows, and at 2.2 million interior square feet, Morgan is one of the largest mail processing facilities in the country.
- The green roof project began seven stories above the streets of midtown Manhattan, in Sept. 2008, after the old roof was deemed strong enough to support the additional weight of soil and vegetation. Construction was completed in July 2009. The facility also replaced its 1,600 windows and deployed other energy-saving enhancements.
- At 109,000 square feet — nearly 2.5 acres — the Morgan P&DC green roof is the second largest in New York City and one of the largest in the country. It also is one of the largest Postal Service environmental projects to date.
- All plants and vegetation are native to the region and comprise approximately 59 percent of the green roof surface. Native plants and ground cover include: Coral Carpet, John Creech, Weihenstephaner, Immergrunchen, Fuldaglut, and Red Carpet.
- The roof will last 50 years, twice as long as the roof it replaced, and will reduce the amount of storm water runoff into the New York municipal water system by more than 50 percent.
- The green roof is also more energy efficient than a traditional roof. The green roof and other energy saving enhancements are saving more than \$1 million per year. The savings are attributed to a 27.5 percent reduction in energy use and an average decrease in energy expenses of 15.8 percent.
- Nearly 90 percent of the original roof was recycled and reused on the new roof. The 176 copper column caps, now green due to natural oxidation, are original to the building, and continue to define Morgan as a historic building.

The Colvin-Elmwood Post Office features the Postal Service's newest green roof.

- Completed in the spring of 2013, the latest addition to our green roof portfolio covers 11,300 square feet.
- The roof was built at no cost to the Postal Service due to an innovative partnership with Onondaga County, NY.
- The roof will reduce the amount of storm water runoff into Syracuse's municipal water system.
- The green roof is part of the Postal Service's successful greener facilities strategy, including a goal to reduce energy use 30 percent by FY 2015, a goal which USPS was exceeding in 2012.

