



Rooftop garden helps combat urban heat.(GROUNDS AND LANDSCAPING)

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In a continuing effort to combat the urban heat island effect in Chicago, IL, the Chicago Department of General Services (DGS) contracted for the design and installation of green roofs on 4 of its fire stations. For buildings less than 3 stories high, a green roof can reduce average daily energy demands for cooling by 50% or more compared to a typical flat roof.

The green roofs, by Weston Solutions/ GreenGrid, Chicago, IL, contain a series of preplanted modules made of recycled plastics. The modules sit directly on roof or other structure with sufficient structural capacity. The modular format allows for design adjustments and roof maintenance and repair.

After the successful installation of Engine Company No. 57's green roof, DGS looked into December installations at Engine Companies No. 13 and No. 98. Because the planting for a GreenGrid roof is done at a nursery, not at the rooftop site, a winter installation of the green roofs was approved. Engine Company No. 98, a site on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed with 1,056 sq. ft. of modules planted with a mix of sedum species—3 plants per sq. ft. No. 98 is located on Chicago Avenue, just off of the "Miracle Mile." Engine Company No. 13, which is highly visible from skyscrapers in the vicinity, was designed with 2,072 sq. ft. of modules, planted with the same number and variety of plants. No. 13 is located on Columbus Avenue, in the Chicago Loop.

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