

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 070207)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Committee on the Environment to hold public hearings to investigate how the City of Philadelphia could establish a green roof initiative including municipal buildings, affordable housing, and by way of grants for homeowners.

WHEREAS, Green roofs are layers of living vegetation installed on top of conventional rooftops; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous benefits to green roofs. The added green space protects conventional roof tops by providing an added waterproofing system. Furthermore, green roofs offer environmental and aesthetic benefits; and

WHEREAS, Green roofs filter rainwater, reduce storm water runoff and conserve energy. Rooftop gardens cover heat trapping, dark roof surfaces, which in turn reduces the 'urban heat-island' effect and air pollution. The green space also provides an additional habitat to wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Many cities throughout the world have green roofs in various capacities. Chicago, for example, has over 250 known commercial and residential green roofs. Chicago's City Hall is one of these environmentally-friendly buildings and saves an average of \$4,000-\$5,000 each month on energy costs; and

WHEREAS, The cost of installing a green roof ranges between \$10 and \$20 per square foot. However, this cost is offset by the proven energy savings; and

WHEREAS, When planning and designing a green roof the following must be considered: Condition of roof, structural capacity of the roof, access to the roof, weight of garden, cost of garden, irrigation, drainage and maintenance; and

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WHEREAS, Commenting on Chicago City Hall's Green Roof, Robert Berghage, an associate professor of horticulture at Penn State University, stated, "Anything you can do to get more plant material in the city is going to make a big difference in helping to make our cities more livable,"; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That City Council's Committee on the Environment is hereby authorized to hold public hearings to investigate how the City of Philadelphia could establish a green roof initiative including municipal buildings, affordable housing, and by way of grants for homeowners.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-second of March, 2007.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Kenney

Sponsored by: Councilmember Kenney