

# Copenhagen “Green roofs”



Copenhagen is the first Scandinavian city to implement a mandatory green roof policy. This is a new policy that requires vegetation and soil to be a mandatory part of the architectural planning of buildings. Green roofs can be covered with vegetation such as sedums, mosses, perennials, shrubs or trees.

As part of the ‘Green Roofs’ project initiative, building owners in Copenhagen are encouraged to create gardens on the roofs of their properties. The roofs of residential buildings, office buildings, shopping centres and other commercial buildings are planted with greenery. Plants and lawns on roofs have an important function in absorbing carbon dioxide, improve the thermal insulation of buildings and create a welcoming space for residents to relax and enjoy recreation.

The benefits of “green roofs”:

- reduced risk of flooding during wetter periods of the year, due to the rainwater harvesting system, which is then used to irrigate the vegetation
- cleaner air – capturing dust particles thanks to the vegetation on the roof
- reduction in temperature in cities
- protection of buildings from ultraviolet radiation and sudden temperature changes
- production of food through “rooftop” urban allotments
- creation of habitats for animals and plants

The local authority has set out the requirements that building owners must meet if they want to have a property title with a „green roof”

- The roof should absorb between 50 and 80% of the precipitation that falls on its surface.
- The roof should act as a thermal insulator, bringing a cooling effect and reducing the reflection of light, while at the same time having an impact on the regulation of the temperature inside the building.
- The roof should contribute to improving greenness of the city by reducing the urban heat island effect and preventing excessive heating in urban areas.
- The roof should contribute to the visual and aesthetic diversity of the architecture, with positive effects on the quality of life.
- The roof should prolong the life of the roof membrane, protecting it from harmful UV rays and other factors.

The Green Roofs project is crucial for the sustainable development of the city, combating climate change and improving the quality of life for residents by creating a more pleasant urban environment. Copenhagen sets an example that inspires other cities to take similar initiatives and use unused rooftop spaces for the benefit of the environment and the community.

However, not every climate allows for the creation of amazing and lush gardens. Depending on the climate in your region, you need to choose the right plants and shrubs to realise the principle of ‘green roofs’ in other corners of the world.



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## Sources:

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