



GROWING TREND Using materials manufactured, propagated and installed by local companies, vegetative roofs were recently installed on seven of 13 Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority buildings as part of a system-wide renovation project.

Homegrown Solution

Local team installs vegetative roof system for CMHA

By Joanne F. Durante

Northeastern Ohio is on the front line of the sustainability battleground, as the home base for players in every sector of the green movement. Recently, Cleveland became the first city in the country to install green roofing on a public housing project using materials manufactured, propagated and installed using homegrown talent.

“It was our customer, the Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), who drove the choice of green roofing,” says Bill Davis, who works in executive sales for Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. “They were looking for an environmentally responsible solution that would keep the buildings cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter using less energy, while reducing stormwater run-off from their lake and riverfront properties.”

As a leader in the multi-billion dollar North American market for products, systems and services that automate facility infrastructures, Siemens is no stranger to sustainable design. Helping customers reduce energy consumption is core to a corporate philosophy that is committed to providing products and services that reduce environmental impact whenever possible.

When chosen as general contractor for a wide range of CMHA facility improvements, Siemens was asked by CMHA’s Mark Novak to investigate the possibility of using vegetative roofing as an energy-improving upgrade. Davis immediately began researching local sources for vegetative roofing, discovering that one of the pioneers in bringing green roofing solutions

to North America was right here in Cleveland. Ron Razek, Cleveland-area sales manager for The Garland Company, Inc., explains, “As far back as 1991, our corporate team here in Cleveland was exploring Europe looking for innovative roofing solutions. We began partnering with an East German manufacturer with expertise in vegetative roofs, and have been involved in their commercialization ever since. The GreenShield® roofing system, which evolved from those early green roofs, is now manufactured here in the States.”

According to Razek, CMHA was able to implement vegetative roofs on seven of the 13 buildings that were being renovated. In addition to the green solution, Cleveland-based Garland, which was founded in 1895 and maintains its headquarters here, provided the underlying waterproofing system for all 28,385 square feet of roofing, the metal wall panels used for the renovation, and sealants used to prepare the roof deck and its appliances for reroofing.

Davis reports that having a local resource was “extremely important for this type of project.” “Ron was in attendance at several meetings,” Davis says. “Garland arranged for us to have a tour of its facility. It was great to have some-

one to walk the roofs with us, to engage with the customer.”

The 8,750 square feet of extensive vegetative roofing used about four inches of lighter weight soil. CMHA involved Lakeview Terrace residents by allowing them to participate in planting a variety of hardy, locally available, drought-resistant sedums, grasses and other smaller plants. The finished roofs are easily maintained by existing building maintenance staff.

Cleveland-based Industrial Energy Systems Inc. installed all the roofing.

“With green roofs, there is little margin for error,” Razek says. “You want a foolproof installation, and Barry Diedrick [project manager for Industrial Energy Systems] and his crew did a terrific job for the City.”

He concludes, “There was a lot more involved with this project than the roofing, and Siemens’ project manager, Chris Knop, and the whole Siemens’ team were great to work with, guiding and facilitating a very complicated process for Mark [Novak] and his project manager, Mike Hughes, with minimal disruption to the residents. Now that spring is returning to Cleveland, the residents of Lakeview Terrace are going to have a phenomenal view.” **P**