

Green Roof for Energy Savings

Green roofs, green buildings and an energy management system have brought the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) closer to its 2015 energy reduction goal.

Green roof topping on the Morgan mail processing facility in Midtown Manhattan is an impressive module of the agency's energy strategy. The year-old green roof is the largest of its kind in New York City, covering nearly 2.5 acres.



The roof is outperforming the agency's early estimates. For example, it has been successful in reducing polluted storm water runoff by 40 percent in the winter and 75 percent in the summer. Due to the replacement of 1,600 windows and other energy-saving measures, it is enjoying a 40 percent per month reduction in energy use, with 15 percent lower average monthly energy expenses than previous levels. Since it will last 50 years, twice as long as its predecessor, the green roof will also pay

dividends over the long run, along with the savings.

Tom Samra, vice president of facilities, said in a statement, "A year ago, the Postal Service projected the green roof would help the Morgan facility save \$30,000 in annual energy expenses. We're pleased to have surpassed that goal, saving more than \$1 million since the implementation of the green roof and other energy-saving measures at Morgan."



The USPS has long worked to trim its greenhouse gas emissions to reduce its overall carbon footprint by 20 percent by 2020.

USPS also tributes its newly implemented Enterprise Energy Management System (EEMS) with helping it manage and measure energy data, saving some \$400 million since 2007. The USPS has cut energy intensity 21 percent since 2003, combined with other green building practices, such as its LEED certifications.

Apart from its buildings, the agency has focused on its giant task force with a vision toward replacing inefficient models with ones that use less fuel or alternative fuels.