



Preventing wind uplift on green roofs.

Living Roofs Inc. designs green roof system for hurricane-prone locales. Hurricane Earl provided the first test.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Beaufort, NC, October 13, 2010 - Living Roofs Inc. (LRI), a leading green roof design and installation company based in Asheville, NC, has installed a specially designed green roof on the Ocean Conservation Center (OCC) at Duke University's Marine Laboratory in Beaufort, NC. This is a new building designed by Frank Harmon Architect PA and is located a stones throw away from the open Sound and just a mile from the Atlantic Ocean, this project challenged designers with the unknown variables of salty air and extreme wind loads.

"Although green roof wind load research has been completed on small-scale, laboratory test plots, the overall affects of hurricane force winds and uplift pressures on an actual green-roofed building are somewhat unknown," says LRI Project Manager Alan Myers-Davis. "We designed this system to minimize the effects of uplift pressures present during horizontal wind loads," adds LRI Owner Emilio Ancaya. "Not only did we choose a green roof system (Xero Flor America) that is certified to resist high wind loads, and FM Global approved, we incorporated additional measures to restrain the green roof during high wind occurrences. These measures include UV resistant netting held in place by an interlocked perimeter paver system. The two-foot square perimeter pavers interlocked by stainless steel edging, act as a continuous perimeter weight pinning down the netting which covers the vegetated area. The netting extends across the green roof from one side to the other, and is tucked under the paver perimeter. This design was a group effort by the architect (Frank Harmon Architect, PA), roofing contractor (Curtis Construction Co.), and LRI."

The OCC green roof received its first true test this season when Hurricane Earl skirted the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The roof received persistent high winds with gusts up to 90 mph. Visiting the roof after the storm revealed no signs of soil loss, vegetation damage, or overall changes to the system. "Hurricane Earl was just the first test for this green roof. We will be keeping a close eye during future storms and will definitely keep the green roof community updated as we learn more from this project." says Emilio.

About Living Roofs Inc.:

Living Roofs Inc., based in Asheville, NC, specializes in green roof design, installation, and maintenance. For more information, visit www.livingroofsinc.com.

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