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## Minneapolis Target Center becomes first U.S. arena with green roof

September 16, 10:01 AM · [Minneapolis City Hall Examiner](#) · [Jeremy Hanson](#)



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Minneapolis city leaders yesterday celebrated the greening of the Target Center roof at a celebration on top of the arena. The Target Center now has the largest green roof in Minnesota, the fifth largest green roof in the United States, and is the first arena in North America to install a green roof.

"With the redesign of the Target Center roof, Minneapolis has again proven that sustainability and economic progress can go hand in hand," said Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. "Green initiatives such as this will not only improve the environment for city residents, but continue to cast Minneapolis as a leader when it comes to green industry."

"We lead best by example," said Council Member Lisa Goodman, "Building one of the nation's largest green roofs will allow us to ask others to do the same."

"For years we worked to reduce the City's negative effect on the Mississippi River's stormwater quality," said Barbara A. Johnson, City Council President. "This is a big step forward, built by hard-working Minneapolis citizens and area laborers."

### Benefits of the Green Roof

Green roofs provide ecological benefits by reducing the negative effects of hard surfaces, like traditional roofs, on stormwater quality, volume, rate, and temperature on the receiving waterbody, in this case, the Mississippi River.

It is estimated the Target Center green roof will capture one million gallons of stormwater annually, preventing drainage into the Mississippi River. The green roof will also help reducing the heat island effect in downtown Minneapolis by reducing the roof's temperature by as much as 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

There are also opportunities for the City to provide jobs for Minneapolis residents; 75 percent of the workers who worked on the installation of the Target Center roof were Minneapolis residents. Twenty of the workers were graduates of training programs at Summit Academy OIC.

Construction of the Vegetated Roof Pre-grown mats of sedum plants create the base of the green roof system. Mats were laid on a state-of-the-art waterproofing membrane which includes a leak detection system. The membrane will help withstand constant dampness, high alkalinity, and exposure to plant roots, fungi, and bacterial organisms as well as varying hydrostatic pressures.

While the project called for 50 percent recycling of existing materials, the roofing team set its own goal of recycling 100 percent of the old roof. This means that an estimated 450 tons of existing rock and 590 tons of existing pavers, 140 tons of existing roofing membrane and more than 60 truckloads of existing roof insulation were reused to construct the new roof.

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