

Interview with Schweizerische Fachvereinigung Gebäudebegrünung

1) What is meant by green roofs?

The greening of roofs means the installation of vegetation-compatible structures/substrates and their planting.

2) Can any roof be turned into a green roof?

The greening of roofs requires prior clarification of statics, inclination, waterproofing, drainage (varies from municipality to municipality) and possibly a building permit. Consequently, not every roof can be greened.

3) Why should we make our homes greener in the future? (advantages)

Besides creating a habitat for fauna and flora, green roofs offer improved insulation and thus an optimised indoor climate in the building. The possibility of retaining precipitation water in the vegetation layers and cavities and slowly releasing it into the connected sewerage system relieves the wastewater treatment plants and leads to a sustainable drainage of the settlement. The effect on the microclimate through the transpiration performance of the vegetation improves the microclimate around the building and promotes the well-being and health of the people. The same applies to the binding of fine dust.

4) Are there also disadvantages?

The construction and maintenance of green roofs causes additional costs for the client. However, these costs can be easily offset by the system performance (see advantages) and the lifetime extension of the building fabric.

5) To what extent does greening help with cooling?

Due to the transpiration of the vegetation and the retained water, a cooling of up to 20°C in summer on fully sunny roofs in the direct vicinity is achieved.



6) What does greening do for our environment?

In addition to the above-mentioned advantages, individual roof areas have a minor impact on the climatic challenges of our world. A green roof becomes interesting and effective when it is planned and implemented on a larger scale (i.e. on an urban planning level).

7) Does a green roof also affect us humans?

In addition to the advantages already mentioned, there is the possibility of creating new local recreation zones in urban areas (e.g. Urban Gardening).

8) What are the different types of greening of buildings?

The type of green roof depends on the permissible roof load and inclination. The spectrum of roofs ranges from extensive (sedum roof) to intensive use (roof garden). The greening of facades has similar advantages as mentioned above and can be extended by using edible climbing plants and creepers.

9) How has green roofs developed in recent years?

The trend towards greening roofs has developed positively in recent years. However, this statement is currently more or less true for neighbouring countries (Germany and Austria). In these countries, more roofs have been greened due to adjustments of the legal requirements and goals as well as more intensive research. The end user (e.g. building owners) in Switzerland has gained an increased focus on these potential areas through ongoing sensitisation campaigns (e.g. Mission B).

10) What do you need for a green roof and how much does it cost?

The essential step in the greening of roofs is the planning. Clarification of the statics and other technical issues are mandatory. This effort and the use of technical materials and substrates result in additional costs, which can only be determined by a planning process.

