Vegetative (Green) Roofs

Owners may wish to consider vegetative roofs. Vegetative roofs reduce storm water run-off and can reduce the heat island effect of roofing materials. Vegetative roofs may be appropriate for flat roofed structures although in existing buildings, this adds to the weight of the roof so engineering calculations would need to be done to determine whether the load would require strengthening the support, which would increase costs. Vegetative covers applied to roofs slow, or totally absorb rainfall during storms. The goal of modern vegetative roof technology is to replace the absorptive capacity of the land on which the building was erected.

Vegetative roofs contain plantings about 4-6 inches deep applied over waterproofed roofs or concrete wood or metal. Plant size and selection depend on the depth of the growing medium and on local climate. These roofs offer a practical alternative for retrofitting existing roofs.

Additional information at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Roof