



There's a meadow five stories above the busy city streets of Nashville complete with green grass and rolling hills. This green space in the sky is actually the roof of a new convention center in the Music City.

CONVENTION CENTER GREEN ROOF HELPS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The downtown development is part of the city's green infrastructure program created to manage Nashville's urban storm water challenges. The building boasts a 175,000 square foot green roof containing rooflite®, a certified green roof media manufactured by Skyland USA.

Ordinarily, rains pouring over the massive 1.2 million square foot building would drain into the city's storm water system. But rather than tax the already strained system, some of which dates back to the 1880's, most of the storm water landing on the Music City Center is retained by its specially designed roof.

"Storm water management is a huge problem and that's why there's a push for more green roofs," says Skyland USA's Managing Director Joe DiNorscia. "They allow 60 to 80% of rainwater to stay on a roof to be absorbed by the plants or evaporated. What's left comes down slower and that gives the sewer system a chance

to better handle the runoff," he says.

In the case of the Nashville project, designers specified a green roof media that had to be extra light and work in a shallow installation. Skyland's rooflite® Extensive MCL product was a good fit for the project. "Our technical director, Peter Philippi, worked closely with Garick, one of our licensed rooflite blenders, to slightly tweak our blend to meet this project's strict design specifications," DiNorscia says.

The Music City Center achieved LEED® silver designation and the green roof was a prominent part of the effort. Developers were able to obtain points for sustainable site, water efficiency,

and the use of regional materials. In the case of the engineered soil used in the roof, raw materials were sourced from central Alabama and middle Tennessee; well within LEED's 500-mile radius requirement.

Garick manufactured all of the green roof media used for the massive convention center. Skyland works closely with a number of blenders like Garick nationwide to ensure their product has a consistent quality.

"We seek out raw components from a particular region that are cost competitive in the marketplace. Most of the green roof projects in the East rely on HydRocks," he says.