

# ASHZIP™ Enviro-Roof

the perfect sustainable roofing solution



- one of the lightest systems in the market (56kg/m<sup>2</sup> against industry standard 100kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- UK grown sedum
- cost effective & high quality engineered solution
- proven expertise in Environmental Roof solutions

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Sustainability is increasingly acknowledged as one of the key growth areas in the roofing construction industry today. Environmentally-driven legislation has led to this shift in focus, with more and more companies offering sustainable and 'greener' options. However, specifying a green 'Extensive' roof, or brown 'Bio-diverse' roof becomes somewhat more difficult, particularly where standing seam is concerned.

Ray Harriman, Managing Director of Ash & Lacy Building Systems separates the genuine advocacy from the 'Greenwash' and shows how standing seam is the perfect sustainable roofing solution.

The benefits of specifying a sustainable roof are extensive, with the UK producing 350,000m<sup>2</sup> sustainable roofing in 2007 alone and the UK market growing by 30% per annum. Environmentally a green roof reduces CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and improves air quality by trapping particulate matter; it also reduces the 'urban island' effect which cities suffer from, by keeping air cool by 'evapotranspiration'. Both Extensive green and Bio-diverse roofs protect and improve wildlife habitats and reduce pressure on rivers and sewage systems by reducing and delaying run-off. Brown, or Bio-diverse roofs which are a mixture of crushed brick, concrete, grasses, wood bark and recycled foam, encourage the nesting of birds and growth of vegetation by wind-blown seeds.

As well as the apparent environmental gain the list of benefits goes on. The need for cooling buildings in summer and heating in the winter is reduced, due to the additional insulating layer. The roof-life is extended, as the outer layer protects the roof structure beneath, noise is decreased and the pressure on a building's drainage system is reduced. As a result, the whole life cost of the building is substantially lower, as well as the obvious improved visual qualities and 'green' image of the developers and cities.

A common problem experienced with combining standing seam with green or brown roofs is sagging of the sheet pan due to the added weight of the sedum and aggregate layer on top. The issue of visible, ugly retention bars which hold the additional materials in place and a lack of robust perimeter detailing has often been a deterring factor. Ash & Lacy have partnered with BBS Green Roofing, one of the country's leading independent environmental Roof System Installation Engineers to overcome these issues and offer the most cost effective, expert, engineered standing seam enviro roofs on the market.

The saturated weight of most extensive green roofing systems is 100kg or more per m<sup>2</sup>. BBS has specifically designed the lightest sedum system on the market for Ash & Lacy, at half the saturated weight of 56kg per m<sup>2</sup>, yet as nutrient rich as a 100kg system. This has a beneficial knock-on effect for the standing seam under layer, eliminating sagging and allowing 400mm modules, as opposed to the usual 300mm to be installed. This reduces the amount of Ashzip which in conjunction with the lighter sedum mat results in a much more cost effective sustainable roofing system.

Another key problem area has been the lack of specific components for retention on steeper roof pitches above 15 degrees. Ash & Lacy have overcome this, by designing bespoke low-level retention bars which are quicker and easier to drop onto the standing seam and are also covered by the light sedum directly, increasing the visual appeal. A layer of pebbles is also laid around the edge of the roof to facilitate drainage and stop weeds from settling. Up the verge of the roofing system, and across the ridge, a border of washed pebbles are detailed, so each perimeter of sedum is surrounded by a neat border of stones which is both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

Sustainable roofing offers huge benefits on both environmental and technical levels, with little maintenance required. However, ensuring that experts fit the roof and horticulturalists fit the Green element is vital to create the best possible solutions for a beautiful, functional roof.

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West Bromwich. Bromford Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 7JJ

Tel: 0121 525 1444 Fax: 0121 525 3444

also at: London. Gateway 3, Davis Road, Off Cox Lane, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1TD

Tel: 020 8391 9700 Fax: 020 8391 9701

Glasgow Unit 4b, Albion Trading Est, South Street, Whiteinch, Glasgow G14 0SY

Tel: 0141 950 6040 Fax: 0141 950 6080

E-mail enquiries to: [sales@ashandlacy.com](mailto:sales@ashandlacy.com)



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