

Will County furthers its green mission

Project makes Joliet office energy efficient

Joliet Herald News

July 11, 2010

JOLIET -- Will County continued its commitment to "going green" as workers installed a green roof on the county office building, 302 N. Chicago St. The green roof, which seeks to reduce energy costs and offer other environmental benefits, is the first of its kind in downtown Joliet.

As part of a \$3.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, Will County was able to complete this project. The 5,920-square-foot GreenGrid roof contains sedum and other perennial plant life pre-planted in 2-by-4 foot trays. Approximately 740 of these modular sections will cover a large portion of the rooftop.

Will County Executive Larry Walsh said this project is another piece of the county's larger green initiative program, which includes an aggressive retrofit of county buildings, a gas-to-energy plant at the Will County-owned Prairie View landfill in Wilmington, and a variety of educational efforts directed toward students.

"Will County is very progressive in its plans to embrace 'green practices'," Walsh said.

Weston Solutions Inc. in Vernon Hills supplied the GreenGrid modular trays filled with the plants and Bennett and Brosso, a company based out of Romeoville, was responsible for the physical installation.

Green roofs assist in storm water management by absorbing excess water and delaying water runoff. The roofs also help lower cooling costs by providing an extra layer of insulation.

"This is a win/win project," Walsh said. "Not only will this green roof save taxpayer dollars, it is environmentally responsible. Most importantly, we are using local labor for this project."