



Installation of Green Roof to Improve Environment and Local Area

Water Management, Inc.'s (WMI) reputation as a leading water conservation company led Urban Investment Partners to subcontract WMI to install a new Live Roof green roof system at the 1841 Columbia Road Apartments in Northwest Washington, DC. The new roof will be used to

absorb and store more than 5,000 gallons of stormwater each time it rains. Like many older cities in the United States, the District is largely serviced by a combined sewer system where stormwater, and wastewater from homes and businesses are carried through a single sewer pipe to treatment plants. During heavy rainfall, stormwater that falls on pavement, rooftops, and other impervious surfaces can exceed the capacity of the sewer system and a combination of stormwater and wastewater – called a combined sewer overflow (CSO) – can be discharged into local waterways. The green roof will keep the rain out of the combined sewer system and help to make DC waterways healthier. In addition, the new landscaped roof will reduce the levels of excess energy through absorption and the evaporation of water, and



thus make the city climate just a little more bearable. At the same time dust and toxic particles will be filtered out, which will lead to massive improvements in the air quality.

As a natural "coat", landscaped roofs can lead to marked improvements in a building's energy balance. During the summer months, the community will also profit from the cooling effects of the green rooftop and aside from improving the environment, green roofs are a desirable and attractive amenity and in turn will bring tenants and visitors to the community.