EVERGREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE

GREENROOFS AND BIODIVERSITY

"From Concrete to Canopy"

Can Green Roofs Bring Back Urban Biodiversity?

From Concrete to Canopy explores how green roofs can restore biodiversity in dense urban environments. Evergreen Infrastructure, in partnership with the City of Melbourne, is leading the design and implementation of biodiverse green roofs that support native flora and fauna, transforming rooftops into vital ecological havens in the cityscape.

STATE OF OUR CITIES

Our cities are expanding rapidly, often at the cost of natural systems. Greenspace is shrinking, biodiversity is declining, and hard surfaces dominate. This imbalance weakens ecosystems and urban resilience. As density grows, we must embrace nature-based solutions that restore ecological function while enhancing liveability in the places we live, work, and move through daily.

WHAT ARE BIODIVERSITY GREEN ROOFS

Biodiversity green roofs are designed for ecological function, not just greenery. They create habitat through specialised planting and design, mimicking natural ecosystems with native species and seasonal variation. These multifunctional systems reduce heat, manage stormwater, improve air quality, and bring vital nature back into dense urban areas.

HABITAT ABOVE OUR CITIES

In cities of concrete and glass, biodiversity green roofs become vital habitats—safe landing zones for birds, resting places for pollinators, and breeding grounds for insects. Acting as stepping-stones between fragmented green spaces, they restore ecological connections and help preserve species displaced by urban development.

DESIGNING WITH THE RIGHT PROFESSIONALS AT THE TABLE

Creating effective biodiversity green roofs requires collaboration. Architects, planners, engineers, and builders must work alongside ecologists, horticulturists, and biodiversity specialists who understand local plant and animal needs. This roundtable approach ensures roofs are not just green, but living, thriving ecosystems, balancing form, function, and ecological regeneration

SCALABLE AND ADAPTABLE FOR URBAN USE

Biodiversity green roofs are practical, scalable solutions for both new and existing buildings. They can be adapted to a variety of structures, climates, and spaces, from lightweight systems to intensive plantings. Their flexibility makes them ideal for retrofitting ecological function, improving thermal performance, and showcasing a city's commitment to sustainability and resilience.

A LIVING EXAMPLE: MELBOURNE'S GREEN ROOFS

The City of Melbourne and Evergreen Infrastructure are leading the way in showing how biodiversity green roofs can transform urban spaces.

Projects like the Victorian State Governments 1 Treasury Place, and the Greenline Green Roof at Federation Square, have all been built in collaboration with Evergreen Infrastructure and are vibrant, functioning ecosystems. Developed with ecologists, designers, and city leaders, they prove that with the right vision and partnerships, biodiversity can thrive in the heart of the city.