



## How Roofing Systems Help the Environment

Whether to fulfill a core personal and/or business value or to take advantage of cost savings, tax benefits or for potential many other reasons, it's usually a good idea to choose an environmentally friendly roofing system.

There are four primary options that maximize energy savings, reduce waste and help the environment.

### 1. White Membrane Roofs

Roofs with white or light-colored membranes are considered "cool roofs" because of their ability to reflect more of the sun's rays away from the building. In hot places, cool roof systems can help reduce the need for air conditioning in the summer, lowering the building's electricity bill.

### 2. Fluid Applied Roofing Systems



Like membrane roofs, fluid applied roofing systems high in reflectivity decrease the use of air-conditioning and lower CO<sub>2</sub> and other emissions from being released into the air. The reflective and emissive properties also help decrease smog formation and respiratory illness.

They are installed be on top of the existing roof system for half or one-third the cost of a complete roof



replacement and can extend the life of the existing roof by decades. By avoiding tearing off the old roof, they reduce materials going to landfills.

Duke Energy customers are eligible to receive rebates when installing white membrane and fluid applied roofs that help defray the cost of installation.

### 3. Metal Roofs



Metal is one of the most eco-friendly materials for roofs. A metal roof made from recycled materials can last up to 60 years, and the material can be re-used again once it is time to replace it. Metal is also reflective, keeping buildings cool in the summertime.

### 4. Green Roofs



Not only do roof plants help fight climate change, but they also can help moderate the temperature of a commercial building and improve air quality in the surrounding area. Green roofs are ideal for urban areas where there is little other surrounding vegetation.

As an added bonus, companies should consider using the large empty space on their commercial roof to install solar panels to further offset a building's electricity use. While new roofs can be specifically outfitted to support the weight of solar panels, older roofs will likely need some modification to safely secure panels on the roof. It's always best to have a professional roofer assist with the installation to ensure the installation doesn't do any damage.

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