

**PERFORMANCE OF GREEN ROOFS IN TROPICAL CLIMATIC
CONDITIONS**

Shanika Nisansala Wijerathne

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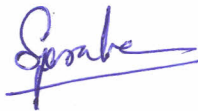
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Abstract

Abstract

Growth of the world urbanization has been extensively accelerated since past few decades. With the increasing urbanization, the land with permeable layers and moist have been altered. As a result, urban heat island phenomenon has taken place, making the temperature in the cities to be higher than the country sides. Heat island effect in cities is mainly because of non-natural heat absorbing materials use in buildings and other manmade structures. Natural greenery in the cities was replaced by concrete yards and most of the cities urbanizing with more and more concrete. Since there is no space to grow, adding greenery to cities is also an issue. Having greenery over the roof or planting on roofs are now becoming popular in many countries. Green roofs play a major role as a sustainable solution to minimize the heat island effect. This research discusses about the effects on the surrounding temperatures, if the existing flat roofs in the Colombo city, the capital of Sri Lanka, are replaced with green roofs. The reduction in the temperature in the atmosphere was calculated using actual measurements on small scale models and computer simulation. These findings were coupled with the energy balance of the city. From the results obtained, it can be clearly shown that there is a significant reduction in the temperatures, in the city when compared to the prevailing condition. The forecasted condition proves that the foreseeable problem of urban heat island effect with the future developments can be drastically reduced with the introduction of green roofs.

Another problem the world is facing today is energy crisis. Because of that world is now focusing on the sustainable cities. The contribution of the green roofs towards the energy cost saving when it is implemented in the city level in the existing flat roof slabs is calculated. A Derob modeling is done and the A/C loads are obtained for different roof types throughout the year and with the actual roof areas obtained for the city the energy cost saving is calculated. The energy cost saving obtained was 12%. However when it incorporates with the actual practice the desires of the population also should be analyzed. Identifying the implementation possibilities of the green roofs in the city also is vital to achieve these identified benefits in the future. This was achieved through a detailed questionnaire survey. With questionnaire survey it was found that the awareness of the green roofs is 56.8% and the willingness to spend for a green roof is less than 20% than the existing cost for an asbestos roof.

Key Words: Heat island effect, green roofs, computer simulation, energy cost saving, implementation possibilities.

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Contents

Contents

Abstract	i
Acknowledgement	ii
Contents.....	iii
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 General	1
1.2 Objectives	2
1.3 The Methodology	2
1.4 The Main Findings	3
1.5 The arrangement of the report	4
2. Literature Review	6
2.1 General	6
2.2 Urbanization.....	6
2.2.1 World Trends	6
2.2.2 South Asian Trends.....	8
2.3 Problems with Urbanization.....	9
2.3.1 Urban Transportation.....	9
2.3.2 CO ₂ Increase.....	10
2.3.3 Urban Air Quality Related Health Risk	11
2.3.4 Temperature Increment	12
2.3.5 Urban Green Spaces	13
2.3.6 Energy Consumption	14
2.4 Congested Cities.....	16
2.4.1 Problems Caused with traffic congestion.....	17
2.4.2 Sri Lankan Cities	18
2.5 Thermal Comfort in tropical climate.....	23
2.5.1 Tropical Wet.....	23
2.5.2 Tropical Wet and Dry	24
2.5.3 Thermal Comfort	25
2.5.4 Climate in Sri Lanka.....	28

Contents

2.6	Rooftop Gardening	30
2.6.1	Understanding the option	31
2.6.2	Design of a Green Roof.....	33
2.6.3	Benefits of green roofs	36
2.6.4	Demand for Green Roofs	41
2.6.5	Green roof Cost Issues.....	42
2.7	Roofing Systems and Housing in Sri Lanka.....	43
2.7.1	Housing Units	43
2.8	Life Cycle Costing.....	46
2.8.1	Design Service Life	46
2.8.2	Inflation	46
2.8.3	Interest Rate	47
2.8.4	Inflation Rates in Sri Lanka	47
2.8.5	Life Cycle Costing and Whole Life Costing.....	48
2.8.6	Life Cost Analysis	48
2.8.7	Discount rates in Sri Lanka	49
2.9	Summary	49
3.	Performance of Roofs on Urban Heat Island Effect	52
3.1	General	52
3.2	Area Chosen.....	53
3.3	Measuring Roof Areas	54
3.4	Theoretical Frame Work	55
3.5	Energy Store by Each Roof	57
3.6	The Results.....	59
3.7	Summary	62
4.	Energy Cost Saving with the Implementation of Green Roofs	64
4.1	General	64
4.2	The DEROB Modeling	65
4.3	Analysis.....	66
4.3.1	Initial Installation Costs of Roofs	67
4.4	Life Cycle Cost Comparison with Different Land Recovery Percentages	70

Contents

4.5	Summary	73
5.	Questionnaire Survey	75
5.1	General	75
5.2	The Questionnaire	75
5.3	The Analysis of the Questionnaire	76
5.4	Summary	80
6.	Enhancement of CO ₂ in Cities with Green Roofs	81
6.1	General	81
6.2	Site Description	82
6.3	Theory	83
6.3.1	Pearson Correlation	83
6.3.2	Regression Analysis	85
6.3.3	Standard Deviation and Mean	85
6.4	Results and Discussion	87
6.5	Summary	91
7.	Conclusion and Recommendation	92
7.1	Conclusion	92
7.2	Recommendation	93
7.3	Future Work	94



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Figures and Tables

Figure 2.1: South Asian Rural Population Distribution as a Percentage of Total Population as in World Bank Indicators 2011	8
Figure 2.2: South Asian Urban Population Distribution as a Percentage of Total Population World Bank Indicators 2011	9
Figure 2.3: Urban Traffic Congestion	10
Figure 2.4: Carbon dioxide Emission in 2003 in the World (Inmaculada and Martínez-Zarzoso, 2004)	11
Figure 2.5: Sketch of an Urban Heat-Island Profile (http://www.epa.gov/heatisd/about/index.htm)	13
Figure 2.6: Average Floor Space per Person in Urban Settlement (Giovanni Sanesi, 2006)	14
Figure 2.7: Energy Consumption in Selected Asian 5 Cities (Bettencourt, 2007)	15
Figure 2.8: Traffic Congestion (Federal Highway Administration 2008)	16
Figure 2.9: Population Rise and Rate of Growth in Sri Lanka (Census, 2001)	20
Figure 2.10: Population Density by District 2001	20
Figure 2.11: Population Distribution Change from 1981 to 2001 (Census 2001)	21
Figure 2.12: Annual Ambient Concentration of SO ₂ and NO ₂ in Colombo 1998-2003	23
Figure 2.13: Prevalence of Tropical Climatic Condition in the World (physicalgeography.net)	24
Figure 2.14: Simplified Psychrometric Chart (P.W. Faire 1994)	27
Figure 2.15: Zoning Arrangement in Sri Lanka	29
Figure 2.16: A Showcase of Icelandic Treasures, Magnusson, 1987	30
Figure 2.17: Old Green Roofed House	30
Figure 2.18: Farmhouse in a historical park in Iceland	31
Figure 2.19: Extensive Green Roof System (Richard M. Daley, 2005)	32
Figure 2.20: Intensive Green Roof System (Richard M. Daley, 2005)	32
Figure 2.21: Green Roof System (Linda S. Velazquez, 2005)	34
Figure 2.22: Representing Bio Diversity	40
Figure 2.23: Green Roofed Building	41
Figure 2.24: Sri Lanka Inflation Rate	48
Figure 2.25: Sri Lanka Interest Rates	49
Figure 3.1: Sample Area Chosen	53
Figure 3.2: Measured Slab Roof Areas are Shown	54
Figure 3.3: Simulation Scheme	55
Figure 3.4: Modeled Houses from DEROB	57
Figure 3.5: Temperature variation in different roofs with time	58
Figure 3.6: Energy stored values for different roofs	59
Figure 3.7: Air temperature variation with time for two cases	60
Figure 3.8: Temperature variations with time in all three cases	60
Figure 3.9: Temperature variation with time compared to normal air temperature	61
Figure 3.11: Comparison of energy storing capacity of different roof types	62
Figure 4.1: The Models Done With DEROB Modeling	65
Figure 4.2: A/C Load values with months for two cases	66
Figure 4.3: A Comparison of NPV Value with No Land Recovery	71
Figure 4.4: Comparison of NPV Value with 100% Land Recovery	72
Figure 4.5: Comparison of NPV Value with 50% Land Recover	73
Figure 5.1: Percentage of Different Roof Types in Colombo Area	76
Figure 5.2: Variation of roof type with the level of income	77
Figure 5.3: Expected purpose of using asbestos sheets	78
Figure 5.4: Expected purpose of using Calicut Tiles	79
Figure 5.5: Expected purpose of using Flat Slabs	79
Figure 6.1: Google Earth Images of Bambalapitiya	82
Figure 6.2: Google Earth Images of Viharamahadevi Park	82
Figure 6.3: Geometric Interpretation of Regression Analysis (A. Buda and A. Jarynowski, 2010)	83
Figure 6.4: Variation of CO ₂ with time	86
Figure 6.5: Variation of Flux from the sun with time	88
Figure 6.6: The temperature variation with time	89
Figure 6.7: Regression Standardized Residual Histogram for Viharamahadevi Park	90

Figures and Tables

Table 2.1: Population Distribution by Sector in 18 Districts.....	8
Table 2.2: Occupied Housing Units and Intercensal Increase for 18 Districts in 1981 and 2001 (Department of Census and statistics 2001)	45
Table 3.1 Measured Roof Areas.....	54
Table 4.1: Collected Data for Each Roof Type.....	69
Table 4.2: NPV Calculation values for different roof type.....	70
Table 4.3: Results Summary of the NPV Calculation.....	70
Table 5.1: Roof Type with the Income Level.....	77
Table 5.2: Percentage of Problems Occurred with the Installation.....	79
Table 6.1: Correlation Values.....	84
Table 0.2: Pearson Corelation Values.....	87
Table 0.3: Statistical analysis for the whole data set.....	88



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