Chicago City Hall Green Roof — 2001 Pilot Garden That Seeded a Municipal Green-Roof Programme, With One Measured Cooling Study and a Near-Failure

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 13/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A ~0.25 ha pilot roof garden on Chicago City Hall (2001). One 9 Aug 2001 survey found roof temperatures far below the neighbouring roof; energy savings are only modelled, the first years nearly failed, and no follow-up study exists.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-05

City of Chicago (Department of Environment / Department of Transportation) — accessed 2026-11-05

Dvorak — The Chicago City Hall Green Roof Pilot Project: A Case Study — accessed 2026-11-05

US EPA — Reducing Urban Heat Islands: Green Roofs compendium chapter — accessed 2026-11-05

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