

Boston Landmark Hotel Roof Earns Award for Sustainability

Marriott Long Wharf, Boston, MA receives third annual Sarnafil Sustainable Roofing Performance Award

Situated on the site of 17th century built Long Wharf, the Marriott Long Wharf is a Boston city landmark. The hotel's terraced brick exterior is a unique architectural element that makes the hotel easily identifiable, but also led to building leaks at the thru-wall flashings. Engineering firm, Noblin & Associates, diagnosed the existing problem and recommended a solution that included a new Sarnafil roof. Rather than dispose of the existing 20-year-old roof in the landfill, Noblin recommended that the Marriott work with Sarnafil to recycle the material into new roofing walkway membrane.

A win/win situation

The ability to recycle is an important factor in determining the sustainability of a building material. Recycling reduces the environmental impacts of producing new materials at the beginning of the lifecycle and the burden on landfills at the end.

Vinyl recycling is well established with millions of pounds recycled every year. The sustainability movement along with increasing landfill restrictions and disposal fees is



escalating the demand to recycle roofs at the end of their useful life.

In the case of the Marriott Long Wharf, recycling the old roof was both environmentally friendly and more cost effective than disposing of the material at the landfill. "Anything that can be done to minimize waste is not only good for the environment but is cost effective too," said Tim Little, senior project manager at Noblin & Associates. "It's a definite plus when considering different roofing systems and I would absolutely consider doing this again on future projects."

Team effort key to high quality solution

Recycling the old roofing system requires a team effort. The partnership of Sarnafil, Noblin & Associates, Commonwealth Building Systems, the roofing contractor, and Conigliaro Industries, a recycling services firm, proved to be a winning team. From the start, the team worked closely together to determine the best way to handle the recycling logistics of the project. The result was a successful recycling project and the delivery of a high quality roofing system for the Marriott.

"By choosing to recycle their old roof, the Marriott Long Wharf demonstrated its commitment to sustainable building practices," said Brian Whelan, president of Sarnafil Inc. "With a long service life and the ability to be recycled, vinyl roofs like Sarnafil's, provide a significant sustainability advantage. The specification of a Sarnafil roof results in the lowest lifecycle costs and the lowest total environmental impact. That's why we felt the Marriott Long Wharf deserved the 2006 Sarnafil Sustainable Roofing Performance Award."

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