

Welcome and Thank you.

I know how busy we all are so I appreciate everyone being here today.

I am particularly thankful for my Dad, Bob, for having traveled from DC at his favorite and busiest time of the year.

And my sister, Monica for flying in from Denver leaving sick cats and her sick husband.

Ray Fowler, my Step-Dad, rearranged his travel schedule to be here.

My kids had to miss a day of school.

And Maggie Pound, with a brand new job got time off. Four years ago, she showed me a flyer of modular units like you see here to go on a roof. I thought, that's crazy, who would put plants on a roof, especially in a shallow, plastic tray?

What you see here today, is more than 4" of soil and a few hundred native plants. Not the easiest choice, but one I felt is important to demonstrate drought tolerance and habitat creation.

It's first and foremost an evolving experiment, to see what works and what doesn't work.

It's the culmination of an idea that began just 6 months ago, in my attempt to gain experience creating a Green Roof and the conviction that if this is a concept that I am promoting, I better put my money where my mouth is.

I couldn't have done it alone. Sponsors such as;

Carlisle roofing supplied the roofing material,

La Mesa Lumber the wood to construct this platform,

Ewing Irrigation our PVC pipe and sprinkler heads,

Sunbelt Rentals the loader used to get the soil on the roof,

and Planter Technology our shallow, plastic, modular trays.

And that doesn't include the time and labor that

- ULF Waldmann of Mission Valley Roofing,
- Robert Thiele, LEED A.P. Architect,
- Bob Humphus of Greener Concepts,
- My assistant, Jacquelynn Webster-Anderson,
- Master Gardners, Robin Rivet and Mary Clemons, Native Plant Enthusiast, Roberta Dotson
- My son and daughter, Theodore and Allie.

All helped make this project successful.

What you also see here today is one small attempt to add to the conversation about climate change and the need to shift our thinking and behavior. Change it from exploitation and consumption to conservation and action.

It's one small attempt to minimize storm water run-off, reduce energy consumption, combat the urban heat island effect and create a habitat friendly to our natural environment.

In Germany, they say that 17% of their flat roofs are green. Look around you and imagine that if every 6<sup>th</sup> roof looked like this one, what the impact might be, and then expand that to the 500 million square feet of commercial & industrial roofs in San Diego.

One of the benefits of a green roof is that it extends the life of a roof by 2-3 times. We removed 9500 lbs. of old roof and took it to the dump. Think of how much less

material will go into the land fill if roof life is extended to 40, 50, or 60 years.

Sorry Ulf

What you don't see today is my garden at home, neglected

What you don't yet see is the weather station and scientific equipment to monitor the temperature and storm water results. I am looking for a sponsor, agency, school or university to team up with.

What you don't see here today is the future. And the answers to many questions;

How will it look in 6 months, a year? 10 years?

What are its irrigation needs?

Will it leak?

Will it catch on?

What kind of results will we see?

What kind of biodiversity will show up?

Where is the next project?

Please pardon the pun, but I hope we have planted a seed, one that will sprout and spread throughout the region.