

General Works Roofing continues to focus on green solutions every day. I am very proud of the accomplishments we've made in the past year.

The construction industry in general has been negatively effected by the lack of available funding for new projects and the fear of renovating vacant space. This is one of the influencing factors in broadening the services we offer to include Energy Efficient Solutions. We as a company focus on green because it's the right thing to do. Our clients are depending on these green solutions to help them cut energy costs and become green leaders in their industries... making their products and services more desirable to environmentally conscious consumers.



Energy efficient solutions for our clients mean vegetated roofs - yes plants on the roof, photovoltaic energy systems, solar water heating systems, light tubes, green walls, LEED project consulting, and eco-friendly roofing materials.

As a leader in our industry, we have utilized these items in our own facility and they ARE making an impact on our environment.

Our vegetated roof is flourishing. Our original goal was to test both the continuous system and tray system to see how they are affected in Florida by afternoon gushers and the intense blistering sun. We have also studied plant development in Florida's climate for best roof top results. Customers' expectations for a vegetated roof vary widely. Some expect a lawn - others a botanical garden. The type of green roof you choose will depend on the geographic region your building is located in, your irrigation and storm water management restrictions, and the aesthetics you are looking for.

This year, we also installed a photovoltaic system on our roof that displaces 30% of our facility's energy demand. In concert with a new Energy Efficiency Plan and better-than-expected system performance, the system is expected to off-set grid demand by 36% or better and save us over \$6,000 per year at current utility rates.

How does this become a roofing contractor's scope of work? In many applications, the photovoltaic systems of our present day are being installed on roofs. This means roof penetrations will affect the roof warranty. As a roofing contractor that has long standing relationships with all major roofing manufacturers, we handle the entire process for our customers to make sure the warranties aren't voided, the system is installed correctly and properly sealed at the roof deck, the permitting process is easy, and all rebates are taken advantage of.

I thank you for your continued calls about green solutions. I encourage you to ask questions and find out how you can make a difference. See our green roof, photovoltaic system, electric green vehicle, and much more on our websites: [www.orlandogreenroofs.com](http://www.orlandogreenroofs.com) or [www.generalworksroofing.com](http://www.generalworksroofing.com)

Thank you,  
Lindy Ryan, President  
General Works Roofing and Sheet Metal, a Tecta America Company

**GENERAL WORKS, LLC**  
**ROOFING AND SHEET METAL**  
**A TECTA AMERICA COMPANY**

## Energy Star-rated facilities save businesses money

Installing light sensors, tinting windows  
reduce energy output

BY MELINDA CARSTENSEN

One way businesspeople can reduce utility costs and greenhouse emissions is to get their buildings Energy Star-rated.

The Energy Star rating, made available in 1999, certifies 12 different types of commercial buildings, ranging from industrial retail to banking facilities and water treatment plants, for reducing energy consumption.

However, there are only 27 Energy Star-rated buildings in Orlando and 451 in Florida.

To improve that statistic, 40 local environmental experts and activists joined the Central Florida Energy Efficiency Alliance, a group that uses federal grant money to educate businesses about energy efficiency. Its goal is to reduce energy consumption in commercial buildings by 30 percent by 2012.

To achieve that goal, the alliance has several campaigns lined up, including encouraging businesses to sign up for the Kilowatt Crackdown Challenge, an effort to educate businesses about the Energy Star rating and overall energy efficiency.

As of late June, 1,400 commercial buildings in Orlando had signed up, said Christina Webb, the alliance's executive director.

**Where to apply for the rating:** [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

**How the rating is calculated:** First, a business enters its building's monthly utility bills online into the Energy Star portfolio manager. Using that data, the system compares the building to others like it nationwide, taking building characteristics and weather factors into consideration. The system then rates the building on a score from 1-100. A building must earn a 75 to qualify for the Energy Star top performance rating. To get a plaque and be recognized by Energy Star, you must prove the data is correct by hiring an engineer to inspect your building.

**Some of the rating components:** Moisture, lighting and plugloads (how many pieces of electronic equipment are plugged in)

**How to earn the rating:** A lot has to do with employee awareness and cutting out bad habits. For example, it's important that employees turn off computers, fax machines and lights when they're not in use.



**Christina Webb**

**Title:** Executive director, Central Florida Energy Efficiency Alliance

**Birthplace:** Gulf Port, Miss.

**Education:** Bachelor's in international relations and master's in environmental policy, University of Central Florida

**Little-known fact:** I'm a huge soccer fan.

**First job:** In college, I worked for the World Trade Center and created business plans for South American countries that wanted to open new offices in Orlando.

**Motto:** Live with purpose.

**Hobbies:** Soccer, paddle boarding

**Biggest business accomplishment:** I was one of the five founders of the U.S. Green Building Council.

**The easiest change a business can make to its building:** Window tinting

**What else you can do:** Hire a professional to ensure all your building's components work correctly, looking at everything from the lighting to the HVAC system to insulation.

**How long it takes to get the rating:** If you enter your building's 12-month data, get a 75 on the Energy Star portfolio manager and hire an engineer immediately to qualify the data, it could take a matter of days. Hiring an engineer could cost anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000, depending on the size and type of building.