

Roof Consultants Institute Foundation

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“COOL ROOFING” CONFERENCE IS HOT TICKET IN ATLANTA

Raleigh, NC, May 2005 – Over 200 people recently attended the first industry conference to focus solely on the hot topic of cool roofing research. Entitled “Cool Roofing...Cutting through the Glare,” this symposium highlighted a broad spectrum of related research topics, from albedo through emissivity and on to thermal insulation issues.

Held in mid-May, this ground-breaking symposium was co-sponsored by the Roof Consultants Institute Foundation, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the National Research Council of Canada – Institute for Research in Construction. Especially appropriate was the fact that the conference took place in Atlanta, a city where the “urban heat island” effect has been extensively documented.

"This symposium was intended to provide for the dissemination of information on 'cool roofing' -- a topic of much study and discussion that prior to this conference had not been afforded a forum of its own," explains Helene Hardy Pierce, FRCI, RCI Foundation Secretary and Director of Contractor Services at GAF Materials Corp., Wayne, NJ. "This 'Cool Roofing' conference provided an avenue in which to present differing opinions and data. The key to its success was providing a balanced collection of peer-reviewed research on a very timely topic."

The issue of roof reflectivity and the potential need and cost-effectiveness of cleaning procedures to maintain that reflectivity were mentioned in a number of this conference's papers. Investigators also reflected on the performance of an extensive array of roof system types, from single plies to metal to garden roofs, as well as code issues and product rating programs. Yet another presentation explained how pigments for “cool” colored coatings are developed.

In all, 20 different speakers looked at many aspects of this essential topic that has far-reaching implications for our environment as a whole.

“I was very pleased with the conference's outcome,” reports Mike Blanchette, RRC, RRO, FRCI, treasurer of the RCI Foundation and a principal with Amtech Roofing Consultants Inc., Richardson, TX. “I thought the presentations came off very well. They conveyed the overall message that there are still issues surrounding the subject of cool roofing that need to be addressed and that careful decisions need to be made prior to specifying and installing a cool roof.”

The complete symposium proceedings, in the form of a binder and CD set, are available for purchase through the Roof Consultants Institute (RCI), www.rci-online.org. The cost is \$30 for RCI members and \$35 for non-members.

Highlights from the conference will also be featured in the August, 2005 issue of *Interface* magazine, published by RCI.