



Project: Athens Community Center

Location: Athens, Ohio

Contractor: Damschroder Roofing

Square Feet: 57,600

Products: Duro-Tuff® 60 mil white membrane; 1/2" DensDeck® coverboard; Anchor Products U-Anchor™; EXCEPTIONAL® Metals' 2-Piece Snap-On Compression, Arched Vinyl-Coated Drip Edge, Reglet Wall Flashing, Edge Extender, fascia and gutters

Beyond providing spaces for members to gather and be active, community centers play a vital role in the neighborhoods they serve. The Athens Community Center in Athens, Ohio, is the perfect example, offering a variety of fitness classes and activities, child care programs, private spaces for rent and even a community art gallery. Residents cast their election ballots at the community center, children build strong foundational relationships with new friends and seniors create new connections over shared memories and coffee. The Athens Community Center is truly the heartbeat of the city so when leaks in the aged roofing system threatened to disrupt operations, facility leaders moved quickly to address the issue.

Featuring a multi-level barreled structure, the aged PVC roof had experienced hail damage as well as seam separation. As plans took shape for a new roofing system, facility leaders made strategic requests for the immediate and long-term sustainability of the project. The specification that went out for bid outlined recycling requirements for the existing roof materials as well as the addition of solar panels to offset growing energy costs. Damschroder Roofing of Fremont, Ohio, developed a comprehensive proposal utilizing Duro-Last's Recycle Your Roof program and won the bid for the project.



"The City of Athens has a commitment to reduce our carbon emissions by 50 percent in the next 10 years," said Andrew Chiki, deputy safety director for the City of Athens. "We also have a commitment to reuse and recycle materials on these types of projects whenever possible, so sustainability was a key element for us. We already had a solar array in the parking lot and wanted to expand the solar capabilities of the overall facility with the new roofing system. The proposal provided by Damschroder Roofing was extensive, covering every detail needed to make our requests a reality, and gave us great confidence in their ability to execute."

To start, the Damschroder team removed 47,000 square feet of old membrane which was shipped back to Duro-Last for recycling into commercial flooring, walkway pads and concrete expansion joints. Once the membrane was removed, the crew inspected the existing insulation and replaced boards showing signs of moisture or damage. More than 18,000 square feet of ½” DensDeck coverboard was installed on top of the insulation to support the solar panels before 60 mil Duro-Tuff membrane was mechanically attached. Finally, 2-Piece Snap-On Compression, arched



drip edge, fascia, reglet, edge extender and gutters from EXCEPTIONAL Metals were installed around the perimeter to terminate the membrane and complete the primary re-roof portion of the project.

“Because the roof was barreled, we also had to install 12 new tie-off points to ensure the safety of the crew throughout the project,” said Nick Fry, technical sales representative and estimator at Damschroder Roofing. “The morning dew made surfaces pretty slick so there were some days that we pushed back our start time to give everything a chance to dry off, but we were able to stay right on track with timelines while prioritizing safety which is most important.”

After completion of the roofing installation, the Damschroder team coordinated closely with Kokosing Solar in Athens for the solar panel portion of the project.

“The team at Kokosing Solar was amazing to work with,” Fry said. “Originally they were going to supply all of the components for the solar system, but we discovered that the anchors weren’t compatible with Duro-Last materials so we had to find a solution without losing ground on the timeline. Their crew actually got up on the roof and mapped out the exact location for each anchor with chalk lines so we were able to work quickly once we had an alternative option in place. It went off without a hitch in the end.”

Damschroder ultimately installed more than 1,300 U-Anchors from Anchor Products for the solar racks, which now hold more than 1,800 square feet of solar panels. With a crew of nine, they were able to complete the entire roofing installation in 30 days and provided facility leaders with a 20-Year NDL warranty from Duro-Last.

“We couldn’t be happier with how this project went,” Chiki said. “From start to finish, the Damschroder team communicated with us every step of the way. We were even invited to walk the roof and participate in the inspection process, so we feel very confident in the quality of their work. While we don’t have the official data back yet, we anticipate roughly 80% of the facility’s electricity needs will be offset with the additional solar panels and the Duro-Last Roofing System was key in helping us achieve this milestone.” ■



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