



For Immediate Release

For more information contact:
Steve Werner 919.523.9789
swerner@dreamsports.com

Burt Philips 704.516.9101
bphilips@attunedmarketing.com

Dreamsports Center's Energy Improvements Yielding Immediate Rewards

Stimulus program aided improvements should save indoor sports facility more than 50% annually

Apex, NC – December 12, 2011 – Dreamsports Center, the Triangle's premier indoor sports and child development facility, has completed major building and energy improvements that are yielding the facility immediate rewards through significantly reduced energy usage.

The improvements, funded in part by the North Carolina Green Business Fund, include a solar-thermal hot water system providing all hot water for the center, an updated interior lighting system, and new heating and air conditioning systems. These improvements have made the center's operating systems far more energy efficient as evidenced by monthly electricity usage. In addition to the sustainability and efficiency benefits of the systems, lighting, cooling and heating have improved markedly with better illumination throughout the center's three courts and a heating and air conditioning system better equipped to handle peak facility usage.

"We are ecstatic about all of the green and operational benefits of our new systems, the reduction in energy utilized, and the lighting, cooling, and heating improvements already evident," said Steve Werner, general manager and one of the owners of Dreamsports. "We bring over 13,000 visitors weekly to Dreamsports, and we want to educate our clients that even large indoor sports facilities can be green and better stewards of energy and lighting," added Werner.

While final improvements were completed in November, reduction in the center's electricity usage for lighting became apparent immediately in October. Data analyzed shows lighting costs have been reduced by more than 30% based on prior year usage. The grant issued by the North Carolina Green Business Fund requires verification and reporting of project results by grant recipients, and Dreamsports and its project team are well into this process. In fact, Dreamsports will monitor and report results for three years. In addition to verifying results, Dreamsports will share the sustainability and efficiency benefits of the systems with visitors and customers through interior displays and communications.

The NC Green Business Fund announced the grant enabling Dreamsports to make these improvements on July 5th, 2011. At that time, 16 additional grants were issued to small businesses in the state meeting U.S. Department of Energy criteria for using energy more efficiently, reducing utility costs, and directing savings into programs to grow these businesses, supporting job generation and retention. The 17 total grants were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment act via the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program (SEP).

“The NC Green Business Fund is extremely proud to partner with Dreamsports in order to enhance the energy efficiency and renewable energy component of their facility, as well to educate the public of energy efficiency possibilities” said Paul Shannon, Grants Manager of the NC Green Business Fund. “This type of project is exactly how the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009 was intended, to create economic activity that otherwise would have not happened and at the same time demonstrating a positive benefit to the public. In this case, reduced green-house emissions,” added Shannon.

Dreamsports worked with Jon Mollendick of RISE EcoTechnologies in assessment of pre-project energy use, development of equipment specifications for the project, energy usage projections, and calculations of actual use versus projections. Randy Lucas of Lucas Tax + Energy assisted Dreamsports and Mollendick in procuring the grant and the systems were installed by J.S. Howard Electrical and Center Heating and Air Conditioning.

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About Dreamsports Center

Dreamsports Center is the Triangle’s premier indoor sports and child development facility serving a wide range of audiences ranging in age from 17 months to over sixty years and attracts more than 650,000 visitors annually.

Dreamsports’ 56,000 square foot facility hosts youth and adult leagues in soccer, lacrosse, and hockey and provides a broad array of child development and kids sports programs. Track-out and summer multi-sports camps, child development programs, and birthday parties are other highlights of the facility’s child and youth program.

Locally owned and managed, Dreamsports has operated in Apex for more than 13 years. The managing partner for Dreamsports and Sports Palace Ventures LLC is Steve Werner, a sports enthusiast and former technology executive.

About the North Carolina Green Business Fund

The North Carolina Green Business Fund is a competitive grants program designed to encourage the expansion of small to medium-sized businesses with 100 or fewer employees that have innovative commercial technologies, products and services to grow a green and energy efficient economy in North Carolina. Eligible entities are for-profit businesses, non-profit organizations, state agencies, or local governments. Funding is given to projects that directly benefit small to medium-sized businesses and meet at least one or more of the following objectives: save energy, install or generate renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, produce alternative fuels, and/or promote building energy efficiency.