Bielenberg Sports Center: Efficiency Comes Full Circle

Bob Klatt knows that what goes around comes around, especially when it comes to energy efficiency. As the City of Woodbury’s Park and Recreation Director, he has seen returns on investments from renovating City Hall, the Public Works building and most recently, the ice rink plant that services both the indoor and outdoor ice rinks. Money recouped in savings by investing in efficient building practices is put right back into future projects.

When constructing the Bielenberg Sports Center—a 90,000 sq. ft. field house used by soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse, football and other sports teams, as well as community members and daily walkers—Klatt, who is also responsible for municipal buildings, knew it made perfect sense to invest up front to lower operating costs and save money in the long run.

The money was already there. It came from converting the ice plant used for the indoor and outdoor ice rinks to a geothermal system. The building is now heated from the waste heat coming off the ice rinks.

“This is about saving taxpayers money and making the building cost less for the people who use it,” says Klatt. With that in mind, his team included daylighting, occupancy sensors, extra insulation, a water-to-water heat pump, solar thermal equipment, and heat recovery equipment in the new building.

The results were well worth the effort. The energy cost savings are expected to be tens of thousands of dollars annually with a significant reduction in energy use over building it merely to code. The people using it absolutely love it.

“They’re amazed at the size and how attractive it is,” says Klatt. “We have more and more groups in the community wanting to use it—from walkers to preschool groups to athletics. As a bonus, it’s really easy to maintain, further saving us money.”

Never one to rest on past projects, Klatt is now exploring whether installing solar panels would make sense financially. He’ll continue looking for ways to decrease energy use and increase his savings.

This project participated in Xcel Energy’s Energy Design Assistance program (EDA), a whole-building design approach used to maximize energy savings potential. Computerized energy modeling is used to identify various efficiency opportunities, potential costs, rebates available and paybacks.

For more information on our Energy Design Assistance program, please visit xcelenergy.com/EDAMN.

If you’re planning a new construction, addition or major renovation project, visit xcelenergy.com/BusinessNewConstruction or call the Business Solutions Center at 1-855-839-8862.