

THE WAKE WEEKLY

Environmental startup moves to Wake Forest

21 February 2020

WAKE FOREST — Green Stream Technologies, an environmental monitoring company, relocated its headquarters to the Wireless Research Center in the expanded commercialization center in Wake Forest.

Green Stream provides a real-time flood monitoring solutions for state, county and municipal agencies, including the N.C. Department of Public Safety. Its remote sensor network and software produce real-time data for the state's Flood Inundation Mapping System and its automated flood sensor network alerts customers when and where roads are flooded and provides data about the depth of water and when it recedes.

Green Stream, founded in Norfolk, Virginia, decided to relocate to the WRC after participating in WRC's 2019 RIOT Accelerator Program. RIOT is a Raleigh-based economic development initiative of WRC that facilitates entrepreneurship for the internet of things

Green Stream won the 2019 RIOT Pitch Night competition and an N.C. IDEA seed grant and was named one of the N.C. Technology Association Top 10 startups to watch.

Karen Lindquist, chief operating officer of Green Stream, said relocating to Raleigh to share space with RIOT in 2019 and moving into an office and production space at the WRC has been a great development for the company.

She said that the WRC provides technology development assistance, access to testing equipment and shared space for prototype production operations as well as deeper connections into the technology development community.

"As a tech firm, we've found our home at WRC," Lindquist said. "My partner, Jim Gray, our CEO, is an engineer and inventor, and he is in his element with the WRC engineers and the other startups. We are already collaborating with the WRC on a few grant proposals. The spirit of collaboration, the expertise and the enthusiasm to help companies succeed creates the ideal environment."

She added: "On our first day at the WRC, the founder of Revibe Technologies, another tech company at the WRC, went out of his way to welcome us and offer to share experience from his journey as an N.C. IDEA seed grant recipient five years ago, and how the WRC community helped develop his business to what it is today."

Green Stream, RIOT and the town of Cary are working with regional communities and tech firms in a public-private partnership to develop an architecture for sharing important data across agencies to coordinate response — starting with stormwater.

"In just one year, so many good things have happened for us, thanks to RIOT, the WRC and N.C. IDEA," says Lindquist.

She and Gray have also bought a home in Wake Forest.

"It's a lot already, but I think it's just the beginning of a great journey together," Lindquist said. "These organizations, their visionary leaders and devoted staff have helped us tremendously. We are looking forward to giving back as soon as we are able."

More than 20 start-up companies have moved to the commercialization center office space at the WRC headquarters in Wake Forest. In addition, approximately 60 companies have been assisted with office space and development services in Raleigh through RIOT.

“This is what we envisioned, and more, when we made the investment to help get the WRC started in Wake Forest,” said Wake Forest Mayor Vivian Jones. “Bringing together a team of experts, valuable equipment and a commercialization center that drives innovation for global companies and start-ups has made Wake Forest a technology hub and drives economic development for our town and the region.”

Lindquist said the town of Wake Forest and the proximity to Raleigh and Durham was also a compelling reason for relocating to North Carolina.

Jason Cannon, president of the Wake Forest Business & Industry Partnership, said strategic planning is paying off.

“The Town of Wake Forest is a growing, vibrant community to live, work, and raise a family that is conveniently situated in the booming Research Triangle Park region known globally as a technology hub,” Cannon said. “The shared vision of the town and the WRC for the future of Wake Forest was a milestone in a strategic design that is continuing to birth new opportunities enhancing our community.”

Source: <https://wakeweekly.com/stories/environmental-startup-moves-to-wake-forest,201953>