

# SIMPLE FIX LEADS TO ENERGY SAVINGS

During an energy audit, Gundersen Health System staff discovered many exhaust fans were running unnecessarily 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Gundersen has several hundred exhaust fans of various uses and sizes—some as wide as a single stall garage door—so finding a way to run these fans only when needed became a priority.

Gundersen started the process on eight exhaust fans in one of its outpatient clinics called the East Building. To reduce energy demand, Gundersen modified the fans by reprogramming the building controls and “scheduling” them to turn off overnight and on the weekends when the facility is unoccupied.

Changing just those eight fans reduced electricity consumption at Gundersen by more than 71,000 kW hours a year and save the health system \$4,300 annually. In

comparison, running a home exhaust fan 24 hours a day would use about 500 kW hours and cost homeowners about \$50 a year. Similar changes were made on fans across Gundersen’s campus in La Crosse, Wis. resulting in an additional \$25,000 in energy savings annually.

The exhaust fan changes at Gundersen are part of the health system’s larger efforts to improve efficiency and reduce energy demand.

Gundersen Health System is headquartered in La Crosse, Wis., with hospitals and clinics in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. For more information on its retrocommissioning efforts and other energy projects, call (855) 669-1653 (toll free), email [envision@gundersenhealth.org](mailto:envision@gundersenhealth.org) or go to [gundersenenvision.org](http://gundersenenvision.org).



Gundersen has several hundred exhaust fans of various uses and sizes on its campuses. Gundersen’s Jeff Rich, executive director, Envision; Corey Zarecki, director, Envision Engineering and Operations; and John Schleifer, supervisor, Facility Operations, are part of the team that scheduled the fans to run only when needed and reduce energy consumption.

