

CAPTURING THE WIND'S ENERGY TO CREATE CLEAN ELECTRICITY

Gundersen Health System is harnessing energy from the wind to create electricity. The La Crosse, Wis.-based health system built a two-turbine wind farm just north of Lewiston, Minn. The wind farm is generating 4.95 megawatts of energy—enough to power about 1,200 homes.

The electricity the turbines generate is fed into the energy grid and used by homes and businesses. Gundersen, in turn, is paid for the energy created. The project represents about 27 percent of Gundersen's renewable energy production.

Creating renewable energy through projects like the wind farm ties directly to Gundersen's mission of improving the health of the communities they serve. Wind energy is clean



energy that promotes a healthy environment. Wind and other renewable power sources replace fossil fuel electricity, which studies have linked to serious diseases in humans such as cancer, respiratory distress, liver and kidney disease, reproductive issues, cardiovascular deaths and stroke. As a healthcare organization, Gundersen feels it is important to lead by example and reduce the health impact of the energy it uses.

In addition, the money generated from renewable energy projects, like the wind farm, and the money saved through energy conservation at the health system can be passed on to patients in the form of lower healthcare costs.

The Lewiston wind farm is one of two wind projects with which Gundersen is involved. The health system also built a two-turbine wind farm near Cashton, Wis., that is a unique collaboration between Organic Valley and Gundersen.

The Lewiston wind project is just a small piece of Gundersen's plan to lower energy costs and lead the healthcare industry in environmental stewardship through their Envision® program.

Gundersen Health System is headquartered in La Crosse, Wis., with hospitals and clinics in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. For more information call (855) 669-1653 (toll free), email envision@gundersenhealth.org or go to gundersenenvision.org.