

SOLAR PANELS A VISIBLE REMINDER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

As part of its ongoing energy efficiency efforts, new buildings at Gundersen Health System are designed with the environment, staff and patients in mind. One example is the underground parking ramp that opened on the health system's La Crosse, Wis., campus in 2008.

The parking ramp was designed with a number of "green" elements. The most visible elements are the solar panels on its roof that produce electricity to help power the structure. The electricity generated by the solar panels could power six to seven homes. Because the solar panels can be seen by patients and visitors, they act as a visible reminder of Gundersen's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The solar panels are just one element of the ramp that helped it become one of the nation's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-certified parking structures in the country. LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for

the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. Other design elements include:

- EnviroGLAS™ flooring and countertops with 100 percent recycled glass
- Environmentally friendly paint
- Recycling of all construction waste on the job
- A top level that will eventually be turned into green space

Along with solar power, Gundersen has developed biogas and other renewable power opportunities available through partnerships with municipalities, utility companies and businesses to meet its current and future energy needs.

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.



The solar panels installed on the roof of Gundersen's underground parking ramp produce electricity to help power the structure. The panels are also a visible reminder of Gundersen's commitment to meeting its energy needs through renewable energy solutions.

