

SPARTA CLINIC GROWS GUNDERSEN'S SUSTAINABLE FOOTPRINT

Gundersen Health System's 35,000-square foot Clinic in Sparta, Wis., is a shining example of the healthcare leader's commitment to improve the health of the environment and the communities it serves by increasingly powering its buildings with clean, renewable energy.

An array of solar photovoltaic panels capable of producing 100 kilowatts of energy sits on the roof of the new Clinic, which was under construction from October 2015 until it opened in January 2017. Gundersen also has purchased 220 kilowatts of solar energy from a nearby Xcel Energy community solar garden to help power the building. This combination of solar panels provides the Clinic with 320 kilowatts of renewable energy at peak production, enough to offset the building's consumption.

In addition to equipping the Clinic with the ability to generate its own energy, the facility was designed to use as little power as possible. Its goal is 35 kBtu per square foot—a measurement of energy consumption that translates to 50 percent less than what the average clinic uses today. In order to meet this goal, Gundersen Sparta Clinic was constructed with many green features, including:

- 40 geothermal wells, all 300 feet deep, to heat and cool the building.
- A decentralized heat-pump system to reduce fan power and move air from cool spaces to warm areas and vice versa.
- Spray foam insulation in place of rigid insulation to better cover gaps in walls.

- Thermally broken frames for doors and windows, which act as insulating barriers between the inside and outside of window and door frames to increase energy efficiency.
- Occupancy sensors to reduce lighting and HVAC use when space is not being utilized.
- LED lighting with manual dimming throughout the building, which is more efficient, cost effective and longer lasting.
- Double pane windows to conserve energy.
- A heat recovery ventilation system to transfer heat from exhaust air to incoming air during cool weather and from incoming air to exhaust air during warmer months, enhancing comfort, improving air quality and reducing the building's HVAC load.
- Additional energy savings measures throughout the Clinic.

Utilizing solar panels and green building practices are just several pieces of the extensive renewable energy solutions Gundersen's Envision® program is using to lower energy costs and lead the healthcare industry in environmental stewardship.

Gundersen has also 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 visit gundersenenvision.org.

