

Envision<sup>®</sup> GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM

We are the first known health system in the nation to offset 100% of our fossil fuel use with locally produced energy. Oct. 14, 2014 was our first day of energy independence.

## IMPROVED HEALTH LOWER COSTS SAFER ENVIRONMENT

April 2018

## GEOTHERMAL ENERGY We installed a 300-ton heat pump and 156 wells beneath a parking lot to take advantage of the earth's constant temperature, for efficient heating and cooling year round.



Tons of sterile blue wrap have been transformed into items like aprons and tote bags rather than discarded into the waste stream. Medication boxes are available to the public and employees to dispose unused, unwanted or expired



medications in an environmentally friendly way. You can find the drop boxes at Gundersen's La Crosse Clinic, East Building and Onalaska Clinic pharmacies and at the Cass Street Pharmacy.



Our biomass boiler project uses clean, locally sourced wood byproducts from the lumber industry. It creates electricity and



steam that heats our La Crosse Hospital and Clinic. Excess steam is also used to sterilize infectious waste safely, environmentally friendly and economically. The sterilizer processed 45 percent of all biohazardous material produced at Gundersen in 2017, saving the organization \$41,000.



We use manure to generate clean, renewable power, while protecting waterways from algae-producing run-off, and reducing greenhouse gases.

WE'VE REDUCED OUR FOOD WASTE BY OVER 80%

At least 20 percent of the food we purchase is locally grown. Our goal is to increase this amount to at least 25 percent. We donate edible leftovers to the Salvation Army. Wind turbine projects in Cashton, Wis., and Lewiston, Minn., provide enough electricity for 2,600 homes.







We've reduced pharmaceutical and hazardous waste by more than 75 percent since 2010. The waste program includes infectious waste, solid waste (such as

medications and various pharmaceuticals) and chemical disposal. Different bins coordinate with the disposal of different medications and hazardous waste.

Achieving more than \$3 million annually from sustainability improvements.

## **SAVING** \$3.7 MILLION/YEAR

Solar panels are just one element of a parking ramp that helped it become one of the first LEED-certified parking structures in the country. Solar water heat is used at our Child Care Center and Onalaska Renal Dialysis.

gundersenenvision.org (608) 775-0880

**GUNDERSEN** HEALTH SYSTEM®



Our Onalaska campus is the first in the nation to be 100% energy independent thanks to a project in partnership with La Crosse County, Wis., that uses waste biogas from a landfill and turns it into electricity and heat.

Creating a culture to make recycling routine for everyday items at Gundersen is helping us reach our goal of an 80 percent



recycling rate by 2020. In 2017, our recycling rate was 61 percent. Designated bins, such as HIPPA-required confidential ones for all paper, also make it easier for employees to participate.

