

Gundersen Tomah Clinic Features Backup Battery Power

Gundersen Health System's 77,000 square foot Tomah Clinic in Tomah Wis. is a shining example of the healthcare leader's commitment to improve the health of the environment and the communities it serves by investing in more efficient and cleaner emergency backup battery power.

The clinic, which opened in August 2019, features a 435 kWh Tesla battery providing four hours of emergency power during an electrical outage. This new technology enables Gundersen to avoid relying on a gas burning backup generator. The roof of the new clinic also features an array of 737 solar photovoltaic panels capable of producing 240 kilowatts of energy. This solar system will produce approximately 30 percent of the buildings annual power needs.

In addition to equipping the Clinic with the ability to generate its own energy, the facility was designed to use 45 kBtu per square foot—a measurement of energy consumption that translates to 50 percent less than what the average clinic uses today. Other green features include:

- 90 geothermal wells, all 306 feet deep, to heat and cool the building, lowering electrical load and offsetting most of the building's gas consumption.

- 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.

