

RENEWABLE ENERGY EMANATES FROM GUNDERSEN ONALASKA CLINIC

As part of its journey to energy efficiency, Gundersen Health System is not only committed to constructing its newest buildings as green as possible, it is also finding ways to expand its sustainability footprint through existing facilities.

Case in point: The healthcare provider recently installed 912 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of its Onalaska Clinic.

The solar panels will provide 300 kilowatts of energy at peak production, an amount that is expected to lower Gundersen's annual energy expenses by up to \$45,000—all while bettering the health of the neighborhoods the healthcare provider serves.

"The addition of the solar panels in Onalaska is an example of Gundersen living its mission," says Alan Eber, manager of Facility Operations, Engineering and Energy at Gundersen. "By offsetting the use of fossil fuels for energy, we are helping to minimize pollutants and thereby improving the health of our community."

Gundersen's campus in Onalaska already is considered energy independent, meaning that it produces more energy by way of renewable resources than it uses from conventional utilities. Much of this energy is created by Gundersen's landfill generator project, a partnership with La Crosse County that captures waste biogas at the county landfill and turns it into electricity and heat via a generator on the Gundersen campus. The electricity not used by the campus is sold to the utilities.

Solar panels are just one piece 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.

