

SOLAR UPGRADE AT GUNDERSEN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC

The Behavioral Health building at Gundersen Health System recently received a sustainable upgrade: 388 solar panels.

“The power will directly feed the building,” says Alan Eber, director of Gundersen’s Facility Operations. “If the solar panels generate more electricity than needed, the power will be sent back and used in our on-site power plant.”

Not only will the green addition help improve the health of the environment, it’s estimated that the project will save Gundersen about \$15,000 per year.

“The financial benefits of the system will increase over time,” Alan says. “Burning coal is still the dominate way electricity is generated in our region. By reducing the amount of electricity we use, we offset how much coal is burned.”

The solar panels are another reminder of the commitment Gundersen and its environmental stewardship program

Envision® have toward improving the health and well-being of the Tri-state Region. The behavioral health building is also tied into a geothermal well system that supplies heat to the building.

The healthcare system is committed to exploring how each of its existing buildings can become more energy independent through new cutting edge features and retrofits. By focusing more on site based energy independence Gundersen can keep production local and tailor its efforts to meet the changing needs of its growing footprint.

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.

