

TEAM EFFORT DURING RENOVATION KEEPS 90 PERCENT OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE OUT OF LANDFILLS

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Rethink. They're words that Gundersen Health System took to heart when renovating a building that dates back to the late 1800s. Their efforts to incorporate green practices into the remodeling effort resulted in a more than 90 percent diversion rate of construction waste and an environmentally friendly building design.

The building was first used as a cold storage facility for a La Crosse brewery in the late 1800s and early 1900s. More recently, the health system used the building to house paper medical records. With walls as thick as 52 inches on some floors and a sound structure, Gundersen knew the building had energy efficiency potential and could be refurbished for use by support personnel and equipment.

Gundersen worked closely with their general contractor, Fowler & Hammer, and architect, Ellerbe Becket, to incorporate a number of green elements into the project. Since it was important to Gundersen to keep as much construction waste as possible out of area landfills, the general contractor set up several dumpsters at the site and sorted the waste by metal, wood, concrete, cardboard, etc. The plan was easy to incorporate and led to a 90 percent diversion rate, meaning the materials were recycled rather than being sent to a landfill.

Other green elements of the project included:

- Using recycled lumber for wood paneling and tile with a high recycled content for the building's lobby.



Gundersen incorporated green practices into the remodeling of this building. The effort resulted in a more than 90 percent diversion rate of construction waste and an environmentally friendly design.

- A rain garden in front of the building. The rain garden contains native plants with strong root systems that capture 100 percent of the storm water runoff from the roof, keeping it out of the storm sewer.
- A white roof that reflects the sun, making it more efficient to cool the building.
- Use of a paint that is less caustic and better for the environment.
- Tapping into the high-efficiency chillers at the Gundersen Power Plant to cool the building, rather than relying on a separate cooling system.

The project is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when an organization teams with their architect and general contractor to build, remodel or refurbish with green practices in mind.

The remodeling project is just one of many examples of keeping green practices in mind during building and renovation projects at Gundersen. The project is part of Gundersen's plan to lead the healthcare industry in environmental stewardship and lower energy costs through their Envision® program.

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 go to gundersenenvision.org.



Recycled elements were incorporated into the building's lobby, including recycled lumber for wood paneling and floor tiling with a high recycled content.