



BREWING GREENER HEALTHCARE

Healthcare and the environment are hot-button issues, but just add beer to the mix and good things start to happen. A La Crosse, Wis.-based hospital, Gunderson Lutheran Health System, installed an engine at nearby City Brewery to capture and clean its waste treatment bio-gas and recycle it into electricity that's transferred to the power grid, where it offsets about 13 percent of the energy used on Gunderson Lutheran's two campuses—the equivalent of powering nearly 300 residential homes. Additionally, the heat generated by the engine is reused in the brewery's waste treatment process, bringing the cycle full-circle. The entire initiative is a win-win-win: The brewery's environmental impact decreases; Gunderson Lutheran moves closer to energy independence; and patients walk away with high cost savings.

—Carrie Anton