

Aurora Medical Center in Manitowoc County Adds Solar Array

Aurora Medical Center in Manitowoc County (AMCMC) recently partnered with WPPI Energy and Two Rivers Water and Light (TRWL) to install a photo voltaic solar array on the lower roof of the hospital. The array consists of 256 panels mounted to the AMCMC roof, with a connected load production of 87kW DC, producing 104,363 kWh per year. The annual energy produced is enough to power 12 average homes and the resulting annual reduction in greenhouse gases is the equivalent of taking 12 vehicles off the road or planting nearly 17 acres of trees.

The system will deliver its greatest impact in the summer months by offsetting the cooling system's electrical load when it is drawing the greatest amount of power. The power generated, estimated at \$10,000 per year, allows AMCMC to divert from their utility bill expense to their primary mission of patient care. In addition, the project represents the commitment of Aurora Health Care, TRWL and WPPI Energy to generate sustainable power with lower impact to our surroundings. TRWL contributed \$25,000 to the site through WPPI Energy's Renewable Energy Grants for Non-Profits RFP Program.



Ken Kozak, TRWL Electric Dept. Director, presents a \$25,000 check to Don Hurkley, AMCMC Facilities Operations Manager, Cathie Kocourek, AMCMC Hospital President and Carrie Penovich, Chief Clinical Services Officer, accompanied by AMCMC staff members Patrick Berry, Andrea Petersohn, Keith Rosado, Kevin Blanchett, Frank Barth (TRWL), Brian Walt, Jedd Winkler (Aurora Facilities Operations – corporate), Bob Prucha, Jim Thuene

The solar installation is a part of a continued effort of AMCMC staff and leadership, as a component of a greater energy management plan, to reduce utility energy consumption. These efforts have reduced AMCMC utility energy consumption 30% over 8 years. This parallels the reduction in utility operating overhead cost. AMCMC leadership has allowed the site to be successful by supporting and encouraging energy efficiency improvement efforts. AMCMC Facilities Operations has been instrumental in energy monitoring, energy efficiency measure implementation and sustained improvement at the Manitowoc campus. As a result, the AMCMC campus has received the EnergyStar rating from the US Department of Energy. This represents, statistically, being in the top 25% of all peer hospitals.

In 2016, AMCMC also received a \$10,000 incentive from TRWL through WPPI Energy's RFP for Energy Efficiency Program for other site efficiency improvement initiatives. Their efforts also have led to three consecutive Energy Efficiency Improvement Awards received from TRWL for achieving one of the greatest energy usage reductions among TRWL commercial/industrial customers between 2010 and 2015.