



HealthPartners Neuroscience Center

The latest technology for patient service and energy savings



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HealthPartners director of facilities

High functioning and highly efficient

The new five-level, \$75 million HealthPartners Neuroscience Center in St. Paul is like no other facility in the region, and perhaps the country. The 130,000 square foot space is the largest freestanding neuroscience center in the upper Midwest. It encompasses an outpatient clinical, rehab and research space dedicated to virtually any kind of neurological condition, from stroke trauma to spinal injuries, and dementia to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and will serve more than 50,000 patients a year.

The combination of technology and attention to detail make it as patient centric and patient friendly as possible. But another priority they managed to build in from the beginning is energy efficiency.

They worked with Xcel Energy’s Energy Design Assistance program to maximize energy saving opportunities that complemented the style and design of the space. The result is a highly functioning, highly efficient building that provides superior patient care and comfort.

Many needs, many solutions

HealthPartners has a long standing commitment to energy efficiency, and this new building was no exception.

“This building serves a patient population with a lot of needs: cognitive issues, mobility issues, and vision issues, for example,” explains Todd Young, HealthPartners director of facilities. “We needed an urban site close to the hospital but also wanted to create a calming experience for our patients. This was all done through a very connected design of the exterior, interior and outside landscaping.”

“We wanted people to have visual connections to the outside world for orientation purposes, so windows and daylighting were important. We also maximized our solar use



Project highlights

Project incremental construction cost	\$328,000
Estimated Xcel Energy incentive	\$173,600
Project adjusted incremental cost	\$154,700
Estimated annual energy cost savings	\$102,600
Estimated payback, with incentive (in years)	1.5 years

on the south side of the building, which allowed for harvesting of daylight and provides fantastic views of downtown St. Paul. With the use of interior transom windows we could then bring light deeper into the building for energy savings.”

Unfortunately, extensive exterior windows are not the most energy efficient solution for wall construction. To offset this, they installed a high performing curtain wall system, extra wall and roof insulation and extensive daylight harvesting.

Overall, the biggest energy saving measures included the following:

- Efficient lighting which is 25 percent lower than code
- Daylighting and lighting controls, including occupancy sensors
- Wall and roof insulation increased beyond code
- An air-cooled chiller
- Condensing gas boilers

The combined energy efficiency results were well worth the effort they put into it. HealthPartners Neuroscience Center will save an estimated \$100,000 each year in energy costs due to the efficiency measures implemented. For their efforts, they received more than \$173,000 in Xcel Energy incentives. They will recoup the money they put into the project in energy savings in less than two years.

Legacy of efficiency and sustainability

The Neuroscience Center is just the latest example of HealthPartners commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability. In addition to the efficiency work, more than 8,400 tons of construction and demolition debris was reused or recycled when the project was complete.

“We put a lot of great measures into this project that helped with the overall energy savings and reduced the environmental impact, which ties back to our sustainability mission,” Young says.

The end result is a one-stop shop for neuroscience patients that includes state of the art low cost care, technology, exceptional patient experience, and energy efficiency.



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