

PowerGrant Profiles



Cloquet Community Memorial Hospital: Expansion Takes Healthy Approach to Conservation

Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) has been improving the health and well-being of Cloquet, Minn., and its residents since 1957. Now, a major expansion project is advancing that mission even further.

A recently completed \$15-million hospital addition houses the latest in medical technology, with new surgical suites, expanded emergency and urgent care facilities, improved radiology and laboratory



(left to right) CMH chief executive officer Rick Breuer receives an \$84,000 PowerGrant rebate from MP regional account manager Craig Kedrowski. Also shown is Stan DeMenge CMH environmental services administrator.

departments and other state-of-the-art amenities. It also is a model of energy efficiency, with a design that incorporates high-tech solutions to reduce the use of electricity, conserve resources and lower utility bills.

"Healthcare is very reliant on electricity, and it seems like we're always consuming more energy just to operate the latest in medical technology and equipment," said Stan DeMenge, environmental services administrator at CMH. "At the same time, we have a responsibility as a corporate citizen in this community to be responsible in our energy use."

DeMenge oversaw the 44,000-square-foot expansion project, recognizing a unique opportunity to design conservation right into the growing facility. The project's lighting system exceeds Minnesota's Energy Code requirements. It incorporates energy-efficient fluorescent and high intensity/discharge lamps for maximum light output with minimum energy usage and employs high efficiency ballasts.



The new CMH laboratory features energy efficient lighting. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning system features unoccupied/night shutdown controls and an economizer that utilizes outdoor air when ambient conditions are right. Motors powering fans and pumps have adjustable speed drives for greater efficiency.

Minnesota Power (MP) personnel and consultants worked with the hospital's engineering and design firms to identify energy-saving technologies that made sense for this project. An \$84,000 PowerGrant rebate helped offset the hospital's upfront investments of \$353,773 in conservation measures. The projected

PowerGrant Contact Information

For more information, please call Minnesota Power's Conservation Improvement Program toll-free at 800-228-4966 ext. 2902.

"Energizing Our Region" through Conservation Improvement

Minnesota Power's Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) works with local leaders, businesses, community groups, other energy providers and government entities to help customers reap the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable energy savings. Minnesota Power and its partners accomplish this through research, education, evaluation and direct impact initiatives.

Find out how you could get a PowerGrant

Minnesota Power awards grants to commercial/industrial customers who use innovative technologies, improve manufacturing processes, undertake renewable electric energy projects, or who need project design assistance. PowerGrant awards are available for a wide variety of projects employing diverse technologies.

Here are some examples of activities or products that could qualify for MP funding under the PowerGrant Program:

- New electro-technologies that lower energy costs per unit of production in a manufacturing process
- Innovative technologies that are new and underutilized in our regional marketplace
- Inclusion of energy-efficient options in the design phase of a project

Maximum annual grants are determined by a customer's average billing demand:

<i>Customer Demand</i>	<i>Maximum Rebate</i>
0 to 100 kW	\$10,000
101 to 300 kW	\$25,000
Over 300 kW	\$50,000

Customers may submit multiple grant requests.

Other MP Products and Services

In addition to PowerGrants, MP CIP offers commercial and industrial customers other energy efficiency products and services. These include energy audits, rebates, dual fuel, storage/off-peak services, outdoor and area lighting and economic development assistance.



Energy efficiency in CMH's \$15-million expansion will save the hospital more than \$60,000 per year.

"This expansion was designed right—right from the beginning."

energy savings of 2,419,060 kWh per year and 245.1 kW of demand per month translate to an annual cost savings of \$60,613.

"When you factor in the design work and research to meet our conservation goals with this project, it probably was a little more expensive on the front end, but the payback will continue for years to come through energy benefits," DeMenge said. "Minnesota Power has always taken an interest in helping us become more energy wise. It is nice to have resources like Minnesota Power and our architects and engineers to make us aware of the options. Everyone worked together to put these pieces in place for the future."

"It is unique and refreshing for an organization planning a project this size to make the upfront investment in energy efficiency," said Craig Kedrowski, regional account manager for Minnesota Power. "So often, there is a tendency to put in lesser systems to cut costs, but this expansion was designed right—right from the beginning."

When CMH decision makers began developing plans for an expansion, their goal was to create a healthcare facility that would take the community into the future. They have succeeded on multiple levels, providing 21st-century medical services to area residents and conserving precious energy and resources for generations to come.