



The Whittier Clinic is the first healthcare facility in Minneapolis to achieve LEED® certification for new construction.

CASE STUDY

Healthcare Facility

Facility at a glance

Name

Whittier Family Medical Clinic

Location

Minneapolis, MN USA

Facility size

59,200 ft² outpatient clinic

Issue

Transform a former brownfield site to an award-winning community healthcare facility

Solution

Daikin Pathfinder® 210-ton chiller

Whittier Clinic offers sustainable healing environment for an urban community

Issues

From a former brownfield site to an award-winning community healthcare facility, the Whittier Clinic is a perfect example of how a community-centered design can heal not only patients but also a neighborhood. Clinic services include imaging, pharmacy, lab, occupational and physical therapy, sports medicine and physician-residency training for a culturally diverse community.

Solution

Designed with direct input from patients and employees, the clinic is a showcase for sustainable design. More than 95% of the wood-based products used at Whittier were certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as derived from sustainably managed forests. The site layout includes garden space with native plants that need minimal irrigation, reducing water usage. Lighting sensors in waiting rooms activate light fixtures only when natural light is not sufficient, reducing electrical energy usage. A high efficiency Daikin Pathfinder chiller further reduces electrical energy usage and costs. In addition, the Pathfinder chiller uses HFC-134a refrigerant which has no ozone depletion potential.

Outcome

Whittier Clinic opened in October 2010. In summer 2011, the clinic was awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification at the Silver level by the U.S. Green Building Council. It is the first healthcare facility in Minneapolis to be awarded certification under LEED-NC (or LEED for New Construction) at any level.



The 210-ton Daikin Pathfinder Chiller installed at Whittier Clinic contributed to LEED points in two areas of sustainability – optimized system efficiency (EAc1) and enhanced refrigerant management (EAc4).