

# Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital

## Part of Catholic Healthcare West



**Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital**  
155 Glasson Way  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital is a 185,000 sq. ft. facility offering acute care services and an outpatient center. After initial construction in 1958, a west wing was added in 1971 and expanded in 1984 and an outpatient center was added in 1994.

As part of the Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) healthcare system, we participate in Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies' (CERES) efforts to promote a sustainable future. CERES endorses many environmental management programs, including energy management. Our hospital gauges the effectiveness of our energy management strategies by using ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager to track our annual energy use.

To find new ways to reduce our hospital's impact on the environment, we created an Environmental Action Committee. To date, steps we've taken to reduce our energy use include:

Installed a variable frequency drive (VFD) on our cooling tower fan that allows for lower cooling tower water temperatures and better control of cooling tower water temperatures.

- Installed electronic ballasts and T8 bulbs throughout the hospital.
- Installed a JCI METASYS building automation system that helps us optimize the use of the facility's HVAC equipment.
- Routinely clean our HVAC coils and calibrate our temperature sensors to maintain our facility's heating and cooling system.

We also instituted an innovative process to reduce demand on the chilled water plant in the afternoon, when the day gets hotter. To reduce afternoon demand, we program the chiller plant to "pre-cool" between 9:00-11:00 a.m. then systematically reduce the building loop pressure set point until the load decreases from reduced demand. We also

run the chiller at a set point of 42 degrees and the cooling tower temperature as low as possible. Energy Resource Associates (ERA, eraenergy.com) is our building energy systems engineers as well as our ENERGY STAR certifiers.

**Communications:**

We keep our employees up-to-date on our energy efficiency efforts and recently summarized our activities in a CERES report to CHW corporate.

**Testimonial:**

"For Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, the ENERGY STAR symbolizes operational cost savings and years of dedicated work by our plant staff."

-Mike Ruggiero, Plant Operation Manager, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital

**Building Owner:**

Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital

**Year Labeled:**

2003

**Score (by years):**

84

**Space Type:**

Hospital (Acute Care or Children's)

**Total Floor Space:** 185,000 sf

**Year Constructed:** 1994

**Energy Intensity:** 106.4 kBtu/sf/yr

**Contract Type:**

None

**Technologies Used:**

**Stage 1-Commissioning**

- New EMS
- New Maintenance Practice

**Stage 2-Lighting**

- Electronic Ballasts
- T8 Lamps

## **Stage 4-Fan Systems**

- Cooling Tower
- VFD's

### **For More Info:**

Michael Ruggiero  
Plant Operations Manager  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
530-274-6060  
mruggiero@chw.edu