



**Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana
Spring 2008, Transportation**

BACKGROUND

Campus Profile

Ball State University, situated on 940 acres in Muncie, Indiana, serves approximately 19,000 students (45 percent male, 55 percent female). Seven academic colleges offer 120 undergraduate programs, 80 master's programs and 20 doctoral programs in 46 departments and schools. Some 750 faculty, 550 professional staff and 1,500 support personnel comprise the employee base.

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GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goals

Explore the impact of an all-electric vehicle as part of the campus university fleet.

Accomplishments

Architecture student Jagjeet Singh Chahal competed in a national competition mounted by the Miles Electric Vehicles corporation, in which he prepared a video to address the Miles Revolution Contest criteria. The event was sponsored by No Gas Required, an organization leading students in the protection of the environment. Jagjeet's winning entry yielded for the university a donated car, which was presented to Ball State University during its annual Earth Day celebration.

Challenges and Responses

The university was asked to accept ownership of the vehicle as part of the competition regulations, and this required several stages of approval up the chain of command. Given the university's history of using hybrid-electric vehicles, hybrid-electric buses and biodiesel fuels in its service vehicle and bus system fleet, the approvals were quickly granted.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

Jo Ann Gora, President, Kevin Kenyon, Associate Vice-President for Facilities and Management, Sue Weller, Director of Transportation and faculty representatives to the Council on the Environment offered their support in accepting the car as a platform for further education and research.

Funding and Resources

No immediate costs were involved with the car donation, but ongoing maintenance records will be kept to determine the operational effectiveness.

Community Outreach and Education

In addition to news stories released by the university and postings on its web pages, future stories will be developed around the findings on vehicle performance.

Campus Climate Action: Your School's Carbon Footprint

The vehicle is slated for use primarily by the on-campus mail delivery service. Although the use will be moderate, nonetheless this will offset our carbon load.

National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology® Program

We continue to rely on the NWF Campus Ecology Program resources, as well as materials produced by other universities that we acquired through the Campus Ecology network.

CLOSING COMMENT

This project attests to the importance of “ground-up” as well as “top-down” initiatives as a university community embraces sustainability. In this case, a student chose to participate in the competition quite on his own. The resulting donation of the car to the institution was well received given the climate of green-campus interest throughout the Ball State University community. Approvals and acceptances were achieved with little difficulty owing to the general climate of interest that has been cultivated over the last sixteen years. With the help of the NWF Campus Ecology program, we continue to build on our history of involvement and are pleased to submit this story as a Campus Ecology case study.