



*People and Nature: Our Future is in the Balance*

## **National Wildlife Federation**

11100 Wildlife Center Drive • Reston, VA 20190 • <http://www.nwf.org/>

### **Ball State University Muncie, Indiana Spring 2003, 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 masters' 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.

##### **Contacts**

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#### **GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

##### **Goals**

We wanted to acquire hybrid-electric vehicles for the university vehicle fleet.

##### **Accomplishments**

Three hybrid-electric vehicles were added to the university vehicle fleet.

##### **Challenges and Responses**

The Ball State University Council on the Environment formally requested that the university acquire hybrid-electric vehicles for its university fleet by passing a formal resolution (copy attached) and submitting this through channels to the Office of the President. Through the Office of Associate Vice President for Finance and Assistant Treasurer, funds were appropriated and procedures undertaken to acquire the vehicles.

The primary challenge we faced in pursuing this formal request and securing an agreement from the institution was concern that the vehicles were "not proven" or somehow "not a car." To allay these concerns, the local dealership (that ultimately supplied the vehicles) made one available for use by several university officers so they could have firsthand driving experience to understand how well they operated and that they performed on par with conventional combustion engine vehicles.



A second difficulty we encountered was within the Council on the Environment itself; a challenge was raised to provide a cost benefit analysis of the vehicles so that they could be fairly judged. However, no such analysis is used in making decisions to acquire the conventional fleet vehicles; since such analysis does not exist, the issue quickly evaporated.

## **ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT**

### **Leaders and Supporters**

The Ball State University Council on the Environment serves as the clearinghouse for campus-wide sustainability initiatives. Progress on this project and updates on its impact are shared in the monthly meetings of the Council.

### **Funding**

Funding for the vehicles was made available through the normal replacement cycle of funding provided through the Office of Business Affairs. The university routinely cycles its vehicle replacement in modules of three units at a time; we were able to use one such cycle to secure the replacement of three conventionally fueled vehicles with the three hybrid-electrics.

### **National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program**

Although we did not use specific resources from the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology program publications, the fact that we have maintained a membership in Campus Ecology, have interacted routinely with members of the staff at Campus Ecology and were anticipating the opportunity of establishing this as a goal for the year and submitting this to the Campus Ecology program as a final yearbook entry gave leverage to our arguments that we needed to follow through on this opportunity.

## **CLOSING COMMENT**

The vehicles are meeting with great success and should help us make a case for increasing the number within the fleet. Most critical to the success of completing this goal for the current year was the ongoing open dialogue in the monthly meetings of the Council on the Environment—serving as a clearinghouse for green initiatives campus wide. Dialogue, open communication and a transparency of decision-making is key to the success of any green initiative.

**Membership**

**Student Members**

Molly Crawford  
     Graduate Student  
 Nat Baker  
     Undergraduate Student  
 Susan Aiezza  
     NWF Campus Ecology Fellow

**University Area Representatives**

Hugh Brown  
     Sciences and Humanities  
 Nancy Carlson  
     Communication, Information/Media  
 James Flowers  
     Applied Sciences and Technology  
 Stan Keil  
     Business  
 Kevin Kenyon  
     Business Affairs  
 David LeBlanc  
     Sciences and Humanities  
 B. Thomas Lowe  
     Academic Affairs  
 Thalia Mulvihill  
     Teachers College  
 Sally Myers  
     Fine Arts  
 Amy Reed  
     University Advancement  
 Phillip Repp  
     Information Technology  
 George Smith  
     Architecture and Planning  
 Daniel Stallings  
     Student Affairs  
 Barbara Stedman  
     Contract Faculty

**Community Members**

Stefan Anderson  
     Muncie Community  
 Barry Banks  
     Muncie Community  
 Leslie Blake  
     Muncie Community

**Ex-Officio**

Warren Vander Hill  
     Presidential Liaison

**Administrative Support**

Robert Koester  
     Council Chair  
 James Eflin  
     Resource Person  
 David Ferguson  
     Resource Person  
 John Vann  
     Resource Person  
     Green Initiatives Coordinator  
 Beth Wood  
     Green Development Specialist  
 Melisa Callahan  
     Office Support  
 Jeff Culp  
     Web Manager

**Hybrid Car Resolution**  
**Adopted**  
**August 26, 2002**

**Resolved:**

- That Ball State University move with greatest dispatch to include three high-mileage hybrid cars in its fleet of automobiles.

**Costs:**

- These vehicles are competitively priced.

**Benefits:**

- The university will lessen the environmental impact of its fleet.
- The university personnel that make use of the fleet will have the chance to experience firsthand the performance of such vehicles.
- The university will sow operational cost by virtue of the higher mileage of the vehicles.