T3 Series Three-Wheeled Electric Vehicle

Green Fund Grant Fall 2009
Completed Fall 2010
Amount $13,000

Project Overview

The Division of Public Safety (DPS) received Green Fund support in Fall 2009 for the purchase of a T3 Series three-wheeled electric vehicle to support a DPS patrol initiative. This vehicle is used by the Allied Barton security officers to patrol in and around Penn Park, providing an effective means of patrolling this open space area.

The T3 vehicle assists in reducing Penn’s carbon footprint as a result of decreased usage of fossil fuel while also reducing noise pollution on campus. Additionally, the vehicle serves as a visible illustration of the University’s commitment to sustainability and is used during high-trafficked, special University events, such as Penn Relays, Spring Fling, Hey Day, Move-in/Move-out, and Commencement.

The vehicle takes approximately three hours to fully charge utilizing a 12V auxiliary power supply, which is plugged into a standard 110V outlet. The vehicle uses one kilowatt per day at an average cost of ten cents and gets about 25 miles per charge. This provides a net savings of $0.145 per mile driven when compared to consumption rates of the previously used Toyota gasoline hybrid vehicles.

Division of Public Safety sustainability webpage – Here

Lessons Learned

The project started with the purchase of one T3 Series electric vehicle and has since expanded to two vehicles in an effort to continue supporting the University’s Climate Action Plan goals.

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