

*Sustainable CU: Environmental Improvement Initiative*  
*E-Ride Funding Proposal*  
February 15, 2008

**1. Basic Organizational Information**

**Are you a recognized student group or campus department? Please describe the nature of your organization, and if your group includes paid staff or volunteers.**

Department of Facilities Management (FM)  
Environmental Services Division  
CU-Boulder

FM consists of over 350 paid FTE in various areas including planning, design, maintenance & repair, and power generation.  
Environmental Services specifically consists of 145 FTE and up to 10 temporary workers.

**2. Primary Contact Person**

**Name, e-mail address, telephone number**

**Primary:**

Tara Weachter, Manager, Environmental Services  
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**Secondary:**

Ed von Bleichert, Sustainability Coordinator  
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**3. Project Description**

**Please provide a short description of your proposed project.**

The Environmental Services Division of Facilities Management (FMES) is requesting funding to cover the difference in price between a planned vehicle replacement and a new electric vehicle from E-Ride Industries. The E-Ride vehicle will be used jointly by dayshift and swing shift to transport personnel and maintenance materials around main campus and east campus. Unlike many other electric vehicles, the model that FMES is proposing to buy is actually street legal.

This will allow FMES staff to use this vehicle to move from main to east campus over public roads, thereby allowing us to actually replace an existing gas-powered vehicle, as opposed to simply adding another electric cart to the fleet and keeping the old gas vehicle. By not replacing the existing gas powered vehicle FMES will reduce its fuel consumption by roughly 308.64 gallons per year.

#### **4. Project Scope & Timeline**

**What is the scope of your project? Scope includes: requested funds from this grant, implementation timeline, and number of people needed. Also, list the campus groups that need to be involved to implement your project (for example: Facilities Management, Housing).**

The requested project budget totals \$22,389 and includes the purchase of one EXV2 electric vehicle from E-Ride Industries. This project will be a cooperative effort between UCSU and FM. The goal would be to have the vehicle secured and in use by the fall 2008 semester.

#### **5. Detailed Project Budget**

**Please provide, on a separate sheet if necessary, a more detailed budget for your project. Please show other sources of funding necessary for your project, and whether those sources have been committed.**

Please see attached budget.

#### **6. Environmental Impact**

**How does your project enhance and protect the environment? Please refer to the Blueprint for a Green Campus (<http://ecenter.colorado.edu/blueprint06/>) for specific environmental goals, and show how your project will fulfill one or more of these goals. Grants that provide environmental impact reduction that are not listed in the current Blueprint will also be considered.**

Blueprint: Creating a Climate-Friendly Campus:

- Transportation Goals
  - Convert 25% of university-owned fleets to high efficiency and alternatively-fueled vehicles and begin offsetting remaining emissions
  - 100% conversion to HEV and AFV fleet in FM and PTS (from Metrics chart, pg. 27)

FMES has five service vehicles in daily use. A significant portion (80%) of this total is made up of what we will call light truck & minivan vehicles. It should be noted that any gas-powered vehicle used on campus will have a lower than average MPG rating due to the stop-and-go nature of campus driving.

Based on fuel records and mileage reports, FMES estimates that the proposed gas-powered vehicle that is due to be replaced would consume roughly 308 gallons of gasoline each year.

## 7. CU Quality of Life

**How does your project enhance the educational experience of students on campus? How does your project enhance quality of life for the entire campus community (Students, Faculty, and Staff)? How does your project enhance the quality of life at the University?**

1. FMES proposes to have lettering on the vehicle that states that it is an environmentally friendly vehicle.
2. The campus has a significant service vehicle congestion problem. Sidewalks are choked with parked vehicles. Students, faculty and staff are forced to breathe thick black smoke as service and delivery vehicles make their way through campus, and vehicles are left idling outside windows and at loading docks. This project will reduce the Environmental Services gas-powered fleet by 20%.

The net result will be improved air quality and reduced noise pollution.

## 8. Saving Money.

**Do you think your project will save the University and/or Student's money? (Your answer can be a narrative, and does not necessarily need to include hard figures.)**

If Environmental Services does not need to purchase another gas-powered vehicle it is helping to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the campus.

Assuming \$2.89/gallon, FMES would avoid \$895.00/yr. in fuel costs. At \$3.15/gallon, FMES would avoid \$970.20/yr.

Yearly maintenance costs on the electric vehicle will be comparable or less than the cost of maintaining a gas-powered light truck vehicle.

## 9. Project Longevity.

**Please explain how your project will continue to provide benefits in the long term, and if your project will be maintained and continue to work after the students working on the project leave campus, if applicable.**

This project will continue well into the future. It is hoped that this vehicle will not need replacing for at least 10 years. Environmental Services sees this as a first step in reviewing the potential for High Efficiency and Alternatively Fueled vehicle use within the division and hopes to purchase additional such vehicles in the future.

FMES' long term plan is to eliminate all five of its existing gas-powered vehicles, including a large cube van, over the next two fiscal years. Assuming we receive funding for this proposal, FMES will make a similar request to replace another gas-powered vehicle that is schedule for replacement in FY2010. If successful, FMES will then turn in the remaining three gas vehicles in FY2010. By eliminating the four other gas-powered vehicles FMES could avoid an additional 472 gallons of fuel use per year. The ultimate goal of replacing five gas-powered vehicles with two E-ride vehicles will result in the elimination of roughly 780 gallons of gas per year.

**10. Social and Environmental Equity and Justice.**

**How does your project contribute to improved social and environmental justice issues on campus?**

Environmental Services believes that affording our staff the opportunity to use alternative transportation over the course of their work day will have a positive impact on them, both mentally and physically. This is an opportunity to show that the maintenance staff on campus supports the environmental ethic of the student population and that they are committed to resource conservation.

FMES hopes the nature of the project as well as the informational signage will lead to a more open dialogue between campus users and the maintenance staff and is fully expecting that students will have questions for our staff as they 'e-ride' across campus.