

Dining Services' Sustainable CU Proposal
Electric Golf Cart with Cargo Bed
February 24, 2011

Summary:

Dining Services (part of Housing and Dining Services) extends this proposal for Sustainable CU funding with great enthusiasm because we think that the subject of this proposal will add to Dining Services' plethora of initiatives to promote sustainability within its operations while simultaneously offering students the opportunity to learn more about certain aspects of sustainability, specifically regarding food and waste management.

Dining Services requests \$2500 to purchase an electric golf cart vehicle to support moving food and supplies between locations on campus, including retail operations and catering events such as orientation and Colorado Shakespeare Festival. It would be utilized on a daily basis both during the academic year and during the summer. The intention is to further decrease truck traffic on campus, especially when there is limited product that needs to be moved. Currently we need to utilize one of our big box trucks even for small amount of product. We also use private cars to move between facilities quickly, especially from one end of campus to the other.

Dining Services would ensure that there would be a logo on the cart stating that it was purchased with funds from Sustainable CU and would work to maximize the marketing value through messaging on the cart. We envision the messaging to be magnetic signage that could be changed out to promote the goals of particular events such as Zero Waste (during Global Jam), Recycling (ongoing and during Recycle Mania), Scrape Your Plate and Local Foods Served at HDS. If Sustainable CU would be willing to donate the funds for the cart, HDS would pay for the magnetic interchangeable signage.

Background:

Dining Services provides service for 12 different venues and campus-wide catering events that are currently being supported through its truck fleet, which consists of large "inefficient/gas-guzzling" trucks. Dining Services currently caters 50+ small events each academic year which are not at location, and must use truck transportation. In the summer, we have approximately 76 catering events.

Impact:

The proposed electric golf cart would provide a more sustainable way of supporting Dining Services' geographically-scattered operation, which requires a high degree of mobility and visibility for catering and special events while simultaneously serving as a visual zero-waste outreach/educational tool for event customers. It would also provide a valuable "hands-on" experience for students who may or may not have been interested in/aware of ideas such as zero waste, sustainable food, and alternative energy.

Specifically:

- The golf cart would save approximately 3000 miles (low estimate) per year, along with 110+ gallons of fuel.
- This amounts to 2090 pounds of CO₂ gas emissions.
- The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the use of the golf cart vehicle instead of one of HDS' current trucks or personal vehicle means taking concrete steps toward helping to achieve campus and state goals to work toward increased sustainability, detailed in initiatives such as the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment and Governor Ritter's Executive Order.

Project Timeline, Scope, and Feasibility:

Upon receiving funding, Dining Services would immediately pursue the purchase of the used vehicle from a local dealer and put it into operation.

Student Involvement:

Students play an integral role in all of our operations, both as staff members and as customers. By seeing that we utilize sustainable means of transportation whenever we can makes an impact on all. With sustainability, peer to peer education is proven to be one of the most successful ways to increase awareness about the themes involved. It is believed that as the student employees gain experience in these areas, they will serve as important ambassadors of this knowledge.

Project Longevity:

The anticipated longevity of this vehicle is 6-10 years. Housing & Dining Services has been successful in operating these vehicles in other parts of the department. It is our hope that this will also help Dining Services as we move toward our sustainability goals.