



GREENING OF UAB

News By Facilities Energy Management Department

www.fab.uab.edu/energy

February 2009

Electric Vehicles Save Money!

How would you like to drive your car 15,000 miles next year and only pay \$5.78 per week for fuel? Facilities Division has purchased and is testing two all-electric vehicles that only cost 2 cents per mile to operate. This is the equivalent of paying only 4 cents per gallon for fuel for a typical gasoline fueled car.

The all-electric G.E.M. vehicles are manufactured by a subsidiary of Chrysler and utilize batteries which are recharged at night with a regular 110 volt extension cord. The cars are legal for city street use around UAB but are not allowed on interstates due to their maximum speed of 25 mph. Since the vehicles are used on UAB Campus as general pool cars, the maximum speed limitation is not a problem.

There are a few disadvantages such as no air conditioning, but it does have electric heat and two internal fans for summer use.

Not only do the vehicles save over \$2,000 per year in fuel expenses, the purchase price is approximately \$10,000 less than a Chevy Malibu for example. With budget reductions, Facilities is looking for new ways to save money and these all-electric vehicles are a great opportunity. Many other universities are also utilizing all-electric vehicles as part of their going green.

Many people believe that electric vehicles are the wave of the future. At least six major automobile manufacturers have announced plans to produce electric charged vehicles by 2010. Hawaii announced in December its plan to be the first state fully equipped with electric recharging stations.

Facilities is also pursuing the installation of some solar panels to charge a battery bank during the day and then utilizing the battery bank to recharge the electric vehicles at night. This would result in zero emissions.



Mike Oakes, who works in Facilities Information Services, uses the G.E.M. vehicle to travel to departments within the Division to work on computers.

Electric Vehicles Save Money!

The future of the American automobile industry appears uncertain, but the future for American drivers is clear. We are going to need more fuel efficient vehicles. "In the short term, hybrids are likely to be the most popular," says John O'Dell, editor of Green Car Advisor for Edmunds.com, a clearinghouse for information about the auto industry. "By 2015, full fledged electric vehicles will start sharing the limelight," according to John O'Dell.

UAB CONSERVES ENERGY
THINK "GREEN" - SAVE "GOLD" \$\$



Recycled Paper