

# Alternative fuel vehicles speed up Cushman replacement process



Krista Naposki/ Photographer

The Dynasty It's Electric is just one of the alternative fuel cars being looked at for use.

**Brittany Smith**  
News Editor

Elon has decided to become more energy-conscious. Presentations by Physical Plant for the replacement of Cushman utility vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles will take place in

the next few weeks.

Five months ago, the maintenance facility began seriously looking into alternative fuel vehicles for three reasons, said Keith Dimont, supervisor of Automotive Services. The first reason was driver safety. Physical Plant will be moving next semester

and will have to drive more on the roads instead of just on the tram paths, so they will need vehicles licensed for the road.

The second reason for the change was fuel prices. Gas has continually increased over the last few years. Elon wants to save money and help the environment by switching to alternative fuels.

The third reason is changes in technology. Changes make it possible to buy alternative fuel utility vehicles that work better at an affordable price.

So far, the university has tested three total electric cars. Physical Plant and Automotive Services has tested the Columbia Summit car, Dynasty It's Electric car and the Global Electric Motor model car. Each model is kept for a week and tested for battery life and miles traveled with 600 pounds of weights in it to simulate a typical load.

The electric vehicles will replace the golf carts used on campus because they work best for light loads. The electric cars will be used for the print shop, PC support, mail services and transporting guests

around campus.

"Replacing the utility vehicles on campus is a good indication of where we are and where we still need to go," Dimont said.

The next phase of the conversion would be to pass on the information about alternative fuel vehicles to dealers and to the government. "We would push to get them licensed for the road and for heavier use,"

Dimont said.

The third phase involves buying alternative fuel pick-up trucks. Since Physical Plant will be farther away from campus and because there are more parking lots next to academic buildings, there will be a higher need for a better utility truck.

Contact Brittany Smith at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.



Jessica Kimmel/ Photographer

The alternative fuel cars will replace the Cushman utility vehicles and golf carts currently used around campus.

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