

Greening of Rubenstein Transportation Team

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Rendition of new UVM hydro-electric research vessel, and Miles Kramer, Audrey Cole, and Gary Hawley checking out the Rubenstein School's brand-new F-150 Lightning electric vehicle.

The University of Vermont (UVM) Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources' (RSENr) Greening of Rubenstein Interns class is completing sustainability projects in small groups to make RSENr more energy and resource efficient. The transportation team is working with a vehicle fleet that includes 9 vehicles owned by RSENr as well as the new hydro-electric research vessel, the *Marcelle Melosira*. The team is also looking at proposals for new vehicle acquisitions for the School. The group is working to fit vehicles into the RSENr Sustainability and Net Zero Energy Plan by replacing vehicles with high emissions, via analyzing existing data, with ones that have significantly reduced emissions or crossing over to completely electric engines. The main goals of the group are to propose new vehicle options for the School, connect with those who are using the vehicles, and quantify energy use and emissions data.

So far, the group has investigated the School's new electric F-150 Lightning truck and the *Marcelle Melosira* vessel and the priority vehicles to replace to minimize RSENr's as well as UVM's environmental footprint. This is possible by collecting monthly mileage to quantify the amount of CO₂ each vehicle is producing and connecting with resources like Kathleen Wells, the Associate Director for Business Operations, to get previous years' usages. Their next steps are to meet with the Captain of the *Marcelle Melosira*, create a simple owner's manual for the F-150 to create a greater incentive for employees to choose the electric vehicle, and find out how to offset emissions with on-site solar.

The team is very excited to help guide the Rubenstein School to completely clean energy transportation and hope that they can be the footprint for the rest of UVM. They want to make the best long-term decisions for RSENr by researching all types of vehicles on the market as it is constantly developing. As for now, they are in a great place and look forward to continuing their research throughout the semester on the fleet, in hopes of a bright and clean future for UVM!