Fuel Savings/WKU

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High gas prices are hitting us all in the pocketbook and WKU is no exception.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham looks at ways the university is fighting back against the high cost of fuel.

Have you given any thought to carpooling? The idea sounds more and more appealing with the rising fuel prices. A ride sharing program is among many ways WKU is hoping to ease the pain at the pump.

If you’ve been thinking about sharing a ride, there’s no time like the present.

“Our ultimate goal with this is to cut down on carbon emissions and gas savings.”

WKU is among the locations served by Barren River Commuter Connection -- an online ride-matching program.

“It’s a very simple one two three process that we have laid out on opening page.”

Simply log onto BRADD dot ORG and click on the link.

”If you see that your destination is on there you may want to create an account and once you create an account you can list whether you are a ride seeker or ride giver.”

The service even offers built-in protection for those who might have unexpected circumstances.

“The advantage of having BRADD run that program is they received a grant for emergency ride home and this is a safety net for people who carpool.”

Another place WKU is hoping to decrease it’s carbon foot print is in it’s fleet of buses. “We’ve seen an increase in fuel prices from 80,000 to 130,000 dollars so we’ve definitely felt the pinch of that.”

That’s why the university is planning to increase the amount of bio-diesal they use.

“We are looking at increasing that from five percent, up as much as 15 percent.”

Bio-diesal currently saves WKU 15-hundred gallons of gas each year, but that’s not the only advantage.

“It’s also easier on the engines themselves it helps lubricate the engine…it’s a natural lubricate.”

Even WKU’s President is supporting the green initiative by driving an electric car. Last November Dr. Gary Ransdell was handed the keys to a Volt which has a driving range of up to 379 miles without using any gas at all.

To find out how you can take advantage of the ride sharing program, log onto BRADD.org and click on Barren River Commuter Connection.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.