Who Killed the Electric Car?

**Purpose of Activity:** To help students understand alternative energy and the history of the electric car.

**Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**
By actively participating in this activity, participants will:
- Understand alternatives to current transportation.
- Reflect on the impact alternative transportation could have on the environment.

**Materials Needed:**
- There is a DVD copy stored with the Director for Sustainability Education available for check-out.

**Summary:**
Running solely on electricity, General Motors’ fleet of EV-1 electric vehicles were so efficient, they were on the brink of altering the future of driving in America—perhaps even the world. Those lucky enough to drive one gave it glowing reviews. So why were they all destroyed? Narrated by Martin Sheen and featuring on screen contributions with Ed Begley Jr., Ralph Nader and Alexandra Paul, Who Killed the Electric Car is a murder mystery like to other, as it unravels the puzzling demise of a vehicle that could have saved the environment and America’s dangerous addiction to foreign oil.

**Facilitation Guide:**
Watch the movie and prepare a space for discussion afterward.

**Discussion Questions:**
- What did we just see? What stood out to you? What was missing? What did you observe about your reactions and the reactions of those around you?
- How did you feel as you watched the film? What feelings stick out as positive ones? Negative ones?
- What did you think of the film? Why do you think we watched it? How do you define sustainability (Perpetual and cooperative environmental, social, and economic systems)?
- Why do you think electric cars aren’t more popular?
- What impact could a large-scale shift to electric cars have on the environment?
- What is the most important message that the film is intending to communicate?
• What can you do with this new information? What action will you take, if any? What messages will you now try to convey to others?