

// PHILADELPHIA ZOO

GOING GREEN ON INDUSTRIAL VEHICLES



BEST LINE
EQUIPMENT



PHILADELPHIA
ZOO



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//THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO WORKS WITH BEST LINE EQUIPMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CUSHMAN SOLAR PANEL UTILITY VEHICLES FOR THE PARK.

COMPANY PROFILE:

The Philadelphia Zoo's 42-acre garden is home to more than 1,300 animals, many of them rare and endangered. By connecting people with wildlife, The Philadelphia Zoo creates joyful discovery and inspires action for animals and habitats. Like many other Philadelphia landmarks and institutions, The Philadelphia Zoo is an American first. The charter establishing the Zoological Society of Philadelphia was approved and signed on March 21, 1859. However, due to the American Civil War, the zoo later opened on July 1, 1874. In its first year of operation, the Philadelphia Zoo had 813 animals and received well over 228,000 visitors. Today, the Zoo has more than 1,300 rare and endangered animals, and its attendance is approximately 1.35 million visitors a year.

BUSINESS SITUATION:

In 2015, the Philadelphia Zoo received a grant from Green Mountain Energy to purchase electric solar panel utility vehicles for the park. The zoo experienced horrible service and several maintenance issues with their previous cart dealer located just north of Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Zoo needed to rely on a rental, sales, service, and parts company specializing in utility vehicles to not only custom design a vehicle that supported their energy efficient standards, but also supply, transport, setup and service their equipment needs in a timely manner.



THE PLAYERS:

The Philadelphia Zoo was in high demand for several electronic solar panel vehicles. With a strong and positive relationship the Zoo built with Best Line Equipment on a previous project, and Cushman's high quality industrial vehicles Best Line Equipment provides, The Philadelphia Zoo decided to work with Best Line Equipment and Cushman.

Best Line Equipment is the area's premier equipment rental, sales, service, and parts provider serving all of Pennsylvania and seven surrounding states. For 30 years, founder and CEO, Michael Houseknecht, has built a successful 12 location equipment business, serving the industrial, gas & oil, construction, and residential industries. Best Line is an authorized dealer for over 60 manufacturers, including Cushman.

Cushman was founded in 1901 and since then, has developed into one of the broadest lines of utility vehicles on the market. Cushman is owned by Textron Inc., a multi-industry company that leverages its global network of aircraft, defense, and industrial businesses to provide customers with innovative solutions and services. Cushman vehicles are now manufactured in Augusta, Georgia, in a 650,000-square-foot plant recently honored as one of the top 10 manufacturing facilities in North America.



//ABOVE

IN 1874, DURING ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION, THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO HAD 813 ANIMALS AND RECEIVED WELL OVER 228,000 VISITORS.

//BELOW

THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO UTILIZES OVER 20 ENERGY EFFICIENT SOLAR PANEL CARTS IN ITS FLEET.





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THE SOLUTION:

Best Line Equipment teamed together with Cushman and Green Mountain Energy to design and implement the multi-purpose Cushman solar panel utility vehicle for the Philadelphia Zoo. Best Line Equipment suggested Cushman because these impressive high durability vehicles deliver a premium, electric solution for eco-friendly priorities of large parks or locations alike. With Cushman’s durable body frame and small carbon footprint, the versatile cart makes it ideal for The Philadelphia Zoo to navigate across their expansive park in order to perform a wide range of tasks at the zoo.

“The relationship with Best Line Equipment over the years is what facilitated the decision making process with these solar panel vehicles. Best Line worked really hard to make sure all our needs were met. They stayed in contact through the whole process and put our needs first.”

– Jerry Schrack

*Director of Garden Operations
The Philadelphia Zoo*

With over 30 years’ experience in the industrial industry, Best Line Equipment is well suited to help manage all the equipment needs The Philadelphia Zoo is looking for. We not only develop close relations with our manufacturers, like Cushman, but we offer dedicated and well trained staff to assist our customers with equipment rentals, delivery, parts & service, to 24 hour emergency support when things go wrong. In addition, Best Line honors all warranty work and favors any recalls. We accommodate any type of problem that may arise with all types of equipment, in an efficient, precise, and timely manner.

THE RESULT:

Today, The Philadelphia Zoo has over 20 solar panel carts in their fleet. These energy efficient vehicles range in style, size and capacity. They move easily with versatility, offering a comfortable, quiet smooth ride for both park guests and animals. As the park continues to grow, so does the relationship with Best Line Equipment and The Philadelphia Zoo. The zoo also purchased two Bobcat Skid-Steer Loaders from Best Line to complete various park projects for years to come. “I’m very satisfied with Best Line Equipment because I know they are reliable and trustworthy team,” said Jerry Schrack. “They know how to get the job done.”

To learn more about how Best Line Equipment can help you, call us today!

DONAVAN RICKER | 717-991-7365 | DRICKER@BESTLINE.COM



//ABOVE & BELOW

BEST LINE TEAMED WITH CUSHMAN AND GREEN MOUNTAIN ENERGY TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT THE MULTI-PURPOSE CUSHMAN SOLAR PANEL UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE ZOO.





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//CONTACT

BEST LINE EQUIPMENT
2582 GATEWAY DRIVE
STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801
800-679-BEST
WWW.BESTLINE.COM

DONAVAN RICKER
INDUSTRIAL SALES MANAGER
717-991-7365
DRICKER@BESTLINE.COM

