

Keep on (Green) Truckin'

Trucks roll down the highway day and night, bringing us food and new products from around the state and across the country. **If truckers happen to pull into the American Auto Stop in North Stonington, they might discover something new.** This rest stop along I-95 has 116 electrified spaces so that truck drivers can turn off their engines while they are resting. Eliminating truck idling has many benefits, including improving air quality and saving fuel.



The new electrified spaces are outfitted with CabAire service towers that enable a truck driver to bring in heat or cool air, cable TV and internet through a device that mounts in the cab window. If a truck arrives at night, sensors on the service tower turn on low energy LED lighting which also complies with low profile "dark sky" requirements. The towers even detect whether the vehicles are complying with anti-idling regulations. American Auto Stop had these devices installed in part to comply with local zoning demands and state requirements.

The CabAire truck stop electrification technology was the creation of a Connecticut company, Control Module. This Enfield-based manufacturer built the first generation of the devices for the American Auto Stop last year. Jim Bianco, Control

Module's CEO, hopes to outfit truck stops nationwide with his company's product over the next few years. "Big rig drivers are under tighter rules in recent years, including requirements to take more frequent breaks and anti-idling regulations," says Bianco, "These rules have increased the need for technologies that allow truckers to remain in their vehicles and have access to heat, air conditioning and electricity without

running their engines." The interest in electrification is growing, and so is CabAire, which recently was awarded a contract for a truck electrification project in North Carolina.

Mike Griffin, a truck driver for Heartland Express, loves the truck electrification service at the American Auto Stop. "With fuel prices so high, and fleet management focused on fuel conservation and engine wear, **I welcome having the comforts of home while saving fuel and keeping the air cleaner.** One thing I do appreciate is the quiet parking lot. With the engines off and CabAire's air conditioner, it's real quiet. Drivers need idle free quiet zones to get the rest they need for safer driving."

For more information on the CabAire Truck Stop Electrification Technology, visit www.CabAire.com

***Did you know?* DEP's anti-idling regulations apply to every vehicle in Connecticut, gasoline as well as diesel powered. Idling vehicles create emissions that contribute toward smog and ground level ozone, and produce carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas). Diesel exhaust even contains toxic air pollutants, including aldehydes (formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein), benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The U.S. EPA estimates that nationally diesel engines are the third largest source of fine particles, which can cause lung damage and aggravate respiratory conditions including asthma and bronchitis. These emissions can have a direct effect on the health of adults and children who inhale the exhaust.**

To find out more about what you can do, click on DEP's anti-idling program page at www.ct.gov/dep/dieselreduction