
Idle Reduction – the Truckstops and Travel Plazas Perspective

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Overview

- The NATSO perspective
 - NATSO is the professional association of America's \$42 billion travel plaza and truckstop industry; members manage and operate nearly 1000 locations throughout the United States
 - Realities for the Truckstops and Travel Plaza World
 - Recommended Policies and Funding Approaches
 - Critical Next Steps
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The NATSO Perspective

- NATSO supports efforts to improve our nation's air quality
 - The foundations for these efforts should be sound science, and sound economics --the marketplace
 - *Truckstops and Travel Plazas provide 90 percent of the truck parking spaces on the National Highway System* -- NATSO must play a key role as a part of an integrated, overall environment that supports idle reduction everywhere
 - Many NATSO member operators have already taken steps to reduce idling at their facilities
 - Actions and explorations include both off-board and on board solutions
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Realities for the Truckstops and Travel Plaza World

- Currently, there is no critical mass of truck fleet operators committed to the use of shore power
 - Only a relatively small population of NATSO customers can currently use shore power, and thus there is no economic foundation for most operators to invest in shore power units.
 - OEMs are committed to introducing on-board technologies that provide a range of idle reduction options, with increased market offerings planned in the next few years
 - Options include auxiliary power units , and electrical components that can enable powering of driver comfort through air conditioning and heating without engine use
 - Many options will be configured to use shore power as a supplement to on-board power components
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Realities for the Truckstops and Travel Plaza World

- The critical driver for NATSO action is customer demand and preferences – we respond to the wishes of the nation’s trucking fleets
 - At this time, it is not clear which idle reduction technologies will prevail and be the favored solutions for our customer base
 - Enforcement of current idling restrictions is limited and difficult
 - There is a patchwork of non-uniform requirements throughout the states
 - The Federal government favors a voluntary approach, while many states are tending toward mandates
 - Truckstops do not want to be in the enforcement business, and need a level playing field for equity to customers
 - Significant efforts are being made to reduce engine emissions through added EPA emission requirements for Year 2007 and Year 2010 heavy-duty truck engines
 - The driver for idle reduction may shift exclusively to energy savings rather than including pollution control
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Recommended Policies and Funding Approaches

- **All Potential Technologies** should be supported by Federal and state policies, incentives, and funding
 - *Care should be taken to provide an economic and political climate that enables all technologies to be piloted and tested in an economically neutral environment*
 - *Deployment of widespread idle reduction technologies and offerings should be market driven, and rely on the potentially inherent economic advantages that idle reductions technologies can yield*
 - *The linchpin for progress is an integrated and unified effort on the part of all stakeholders*
 - *Collaboration between travel plaza operators, after-market providers, OEMs, utilities, truck fleets, and appropriate state and federal agencies is essential*
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Critical Next Steps

- As a follow on to this workshop and the recent National Idle Reduction Planning Conference, NATSO supports these actions:
 - Increased and accountable coordination among Federal and state agencies
 - Monitoring to assure a level playing field for all technology funding and support
 - Improved, and collaborative planning.
 - NATSO is prepared to play a leadership role in this aspect
 - Standard setting process for shore power technologies
 - NATSO will work with the Technology and Maintenance Council (TMC), and others, in this effort.
 - Increased focus on voluntary idle reduction promotional and educational efforts
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