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Arpin Group Unveils First Electric Car Charging Station in Rhode Island

WEST WARWICK, R.I. (August 30, 2010) - Arpin Renewable Energy, an Arpin Group company, has teamed up with Cardi's Furniture Superstores to provide drivers of plug-in electric and plug-in hybrid cars with the first public car charging station in Rhode Island. The electric car charging station was unveiled in August during a ribbon-cutting event attended by Rhode Island's governor.

"Energy is what drives our nation's economy," said Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri. "I'm very excited to see two great Rhode Island-based companies taking the lead in this endeavor."

The Coulomb electric charging station provides an outlet for what is known as a Level 1 charge at 110 volts (the same as common household outlets) and a corded plug delivering the faster 240-volt or Level 2 charge, which includes a standardized nationally certified plug connector that will be in use throughout the nation. Two cars may charge at the station simultaneously and it is intended for those drivers who desire a booster charge between longer nightly charges at home.

With this unit, Rhode Island has joined a small but growing list of states and cities building infrastructure for the wave of new electric cars and plug-in hybrids, such as the Nissan Leaf and Chevrolet Volt, which will soon enter the market.

"The Arpin-Cardi's electric car charging station is the first step toward building Rhode Island's electric vehicle infrastructure, making it possible for owners of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids to recharge away from home," said Peter Arpin, CEO of Arpin Renewable Energy. "Our goal is to promote electric vehicles in order to reduce air pollutants, decrease our dependence on imported oil and benefit the local economy, making Rhode Island a better place to live."

Arpin Group and Cardi's are working together to support Project Get Ready Rhode Island (PGR RI), a non-profit initiative to establish Rhode Island as a leader in green transportation, decrease transportation costs, and reduce emissions by getting 10,000 plug-in electric vehicles into service in Rhode Island by 2015. With its high population density and small size, Rhode Island is an ideal location for electric vehicle adoption. PGR RI is working to recruit companies, institutions, municipalities and state agencies to commit to the installation of 30 charge spots in Rhode Island, which will be announced over the next several months. The non-profit organization is coordinating with its partnering utility, National Grid, to develop a plan for electrifying 2 percent of Rhode Island's cars without significantly increasing peak grid load.

The new station is located at the Cardi's Furniture Superstore, 1681 Quaker Lane (Rt. 2) West Warwick, R.I.

About Arpin Renewable Energy

Arpin Renewable Energy, LLC is a research and development company which explores and produces green alternatives that can be applied to the moving industry. It is also responsible for the implementation and management of "Green Initiatives" across all Arpin Group subsidiaries to help reduce its carbon footprint. Learn more about its green initiatives at http://www.arpingroup.com/index.php/about/green_initiatives/.

About Cardi's Furniture Superstores

Cardi's Furniture Superstores is a third generation, family owned and operated furniture retailer. A full history as well as store locations and a community initiatives calendar can be found at <http://www.cardis.com>.

About Project Get Ready

Project Get Ready Rhode Island is a non-profit affiliate of the national network of Project Get Ready sites, created by the Rocky Mountain Institute. It launched in January 2010 to establish Rhode Island as a leader in green transportation, decrease transportation costs, and reduce emissions by getting 10,000 plug-in electric vehicles in Rhode Island by 2015. More info may be found at: <http://projectgetready.com/city/partner-city/rhode-island>.