CLAIMS:

1. A container yard or container ship comprising stacks of refrigerated storage containers, each refrigerated storage container comprising:

a container housing defining an interior;

an air conditioner comprising a condenser supportively disposed on an end wall of the container housing, the air conditioner being operable to maintain control of temperatures within the interior; and

a local controller configured to cycle the air conditioner on and off within a time window based on waste heat ingestion into the condenser from neighboring refrigerated storage containers

wherein the local controller derives a value of the waste heat ingestion from a difference between periodically measured first and second parameters wherein the first and second parameters comprise ambient and condenser inlet air temperatures, respectively.

2. The refrigerated storage container according to claim 1, further comprising a sensor operably disposed to:

sense a temperature of the interior, and

transmit data reflective of the temperature to the local controller.

3. The refrigerated storage container according to claim 1, wherein the time window is predefined in accordance with temperatures within the interior and allowable temperature variability around a set-point.

4. The refrigerated storage container according to claim 1, wherein the local controller is configured to limit a number of cycles within the time window.

5. The refrigerated storage container according to claim 1, wherein the local controller is configured to implement an override command to force the air conditioner to cycle in an event a temperature within the interior reaches a limit.

6. The refrigerated storage container according to claim 1, wherein the local controller is configured to override a cycling command issued by a supervisory controller.

7. A refrigerated storage container that can be disposed proximate to neighboring refrigerated storage containers in a ship or a yard, the refrigerated storage container comprising:

a container housing defining an interior;

an air conditioner comprising a condenser supportively disposed on an end wall of the container housing, the air conditioner being operable to maintain control of temperatures within the interior;

a local controller; and

a sensor operably disposed to sense a temperature of the interior and to transmit data reflective of the temperature to the local controller,

the local controller being configured to cycle the air conditioner on and off within a time window, which is predefined in accordance with temperatures within the interior and allowable temperature variability around a set-point, based on waste heat ingestion into the condenser from the neighboring refrigerated storage containers wherein the local controller derives a value of the waste heat ingestion from a difference between periodically measured ambient and condenser inlet air temperatures.

8. The refrigerated storage container according to claim 7, wherein the local controller is configured to:

limit a number of cycles within the time window,

implement an override command to force the air conditioner to cycle in an event a temperature within the interior reaches a limit, and

override a cycling command issued by a supervisory controller.

9. A method of executing energy-efficient operations of an air conditioner of a refrigerated storage container in a container yard or container ship according to claim 1, the method comprising:

establishing a time window for operating the air conditioner in accordance with temperatures within an interior of a container housing and allowable temperature variability around a set-point;

measuring first and second parameters within the time window and calculating a difference between the first and second parameters; and

cycling the air conditioner within the time window in an event a local controller determines that temperatures within the interior exceed the allowable temperature variability and the difference exceeds a predefined threshold.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the air conditioner comprises a condenser supportively disposed on an end wall of the container housing.

11. The method according to claim 9, further comprising a sensor operably disposed to:

sense a temperature of the interior, and

transmit data reflective of the temperature to the local controller.

12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the measuring of the first and second parameters comprises periodically measuring the first and second parameters wherein the first and second parameters comprise ambient and condenser inlet air temperatures, respectively.

13. The method according to claim 9, further comprising limiting a number of cycles within the time window.

14. The method according to claim 9, further comprising implementing an override command to force the air conditioner to cycle in an event a temperature within the interior reaches a limit.

15. The method according to claim 9, further comprising overriding a cycling command issued by a supervisory controller.