

One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

December 2007 – January 2008 Newsletter

U.S. - Sweden Science and Technology Committee Meets

At the third meeting under the Bilateral Science and Technology Agreement on November 30, the Ambassador presented a list of possible funding opportunities in the U.S. open to joint U.S.-Sweden projects. The Government of Sweden is working on a similar list of opportunities in Sweden.



The Embassy identified 46 programs from six U.S. government agencies with more than \$100 million in possible funding for alternative energy projects. At its next meeting, in spring 2008, the Committee intends to review five to ten project proposals that may qualify for these programs.

Leading the Swedish government participation in the meeting were Peter Honeth, State Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Science, and Ola Alterå, State Secretary at the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications.

Embassy Co-sponsors Clean-Tech Seminar

Several American and Swedish venture capitalist companies participated in a Clean-tech Venture Seminar in Kista on November 20, where they had the opportunity to talk first-hand to representatives from 20 new Swedish clean-tech companies. Vantage Point, Venrock, Flagship Ventures and the State of Michigan Economic Development Corporation were among the American investors represented. For some of the invited American firms it was a second chance to review some of the companies introduced to them by Ambassador Wood at the meeting at Stanford in May.

The seminar was co-hosted by the Embassy together with STING (Stockholm Innovation and Growth), City of Stockholm, Invest in Sweden Agency and the Swedish Private Equity & Venture Capital Association. Ten of the featured clean-tech companies are already on Ambassador Wood's list of 'Renewable Energy Opportunities in Sweden,' and in his speech the Ambassador encouraged cooperation and dialog between the companies and the investors.

In conjunction with the clean-tech seminar, Ambassador Wood released the updated version of his list of investable Swedish companies. The list, available at www.usemb.se, now stands at 41 companies.

Green Embassy Project

In an energy conservation effort started at the U.S. Embassy, General Services Officer Andrew Ryan on November 29 signed a five-year contract on with Fortum Markets to receive "Bra Miljöval" electricity, beginning January 1, 2008.



The "Bra Miljöval" ("Good Environmental Choice") designation is in accord with criteria set by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation. "We are extremely proud of this contract," said Johan Lind, Fortum Markets sales manager for Sweden. "The Embassy has a strong climate focus, and we, of course, are especially happy to have been chosen as suppliers. The contract we see as yet another sign that our extensive environmental efforts are paying off."

In another step, all incandescent light bulbs in the Embassy building and in all Embassy-owned facilities were replaced with new high-efficiency LED bulbs.

Ambassador Wood visits Forsmark

Ambassador Wood and Mrs. Wood visited the Forsmark Nuclear Power plant on November 27 and discussed nuclear power in Sweden with Jan Edberg, president of Forsmark, and Göran Lundgren, head of Vattenfall's Generation Nordic Division.

Ambassador Wood discussed nuclear waste issues with SKB President Claes Thegerström (Swedish Nuclear Waste Management Corporation, a corporation jointly owned by Swedish power companies). In connection with that discussion, Ambassador Wood visited the Final Repository for Radioactive Operational Waste facility near the Forsmark reactors.



California Energy Commissioner Visits Stockholm

Sweden and California need to establish a working group to further the goals of their 2006 agreement on promoting renewable fuels, the Vice Chairman of the California Energy Commission said during a visit to Sweden at the end of November.

James Boyd came to Stockholm at the invitation of the Embassy and the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications after taking part in a seminar with Telematics in Gothenburg. He met with Minister of Foreign Trade Eva Björling and two State Secretaries as well as energy experts from local government and industry representatives.

Mr. Boyd said that California became a global leader in reducing greenhouse gases because of specific policy and technology steps taken by the state government beginning in the 1970s. Mr. Boyd expects cellulosic ethanol, plug-in hybrid vehicles and bio-methane to provide significant greenhouse emissions reductions in the future. He said that California is interested in learning from Sweden's public awareness efforts.

Bilateral Working Group holds Digital Video Conference

In his opening remarks at the first meeting for the Bilateral U.S.-Swedish Working Group, Ambassador Wood said that he hopes the group will be a 'virtual table' for reviewing proposals, vetting and recommending proposals to be funded as well as identifying



sources of funding in the U.S. and Sweden. The participants discussed linking together an event at the House in Sweden in Washington D.C. with the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference.

The representative from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) suggested sending U.S. researchers to a workshop to see which areas and projects are relevant for funding between the NSF and Sweden.

The Group was established to advance the Implementing Arrangement signed by the Swedish Minister for Enterprise and Energy, Maud Olofsson, and U.S. Assistant Secretary of Energy, Andy Karsner on June 28.

Efficiency Could Cut Growth in U.S. Energy Use in Half

An aggressive pursuit of energy efficiency in the United States over the next 18 years could cut the nation's growth in energy use by 50% or more, according to a new report released November 13. The report, "Vision for 2025: Developing a Framework for Change," was prepared by the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency Leadership Group, which comprises more than 60 leading organizations, with DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acting as facilitators. The report sets a goal of achieving all cost-effective energy efficiency improvements throughout the United States by 2025. If that goal is achieved, the nation will spend \$100 billion less for energy in 2025 than it would otherwise and will avoid emitting 500 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. The nation will also achieve \$500 billion in net savings from its energy efficiency investments.

To achieve that goal, the report calls for placing a high priority on cost-effective energy efficiency improvements, creating energy efficiency incentives for utilities, and

implementing the latest technologies. The report also emphasizes the sharing of information, both regionally and nationally, and the use advanced communication technologies to keep utilities in touch with their customers and aware of how their customers are using energy. To read the EPA press release see:

www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/pdf/vision_press_release.pdf.

Trends in the U.S.

LEDs Will Light up Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree

The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is going 'greener' – with energy-saving lights replacing old-fashioned bulbs. Using the energy-efficient LEDs to replace incandescent bulbs will reduce the Christmas tree electricity consumption from 3,510 to 1,297 kWh per day. The daily savings is equal to the amount of electricity consumed by a typical 2,000-square-foot house in a month.

Ex-President to Utilize Wind at Walker's Point

Walker's Point is a little greener these days. A 33-foot-tall windmill has been installed to generate electricity for the oceanfront home of former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara.

The wind turbine, a Skystream 3.7 model, is capable of generating electricity once wind speed reaches 8 mph. The structure can produce an estimated 400 kilowatts a month at a wind speed of 12 mph. An average household uses about 600 kilowatts a month.

To read the full text, please see:

<http://pressherald.mainetoday.com/story.php?id=149555&ac=PHnws>



Photo courtesy of Portland Press Herald

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