

# One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

## February 2007 Newsletter

This monthly newsletter will focus on alternative energy developments at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, in Sweden and in the U.S.

Many of you have probably already heard that the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm is going to focus during my tenure on expanding cooperation between the U.S. and Sweden in the area of alternative energy. Our goal -- and I know it's a big one -- is to help achieve a technological breakthrough that will enable both countries to reduce dependence on fossil fuels while also benefiting the global environment. This is what I call the One Big Thing.

I ask myself every day: what can we do? First, we look to ourselves. We have established an Embassy recycling program. (See newsletter article below) My wife, Judy, and I also just bought a biofuel car. We intend to fill it exclusively with ethanol 85. Running the car on ethanol will reduce fossil-fuel consumption by one ton every year. Small steps, perhaps, but steps in the right direction.



Ambassador and Mrs. Wood inspecting their new Saab biofuel car

Ambassador Michael M. Wood

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### U.S. Ambassador Michael Wood visits Ethanol Pilot Plant in Örnsköldsvik



Ambassador Wood and Dr. Dixon at SEKAB

On January 19, 2007, Ambassador Michael Wood traveled to Örnsköldsvik in Northern Sweden, to visit SEKAB, a world leading R&D enterprise in cellulose ethanol development and a leading ethanol supplier in Europe. This was the first of his planned monthly visits to important alternative-energy sites in Sweden to meet with entrepreneurs, researchers, policymakers, and investors.

At SEKAB Ambassador Wood met with senior officials and researchers, among them Chairman Per Carstedt who briefed the Ambassador about the SEKAB industrial group and its mission. The Ambassador's visit to SEKAB concluded with a tour of the R&D Ethanol Pilot plant.

During his one-day visit in Örnköldsvik Ambassador Michael Wood also took part in a joint press conference together with Minister of Enterprise and Energy Maud Olofsson.

Both of them emphasized the importance of U.S.- Swedish cooperation to bring about a breakthrough in the alternative energy field.



Minister of Enterprise and Energy Maud Olofsson, Ambassador Wood and City Council chairperson Elvy Södergren

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## **U.S. TO CUT PROJECTED GASOLINE USAGE 20 PERCENT BY 2017**

President Bush in his State of the Union Address on January 23 called for a 20 percent reduction in U.S. gasoline usage over the next 10 years.

The “20 in 10” plan includes a combination of mandates, incentives and innovative policies to reach the energy-reduction goal that will help protect the environment and ensure the security of energy supplies.

Commenting on the President’s plan, Ambassador Wood said, “In his speech Tuesday night President Bush sought a vast, mandatory increase in alternative fuels and greater vehicle efficiency. Some of the necessary technologies are more advanced in Sweden than the U.S. The Embassy wants to make those connections.”

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## **Minister for the Environment Andreas Carlgren in the United States**

Sweden's Minister for the Environment Andreas Carlgren visited the U.S. in early January to discuss international climate agreements and climate action. The visit was intended to help create conditions for Swedish environmental technology exports and make use of opportunities for Swedish business to win new markets. Part of the trip included a visit to California, where Carlgren gave a speech at a seminar on renewable energy technologies in Sacramento, CA. To read his statements, see: <http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/8580/a/74806>



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## **Energy Official Assigned to U.S. Embassy Stockholm**



Robert Dixon, currently the head of the Energy Technology Policy Division at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris, has been assigned by the Department of Energy to participate in the Embassy’s One Big Thing. Dr. Dixon will be traveling to Stockholm monthly to support the Embassy’s efforts.

Dr. Dixon earned his B.S, M.S. (1979) and Ph.D. (1982) degrees from the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO.

In 1997, Dr. Dixon joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and has been engaged in policy analysis and research and development programs. From 1999 to 2002 Dr. Dixon served as DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Power Technologies.

He served as Associate Director, International Activities, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the U.S. President in 2005. Dr. Dixon worked on a variety of bilateral and multilateral international agreements and activities.

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### **Embassy Starts New Recycling Program**

The newly established recycling program at the Embassy has had a successful first two months. The original agreement with the company that picks up Embassy garbage provides for free pick-up of recycled paper if the amount exceeds two metric tons. Since the program was initiated, the collected white paper, newspapers and cardboard boxes have been picked up for free four times.

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### **Sweden's Government and the Climate Challenge**

The Swedish Government considers climate change to be one of the major environmental and political challenges of this century. Sweden aims to take a leading position in developing a new climate regime after 2012 both within the EU and internationally. Forceful measures are necessary in the transport, housing and industrial sectors in order to meet the challenge of climate change. The Government's goal is to make it possible to break the link between economic growth and increased use of energy and raw materials, for example through energy efficiency initiatives. See: <http://www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/07/46/40/9c793229.pdf>

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