

One Big Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

November 2008 Newsletter

ESBRI Award

At the 2008 Sweden – United States Entrepreneurial Forum on October 22 in Stockholm, Ambassador Wood was, much to his own surprise, awarded the ESBRI Award – for entrepreneurship. There to present the honors was Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Communications Maud Olofsson. In its citation the jury said about Ambassador Wood:



“His focus on ‘the One Big Thing’ has contributed to the development of the cleantech and alternative energy sector in Sweden. Driven by a passion to create a better environment for all of us, he has greatly contributed to enhance the entrepreneurship climate in Sweden.”

Maud Olofsson told media at the forum that as a friend of Ambassador Wood’s, she was particularly happy to hand over the award to him, and thanked him for his steadfast commitment to the cleantech issue.

Maud Olofsson applauds Ambassador Wood. Photo by Johanna Hanno

DOE Money for Chemrec

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced an award of \$300,000 to help NewPage Corporation conduct a \$1.2 million feasibility study for incorporating a black liquor-based biorefinery into an existing pulp and paper mill. NewPage’s project would use the gasification technology developed by Chemrec, a Swedish company, to help transform the pulp mill into a biorefinery. The Chemrec technology produces heat and power and eventually couples this energy to a biofuels synthesis train for sustainable, low-carbon chemicals and fuels.

NewPage, an Ohio-based paper company, will use the award to conduct the feasibility study for taking advantage of the black liquor waste stream of its pulp and paper mill in Escanaba, Michigan. If determined to be economically viable and subsequently implemented, this gasification system has the potential to supplant the mill’s use of natural gas and fuel oil and produce biofuel by means of a gas-to-liquids system.

Ambassador Wood first publicly announced this award at the [Sweden-Michigan Clean Energy Summit: Driving to Energy Independence](#) held in Detroit, Michigan, on September 26. At the Summit, government leaders, including Governor Jennifer Granholm of Michigan and His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, discussed the challenges and strategies of the drive to energy independence.



King Carl XVI Gustaf and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm
Photo courtesy of Michigan Economic Development Corporation

In making the announcement, Ambassador Wood said “This is the kind of thing that I hoped we could do when we started the One Big Thing. To have Swedish and American clean energy technology come together in my home state of Michigan is fantastic.”

Energy Department Official on Sweden Visit

The Department of Energy’s Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Energy Efficiency David E. Rodgers visited Sweden on October 9, 2008 to meet with Swedish government and industry leaders to discuss further cooperation on clean energy technology development.



Industry presentations by Nilar, Bioprocess Control, and Test Site Sweden promoted discussions with DAS Rodgers on federal funding opportunities, collaborative possibilities, and U.S. energy policy. Afternoon discussions with the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy, and Communications (Mr. Anders Nyberg) centered around interest from the Ministry for collaborating on energy efficiency technologies and biofuels. The day finished with a meeting at Chemrec, where CEO Jonas Rudberg discussed the black liquor gasification project. DAS Rodgers discussed funding possibilities and explained DOE’s current stance on motor vehicle biofuels.

David Rodgers and Swedish Director General for the Energy Agency Tomas Käberger discussing bilateral cooperation on alternative energy. U.S. Embassy photo, Annika Henningsson

Introducing Brian Gullett

Dr. Brian Gullett has recently assumed the position of Embassy Science Fellow. He is working with the Economic Section on the One Big Thing project and will help identify U.S. funding sources for Swedish clean energy technologies. Brian is a scientific professional level (S/T) researcher on loan from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Research and Development in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, where he conducts research on air and energy technologies. Brian has his Ph.D. in environmental engineering from Duke University and a recent Master’s degree in Engineering Management. He has published 100 journal articles and presented 100 conference papers in subjects related to alternative energy fuels, air pollution controls, measurement of trace air toxics, and mechanisms of halogenated pollutant formation.

For these publications, he is a 12-time recipient of the EPA Scientific and Technological Achievement award and a two-time recipient of the EPA Science Achievement Award in engineering. Brian has successfully procured \$6 million in research funds over the last eight years, including recent awards for biomass fuel technologies and pollutant characterization. Brian will be at the Embassy until Christmas.



Dr. Brian Gullett. U.S. Embassy photo by Richard Parsons

Ambassador Wood on Top-Ten List of Most Influential In Energy Sweden

The technology magazine Ny Teknik featured a list of the people they considered most influential in the energy arena in Sweden. On a list of 50, Ambassador Wood was ranked as number four, and the only foreigner on the list. Thanks to the One Big Thing, and in particular the list of up-and-coming Swedish clean tech companies, the Ambassador has raised awareness of the interesting inventions and technologies to be found throughout Sweden. In the accompanying article, Ambassador Wood also chose the list as his single biggest achievement during his time in Sweden.

The interview with Ambassador Wood in Ny Teknik can be found here:

<http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/innovation/tillvaxtforetag/article445839.ece>, and the top-ten list here: http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/energi_miljo/energi/article446413.ece

Do you want to read more about the Embassy's work with the One Big Thing?

See www.usemb.se/Environment

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