

One Big Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

September-October 2008 Newsletter

Ambassador Wood Releases Updated A-List of Swedish Companies

At the New York Green Summit on September 25, Ambassador Wood unveiled the fourth edition of his list of Swedish alternative energy companies. The first list, containing 30 companies, was presented to Silicon Valley venture capitalists in April 2007. The latest version provides information on 52 firms. While the list continues to include a wide variety of alternative energy technologies, there has been a slight shift toward technologies that improve the sustainability and efficiency of existing infrastructures, such as heat and ventilation monitoring systems and energy efficient transformers. Other major sectors represented on the list include alternative energy vehicles, solar energy and waste-to-energy. The full list can be read at www.usemb.se/Environment/A-list.pdf.

At the Green Summit, Swedish Biofuels AB was named the winner of the 2008 Swedish American Chamber of Commerce in New York (SACC) Deloitte Green Award. Swedish Biofuels



focuses on improving existing biofuel options, without any impact on existing engine technology, thus reducing the logistics problems for fuel producers. The firm previously received \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Defense to develop jet fuels containing biological components. Swedish Biofuels and the other three finalists for the SACC Deloitte Green Award -- Chemrec, Opcon and Ageratec -- are on the Ambassador's list.

Swedish Biofuels Angelica Hull together with Ambassador Wood and King Carl XVI Gustaf after receiving the Deloitte Green Award

King Carl XVI Gustaf At Groundbreaking Ceremony for Michigan Biogas Initiative

One of the companies on Ambassador Wood's list, Swedish Biogas International, was very much on the agenda during an official groundbreaking for a biogas project in Flint, Michigan on September 26. Flint will be home to a new Center of Energy Excellence, a venture co-sponsored by the State of Michigan, the Swedish Energy Agency, the city of Flint, Kettering University and Swedish Biogas International. At the ceremony Swedish Biogas International's newly established subsidiary also received a check for \$4 million to begin construction for biogas production at Flint's sewage treatment facility. Present at the groundbreaking ceremony was HRH King Carl XVI Gustaf, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, Sweden's Ambassador to the United States Jonas Hafström and Ambassador Wood, among others.

Swedish Biogas International was one of the first companies Ambassador Wood put on his list of interesting Swedish clean text companies, and CEO Peter Undén told news site "The Local" that "The reason why we [Swedish Biogas International] were first identified as one of the companies suitable for the work by Michigan State was because we were on the list. We still needed to prove ourselves as the best option, but it was definitely a great door opener." Both Governor Granholm and Swedish Biogas CEO Peter Undén expressed hopes that a successful facility in Flint might lead to other communities and states following in Michigan's footsteps.

For coverage of this event on the State of Michigan website, please see:

<http://www.michigan.gov/minewswire/0,1607,7-136-3452-200826--,00.html>

America Goes To Sweden to Open Doors for Swedish Clean Technology

On September 15-16, Stockholm was home to the SACC-USA Entrepreneurial Days, an annual event which has during its 11 years grown into one of the most important trade and networking events for companies on both sides of the Atlantic. Ambassador Wood was invited to deliver one of the keynote addresses, and told an assembly of around 1,000 business representatives of his experiences as networker-in-chief through the One Big Thing.

In his remarks, Ambassador Wood stated, "I want to talk about a couple of these; Chemrec and Svensk Biogas. These are the two that are going to open facilities in Michigan. Svensk Biogas is a Linköping company that has the technology for converting the sludge in a sewage treatment plant into biogas. The biogas can then be used to fuel city buses, taxis and police cars. On September 26 in Michigan we will be breaking ground on a facility where Svensk Biogas, supported by the state of Michigan and the United States government, will apply their technology to a sewage treatment plant in Michigan."



"Second is Chemrec, a company which has developed a technology to convert a pulp industry waste bi-product called black liquor into an alternative fuel. If this technology is applied to all of the pulp mills in the United States, the potential is to produce 5-7 billion gallons of alternative liquid fuel."

USDA Forest Service Chief Kimbell Speaks at Umeå Forestry Conference

On August 25, Ambassador Wood and U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell were keynote speakers on the opening day of the Forest Adaptation Conference in Umeå. The conference was organized by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Co-sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the focus of the conference was on the current state of knowledge of ongoing changes in climatic conditions in different regions of the world, and the implications of these changes for forest management and conservation. The Ambassador gave a presentation of the One Big Thing and its current focus on forest-based bioenergy cooperation between Sweden and the United States.

On August 26, the Ambassador and Chief Kimbell together with other key Embassy staff visited



Ambassador Wood and Forest Service Chief Kimbell visiting Chemrec

Chemrec's black liquor gasification plant located next to the Smurfit Kappa Kraftliner mill in Piteå where they had a chance to learn more about the black liquor gasification to motor fuel technology. In 2007, Chemrec signed an agreement with the American company NewPage to explore the possible development of a second generation demonstration plant at the NewPage paper mill in Escanaba, Michigan. If realized, it will be the first commercial-scale implementation of Chemrec's second generation BLG technology.

OES Visit to Explore Regional Partnership with Nordics on Renewable Energy

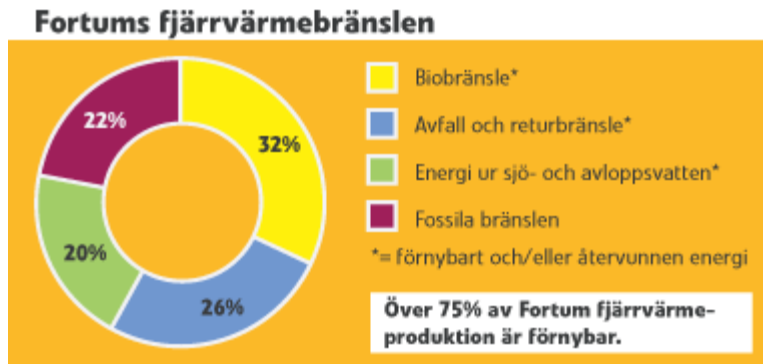
As a follow-on action to the Washington Renewable Energy Conference in March, where Nordic nations were prominently engaged, the State Department expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of developing a new regional partnership focused on renewable energy research.

Former Embassy Economic Counselor Tracy Hall, now at the Department of State's Bureau of Oceans, and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of Science and Technology Cooperation (OES/STC) and Jefferson Science Fellow Dr. Purusottam Jena of Virginia Commonwealth University traveled throughout the Nordic region to meet with renewable energy researchers and policymakers. Their goal was to gauge interest in the possibility of Nordic – U.S. cooperation on renewable energy to encourage further R&D collaboration between and among the U.S. and interested Nordic countries. Part of the appeal of this region is the collectively high level of innovation and expertise in each of the Nordic nations, with each country focusing on different combinations of renewable technologies.

Initial reactions in Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway were generally positive, and the team intends a further visit to Iceland at the end of September. Assuming a positive reaction there, the U.S. is proposing the formation of a working group to plan a workshop around May next year to discuss operational aspects of this exciting possibility.

Embassy Going Green

One of the themes of the One Big Thing has also been to make the Embassy greener, and just in time for winter, the Embassy will be switching to district heating. Last year, the Embassy and energy company Fortum signed a deal where all electricity used in the chancery building were to come from renewable sources, and by joining the district heating grid more than the environment is spared. For example, by switching to district heating 366,000 cubic meters of gas is saved annually, which results in a 650,000 kg cut in carbon dioxide emissions. Additionally, savings from going from city gas to district heating gives a payback on the investment in under a year.



To read more about the Embassy's work with the One Big Thing, see www.usemb.se/Environment

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