

Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA) One Year Anniversary!

Since its February 2010 launch, the Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA) has built a network of nearly 100 SAGA partners, and highlighted over 600 stories of sustainability innovations on its web platform - sagastory.blogspot.com. Other achievements include the Memorandum of Cooperation between the US and Sweden on Sustainable Transport; Sweden supporting 5 of 11 initiatives launched at the Clean Energy Ministerial; and the US National League of Cities and Swedish National Association of Eco-municipalities signing an agreement encompassing 1700 US and Swedish cities to collaborate on urban sustainability.

Super Efficient Appliance Maker Electrolux Announces 225 New Jobs in Augusta, GA

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal announced Electrolux will locate an expanded customer care center in Augusta, Georgia, a \$2.5 million investment that will create 225 new jobs by the end of 2013. This investment follows the July 2010 visit of then-Governor Sonny Perdue to Stockholm. Electrolux, an Energy Star partner with DOE and EPA, has been recognized with the highest ranking in energy efficiency.

Four Minnesota Families Identified as 'Climate Idols' – To Be Coached by Swedish City Växjö

Four Duluth families have been selected for Climate Idols, a global environmental awareness competition sponsored by Duluth Sister Cities International, with Duluth's Sister Cities in Thunder Bay, Canada, and Växjö, Sweden. The four U.S. families will compete against four families in Thunder Bay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The eight families will be coached by families from Växjö, which has been dubbed the Greenest City in Europe by the BBC and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, a group of 1200 local governments from 70 countries committed to sustainable development. Växjö reduced its annual CO2 emissions to three tons per capita, below Sweden's average of six tons and Europe's average of nine tons. District heating allowed Växjö to announce it will be fossil fuel free by 2030.

Sweden's Top Fast-Food Chains Tells the U.S. How to Make the Burger Business Green

Sweden's oldest and most popular fast-food chain, Max, recently sent CEO Richard Bergfors and Director of Sustainability Pär Larshans to North America to visit companies and universities to share expertise on environmental sustainability. In 2008, Max adopted a vision to become a carbon-dioxide neutral company. Measures taken include carbon labeling on all menu items, measuring their carbon footprint and offsetting it by planting trees in Africa, all restaurants powered by wind energy, all company vehicles being environmentally friendly, and all new restaurants using LED instead of neon lighting. The North American office of Natural Step, a Swedish non-profit with offices in 11 countries working on education, advising and research on sustainable development, has launched a case study on how Max is changing the fast-food industry from within.

GE and Skanska Team Up to Improve Energy Efficiency

General Electric officials have told the Embassy that GE and Swedish construction company Skanska have commenced cooperation to modify GE products including lighting for both old building retrofits and for new construction, in order to create solutions for energy efficiency. The current cooperation projects are in Sweden, the United Kingdom and the US.

Honeywell Tells the US Embassy How to Go Green

U.S. Fortune 500 company, technology inventor and manufacturing firm Honeywell conducted an energy audit of the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm. If implemented, their proposals could result in a greenhouse gas reduction of 100 metric tons/year of CO2 equivalents (about a 50% reduction) These improvements would be in addition to what has already been achieved in converting the Embassy to district heating and renewable power sources for electricity. The goal is to far exceed the targets set by President Obama for the federal government to reduce emissions 28% by 2020.

Questions or suggestions? Please email sagastory@gmail.com



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