

### **Sweden Joins the Open Energy Information Exchange**

The Swedish Energy Agency has joined forces with DOE to share energy efficiency data through the Open Energy Information web-based platform (<http://openei.org>). The Agency provided extensive data on building energy efficiency from up to 20 years of Swedish studies on a wide range of buildings, including schools, hospitals, offices, retail and sports facilities. NREL is reviewing the data for inclusion in the OEI data base. Sweden is the first partner country to contribute extensively to this data exchange platform.

### **Electrolux – A Champion in Efficient Appliances Invests in North Carolina**

With a long-standing Swedish commitment to clean tech and a base in North Carolina with its U.S. headquarters bringing 700 new jobs to that state, the world's second-largest appliance maker Electrolux is a poster-child for energy efficiency. New Electrolux appliances are 70% more energy efficient than old ones, and were presented with DOE's Energy Star award in March of 2010. Electrolux has an online tool that allows consumers to learn what highly efficient appliances can save them in energy costs based on where they live. Link American cities and how these appliances may work with DOE's Super-efficient Equipment and Appliances (SEAD) Program.

### **Swedish Biofuels Companies Consider Partnering and Investing in the U.S.**

Swedish companies Domsjö and SEKAB are developing second generation biofuels from hemicellulose, woody biomass and liquors, and are exploring partnerships in the southern United States where U.S. biomass plants use short-life cycle pine trees. Sweden-owned European utility Vattenfall may also have interest in replacing some of its coal-fired power plant feedstock in Europe with U.S. biomass exports.

### **Largest-ever Fulbright Results in US and Sweden Tackling Diesel Exhaust**

The largest Fulbright grant in history, which is supported by a donation from the Wallenberg Foundation, is funding Dr. Curt Conner from the University of Massachusetts who arrived at Gothenburg's Chalmers University on February 17 to begin research collaboration on biofuels and diesel exhaust catalysis. While at Chalmers the previous Fulbrighter, Dr. Art Ragauskas did research on converting of woody biomass to biofuels, bioenergy and the next generation of biorefineries. Ragauskas is now helping Swedish biofuels firms seeking to invest in the southeast U.S.

### **Skanska Helps Make the Empire State Building Greener**

Skanska U.S.A., the sixth largest contractor in the U.S., has made its Empire State Building offices a show case for LEED standards. Skanska has designed and retrofitted their New York Headquarters there to the highest standards of the U.S. Green Building Council, LEED Platinum for Commercial Interiors. The office was awarded LEED Platinum Status in July 2009. Skanska follows LEED methods for its architectural, construction and engineering for building energy efficiency in the U.S. and the Nordics. <http://skanska-sustainability-case-studies.com/>.

### **Volvo Group Partners with Penn State University to Improve Engine Technology for Biofuels and Diesel**

This month, Volvo Group (trucks and buses) chose Pennsylvania State University as its first partner in North America under Volvo's Academic Partner Program, which encompasses research in areas such as production technology and engine development. The partnership with Penn State will target diesel combustion and efficiency, alternative fuels, and intelligent transportation systems. Volvo owns Mack Trucks in nearby Macungie, PA, which has developed a number of environmental measures to reduce green house gases. In parallel, DOE is also working on fuel efficiency programs with Cummins Engine, a U.S. company with partnership with Scania Trucks.

### **Swedish Embassy Trains American Climate Pilots**

Four households in the Washington, DC area recently finished participating in "Climate Pilots," a Swedish-sponsored environmental initiative that teaches people how to reduce their carbon footprints. The Swedish Embassy in Washington facilitated the seven-month program, which was modeled after a similar program in Kalmar. The participants said they have made changes to their daily habits that will continue even though the program is over. One family that took part in the challenge went as far as investing in a geothermal heat pump.

### **Department of Energy and Test Site Sweden Smooth Transition to Electric Vehicles**

Thanks to continued financial support from the DOE Vehicle Technologies Program, Test Site Sweden (TSS) will continue its work with Argonne National Labs on codes, standards and demonstration projects to support a smooth transition to electric vehicles by minimizing the need to develop different charging and vehicle-grid interfaces. TSS is part of a larger electric vehicle team proposing large demonstration fleets in ten major EU cities. During 2010-12 TSS will focus on building an active safety test track, building a vehicle simulator at Lindholmen Science Park in Gothenburg operated by the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI), working with test projects in the EU, coordinating the evaluation of electric vehicle and plug-in hybrid projects; and development of an open data base for vehicle fleets and infrastructure.