

One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

October 2007 Newsletter

President Speaks at Meeting on Climate Change and Energy Security

On September 27-28, President Bush hosted a meeting of representatives for the world's 16 largest economies, together with the UN and the European Commission, to promote greater global energy security and to combat climate change.

Last week's meeting was the first of a series that will bring the world's major economies together to develop a detailed contribution to address energy security and climate change when the Kyoto Protocol targets expire in 2012. These meetings are intended to reinforce and accelerate discussions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and contribute to a global agreement under the Convention by 2009.



"Energy security and climate change are two of the great challenges of our time," the President said in his remarks at the meeting. "The United States takes these challenges seriously. The world's response will help shape the future of the global economy and the condition of our environment for future generations. The nations in this room have special responsibilities. We represent the world's major economies, we are major users of energy, and we have the resources and knowledge base to develop clean energy technologies."

See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/09/20070927.html> for a White House fact sheet, and <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/09/20070928-2.html> for the President's remarks.

Prime Minister Reinfeldt at the UN Climate Summit

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt spoke September 24 to the UN General Assembly at the Climate Summit, where he presented a Swedish plan to form an international environment commission that will oversee the distribution of aid to countries most affected by climate change. The aim is to start work immediately on what will be known as 'The Commission on Climate Change and Development' and ensure that it is in place by the time Sweden takes on the rotating EU presidency in the second half of 2009.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said: "First: there is a vast potential for emissions reductions through technologies that already exist. Second: a price needs to be set on emissions in order for this potential to be realized. And the carbon markets need legally binding commitments in order for this price to be set. With a global carbon market,

covering as many gases, sectors and countries as possible, the emissions and costs can be reduced significantly. Third, it is possible to achieve emissions reductions and positive economic growth at the same time.”

Ambassador Wood Visits Gotland

Continuing his tour of Sweden focusing on alternative energy, Ambassador Wood visited Gotland on September 20-21. After meeting with the Governor Marianne Samuelsson, the Ambassador traveled to the southern part of the island to visit a sludge water cleaning plant that produces biogas as fuel for local buses.



After a visit at Toftagården, a hotel and conference facility with its own solar and wood pellets heating system, the Ambassador also toured Näsudden wind park. Näsudden is one of Sweden’s first sites for wind power, and today has more wind power than any other part of the country, with about 160 turbines that generate enough electricity to cover one fifth of the island’s total energy needs.

American Chamber of Commerce Climate Change Day 2007

Ambassador Wood told 80 guests at Climate Change Day 2007 on September 19 that one of the largest wind-power farms in America is located in Texas, producing 150 megawatts of electricity. Climate Change Day is co-sponsored by AmCham Sweden and ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) Sweden.

There have been dramatic changes in Americans’ awareness of climate change, he said. “Foreign and other manufacturers have projected 750,000 green cars will be sold in the U.S. next year, 2008. That compares to 5,000 cars just eight years ago.”



Ambassador Wood and Erik Belfrage, Senior Vice President at SEB

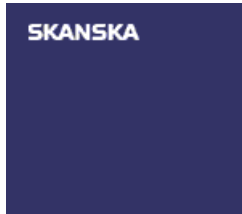
Ola Alterå, State Secretary at the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, spoke about Swedish national and international climate policy priorities.

To read more about the event, see:

<http://www.amchamswe.se/web/No%203,%202007.pdf>

Skanska Tops US Green Building Poll

The U.S. subsidiary of Swedish construction company Skanska has been ranked the top green builder in the United States in a survey of 50 companies by US trade magazine Engineering News-Record.



The rankings were based on contractors' 2006 revenue from projects registered with or certified by third-party ratings groups under environmental or sustainable development standards. Skanska USA has a track record in green building, being the first construction management firm to have all of its environmental management systems registered to the ISO 14001 standard. The company has been involved in some of America's largest construction projects in recent years, including New York's Second Avenue Subway and the United Nations Headquarters Renovation Project.

DOE to Invest up to \$20 Million for Plug-In Hybrid Research

The Department of Energy announced September 25 that it will invest nearly \$20 million in plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) research. PHEVs have the potential to displace a large amount of gasoline by delivering up to 40 miles of electric range without recharging—a distance that includes most daily roundtrip commutes.

Five projects will be cost-shared with the United States Advanced Battery Consortium (USABC), allowing up to \$38 million for battery research and development. The companies selected for the projects include EnerDel, Inc. in Indiana; A123Systems in Massachusetts; Compact Power Inc. in Michigan; 3M in Minnesota; and Johnson Controls – Saft Advanced Power Solutions in Wisconsin. The projects will focus on developing batteries and cells for 10- and 40-mile range Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles and building small cells to test new cathode materials.

To read more, please see <http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm>.

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