

One Big Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

December 2008 Newsletter

DOE to Help Increase Efficiency of U.S. Embassies and Consulates

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of State signed a Memorandum of Understanding on December 8, agreeing to conduct energy assessments and improve environmental and energy management at U.S. embassies and consulates around the world. Under the agreement, DOE will conduct evaluations of overseas facilities and identify opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency, use renewable energy, and implement environmental sustainability measures by using Super Energy Service Performance Contracts. The State Department operates and maintains more than 18,000 facilities in more than 280 locations around the world, and has completed 62 new embassy compounds since 2001, with another 34 under construction.

This partnership was inspired by Embassy Stockholm's efforts to increase the sustainability of our buildings and vehicle fleet. The Embassy's initiative spread to Washington and throughout Europe through the creation of the League of Green U.S. Embassies. The members of the League, which now includes more than half of all U.S. Embassies in Europe, share ideas on greening our facilities and work together to lobby the State Department for support. This partnership with the Department of Energy will help the State Department help Embassies, and will provide the tools and resources needed to respond to the energy and water audit



requirements of the Energy Independence and Security Act and the energy, water, environment, and transportation requirements of Presidential Executive Order 13423. See the [DOE press release](#) and the full text of the [Memorandum of Understanding](#).

The U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, one of the 18,000 buildings owned by the Department of State. (Photo: Keith Sousa U.S. Embassy Stockholm)

Ambassador Wood Opens New Biogas Facility

During his visit to Kristianstad, Ambassador Wood formally opened a new biogas facility at the sewage plant in Kristianstad. The unit will produce electricity from so-called raw gas, found in, for instance, manure. On the next leg of the visit, Ambassador Wood went to the Krinova Science Park where he took part in an exhibit called Supervisions where the municipality and the businesses in the region showcased climate-smart solutions. Ambassador Wood told local media that the most important solution to climate problems is new technology. When asked about political agreements, the Ambassador said they could play an important role too, and that the U.S. might well be ready to sign a new treaty at the conference in Copenhagen at the end of 2009 – “providing the treaty is fair and includes India and China.”



Embassy Travels to U.S. with Government Representatives

Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Silverman traveled to Washington D.C. and Golden, Colorado together with representatives from the Swedish government. The delegation included Peter Honeth, State Secretary at the Ministry for Education and Research, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Enterprise, and the Swedish Energy Agency. On the agenda in Washington D.C. was a meeting at the Department of Energy with John Mizroch, Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, who gave an overview of DoE funding of renewable energy. The present budget is around \$1.7 billion, expected to increase to \$2 billion and President-elect Barack Obama is expected to continue the support. The Swedish delegation talked about Sweden's priorities in green research and development. Progress on green buildings



Bengt Toresson, Ministry of Enterprise, Mats Johnsson, Ministry of Education and Research and State Secretary Peter Honeth during the Department of Energy visit (U.S. Embassy Stockholm photo)

is of interest to both the U.S. and Sweden. The Swedish delegation expressed interest in developing an eco-partnership with a similar city to Stockholm in the U.S. to compare and develop energy efficiency in homes and buildings.

The delegation the traveled to Golden, Colorado for a visit at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, focusing on trying to identify new areas for cooperation as well as site visits to the research facilities. Three project areas were identified for follow up.

During the visit, the Swedish government announced that it will participate in the World Bank's Clean Tech Fund. The World Bank's Clean Technology Fund provides incentives for transferring low-carbon technologies to the developing world. The United States has committed \$2 billion, Sweden \$100 million, and both countries are on the board of directors of the new Fund.

Ambassador Wood Studies Pine Oil Facility

On November 17 Ambassador Wood and DCM Silverman visited the Arizona Chemical production facility in Söderhamn. This Florida company is a producer of naturally derived specialty resins and pine-based chemicals for adhesives, inks and coatings, lubricants, fuel additives, mining and chemicals markets. The products are used to help make a variety of products ranging from fragrances and personal care items to plastics, rubber products and hydraulic fluids.

During the visit the Managing Director Per Lundman demonstrated how to optimize the use of pine oil in order to make the traditionally fossil fuel rich production processes emission free and more effective. Arizona Chemical in Sweden has been following the OBT activities closely and is eager to cooperate with the Embassy to gain more market exposure.



Tuula Javanainen, Frank Carrico, Foreign Commercial Service, Ambassador Wood and Arizona Chemicals Managing Director Per Lundman (Photo courtesy of Arizona Chemicals)

USDA Offers Guaranteed Loans for Commercial-Scale Biorefineries

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on November 19 that it is now accepting applications for loan guarantees to support commercial-scale biorefineries producing advanced biofuels, which are defined as biofuels that are not produced from corn kernel starch. This program caught the attention of Embassy staff, keeping Chemrec in mind. Chemrec, one of the companies on Ambassador Wood's list, already has a test facility where it converts the black liquor from the pulp mill into gas, to be used as an alternative fuel.

The loan guarantees are being offered under the Biorefinery Assistance Program, which was authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill. Under the new program, loan guarantees of up to \$250 million per project will support the development and construction efforts needed to either build new biorefineries or to convert existing biorefineries to produce advanced biofuels. Applications are due on December 31 for the first wave of loan guarantees, which will be issued by March 2009. Applications can also be submitted in March or April of 2009 for the second wave of loan guarantees, which will be issued by September 2009. The USDA is also accepting public comments through January 20, 2009, on how to administer the program in the future. See the [USDA press release](#), the [program Web site](#), and the official [Federal Register notice](#).

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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