

One **Big** Thing

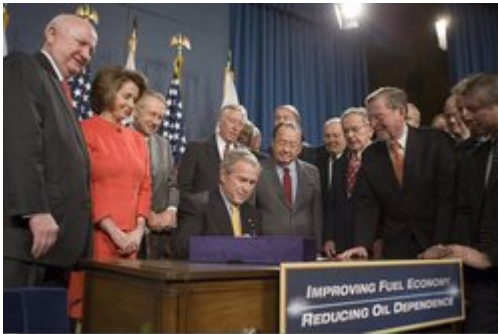
U.S. Embassy Stockholm

February 2008 Newsletter

New U.S. Energy Law

President Bush on December 18 signed the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which will improve vehicle fuel economy and help reduce U.S. dependence on oil. The new act represents a step forward in expanding the production of renewable fuels and confronting global climate change while reducing U.S. dependence on oil.

This new law will increase the supply of alternative fuel sources by setting a mandatory Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requiring fuel producers to use at least 36 billion gallons of biofuel in 2022. Furthermore, the bill intends to reduce U.S. demand for oil by setting a national fuel economy standard of 35 miles per gallon by 2020 – which will increase fuel economy standards by 40 percent and save billions of gallons of fuel.



In January 2007, the President called for the first statutory increase in fuel economy standards for automobiles since they were enacted in 1975, and the new law delivers on that request. The bill includes provisions to improve energy efficiency in lighting and appliances, as well as requirements for Federal agency efficiency and renewable energy use that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Taken together, all of these measures could reduce projected CO2 emissions by more than six billion metric tons by 2030.

President Bush signs the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, surrounded by Congress members

Ambassador Wood Visits the Detroit Auto Show

Environmentally friendly cars were the hit of this year's North American International Auto Show, known more informally as the Detroit Auto Show. Next generation plug-in hybrids and electric and fuel cell vehicles were on display, along with hybrid and clean diesel models that may soon hit showroom floors. Ambassador Wood visited the Auto Show with Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm. The Ambassador and the Governor discussed progress in the black liquor gasification project being carried out in Escanaba, Michigan, using technology from Piteå-based Chemrec. Initial results from the pilot stage are positive, and the State of Michigan and American corporate partner NewPage are now seeking funding to expand the work.



Ambassador Wood, Governor Granholm at the Volvo booth at the Auto Show

Governor Granholm also filled in the Ambassador about her plans to make Michigan the alternative energy hub of the United States. She hopes to bring Swedish technology to Flint, the Ambassador's hometown. Technology developed by Svensk Biogas will be used to create biogas from the city's sewage treatment plant.

U.S. to Create \$2 Billion Clean Tech Fund

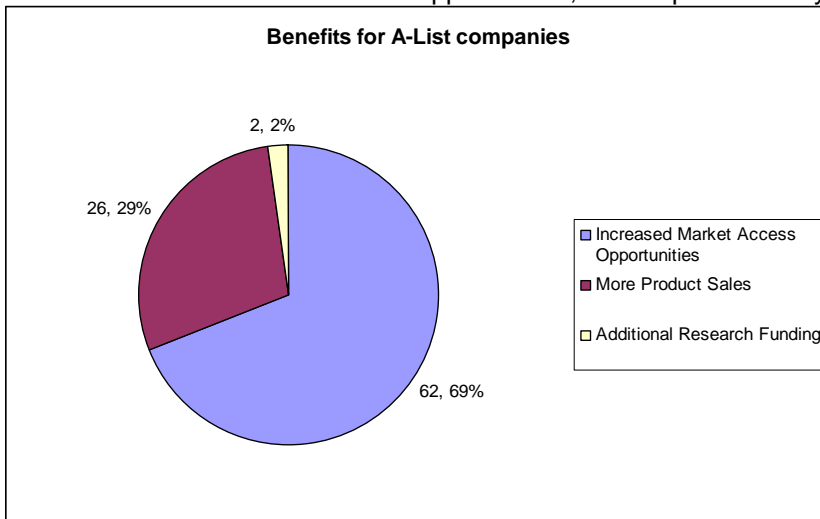
President Bush announced during his State of the Union Address January 28 that he is committing \$2 billion over the next three years to create an international clean energy technology fund to confront climate change worldwide. "Let us fund new technologies that can generate coal power while capturing carbon emissions. Let us continue investing in advanced battery technology and renewable fuels to power the cars and trucks of the future. Let us create a new international clean technology fund, which will help developing nations like India and China make greater use of clean energy sources."

Along with contributions from other countries, the clean tech fund will increase and accelerate the deployment of all forms of cleaner, more efficient technologies in developing nations like India and China, and help leverage substantial private-sector capital by making clean energy projects more financially attractive. To complement the new international clean technology fund, the United States and the European Union have jointly proposed in the World Trade Organization to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to clean energy and environmental technologies and services.

Since President Bush took office, the federal government has committed nearly \$18 billion to research, develop, and promote clean and efficient technologies and help get them to market.

Clean Tech Companies See Benefits from Embassy List

About three-quarters of the 41 companies on the Embassy's list of interesting clean tech companies have already benefited from the exposure, according to an Embassy survey. Thirty companies said that they had been contacted by potential American investors. Asked if they had seen an increase in market access opportunities, 26 companies said yes; 11 companies said they



have experienced a positive effect on market sales. Three research-oriented companies responded that they had seen an increase in funding after appearing on the Embassy list.

The survey was carried out in January to see what impact the list compiled by the Embassy has had. Thirty-eight of the 41 companies responded.

DOE Offers \$30 Million for Developing Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles

The Department of Energy announced on January 17th that it is offering \$30 million over the next three years for companies to design and build plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) and then test them in fleets located in geographically diverse areas. As a requirement, the vehicles must be able to travel at least 10 miles using only their electric drives, although DOE would prefer vehicles that come closer to achieving the goal of a 40-mile electric range. The vehicles must be comparable to current production vehicles in terms of emissions, safety, comfort, and performance, and the projects must either involve a high-volume vehicle manufacturer or a company with the capability of producing vehicles in high volumes.

The selected projects are intended to address many of the critical barriers to achieving DOE's goal of making plug-in hybrid vehicles cost-competitive by 2014 and ready for commercialization at least two years later. Plug-in vehicles with a 40-mile electric range would satisfy about 70% of all the average daily travel in the United States.

To read more, please see: http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/news_detail.cfm/news_id=11533

US Hosts Climate Change Talks in Hawaii

Representatives of the world's leading economies met in Honolulu on January 30-31 at the Second Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change to discuss how to develop a detailed contribution in taking forward the Bali Action Plan under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They underscored the importance of rapid progress in implementing the Bali Action Plan and noted that Major Economies Meetings can assist the UNFCCC toward a successful outcome.

The meeting emphasized the need for efficient deliberations in the Major Economies Meetings. They welcomed Japan's hosting of a clean energy technology workshop in Chiba, Japan in mid-March, and agreed it would be useful to consult on the Major Economies Meetings at that time. Representatives welcomed the offer of France to host another gathering of leaders' representatives in April.

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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