

# One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

## May 2009 Newsletter

### Chargé d’Affaires Presents the One Big Thing to WWF-Sweden

On May 5 Chargé d’Affaires Robert Silverman visited beautiful Ulriksdals Castle for a meeting with the WWF, the largest multinational conservation organization in the world. WWF-Sweden Secretary General Lasse Gustavsson shared his views about international climate negotiations and discussed the importance WWF gives to biodiversity.



Mr. Silverman focused his presentation on the Obama Administration’s energy and environmental policies. He also covered the Clean Energy and Security Act introduced in the House Energy and Commerce Committee in March. In addition, he offered insights to developments in the U.S. construction industry. This sector accounts for 39% of CO2 emissions in the United States.

Charge Silverman, center, and WWF Secretary General Lasse Gustavsson, at Ulriksdals Castle

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### U.S. Green Building Council visits Stockholm

Tom Hicks, the Vice President of International Programs at the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) visited Stockholm April 29-30, 2009. He met with Swedish construction and property companies and industry organizations to discuss the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification system and its implementation. Mr. Hicks visited the Embassy on April 30 to give an overview of Green Building Council activities and to discuss possible cooperation.

The USGBC is a non-profit organization that certifies sustainable businesses, homes, hospitals, schools, and neighborhoods. The organization is dedicated to expanding green building practices and education.

The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED addresses all building types and emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies in five areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality.



Tom Hicks, far right, with Embassy staff,

## Science Communities Meet

On April 20-21, the representatives of government agencies in Sweden and the United States met for the first time under the U.S.-Sweden Bilateral Science and Technology Agreement, which has been in effect since the summer of 2006. The State Department hosted the two-day meeting which took stock of existing collaboration and discussed proposals for enhancing the substantial science cooperation between the two countries.

Officials discussed opportunities to deepen and broaden renewable energy collaboration; most notably in standards for electric hybrid vehicles, as well as in the energy efficiency field, with proposals for data sharing of energy efficiency improvements in buildings.

The Swedish delegation was led by State Secretary Peter Honeth from the Ministry of Education and Research, and State Secretary Ola Alterå from the Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Communications. The meeting was hosted by Ambassador Reno Harnish, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science.



Center, from left, State Secretaries Honeth and Alterå, with Ambassador Harnish at far right, with back to the camera. (Embassy photo)

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## Swedish Biofuels Receives Second Tranche of DARPA Funding

Swedish Biofuels AB, a Stockholm-based company that develops alternative motor fuels, has been awarded an additional \$3 million of research funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), a division of the U.S. Department of Defense. Since 15 November 2007 Swedish Biofuels has been working under contract to DARPA for the development of JP-8 jet fuel equivalents containing 100 % biological components. The U.S. Embassy in Stockholm facilitated contacts between Swedish Biofuels and DARPA and assisted Swedish Biofuels in framing the grant request. Swedish Biofuels received an initial award from DARPA in the amount of \$2 million in 2007. This new grant brings total DARPA support to \$5 million.



After 15 months of research and development Swedish Biofuels has realized a first jet fuel prototype, a 100% biological jet fuel SB-JP-8 equivalent to petroleum based JP-8. The SB-JP-8 sample produced from grain crops was submitted to a U.S. Government test facility for evaluation in accordance with the standard MIL-DTL-83133F. Testing at the AFRL Fuels Branch of the SB-JP-8 sample demonstrated that it meets or exceeds all key first level requirements of the military specification for petroleum JP-8 kerosene.

For additional information see the following article: (in Swedish)  
[http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/energi\\_miljo/bioenergi/article572750.ece](http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/energi_miljo/bioenergi/article572750.ece)

## **\$800 Million to Accelerate Biofuels Research and Commercialization**

As part of the ongoing effort to increase the use of domestic renewable fuels, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced on May 5 plans to provide \$786.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to accelerate advanced biofuels research and development and to provide additional funding for commercial-scale biorefinery demonstration projects.

"Developing the next generation of biofuels is key to our effort to end our dependence on foreign oil and address the climate crisis—while creating millions of new jobs that can't be outsourced," Secretary Chu said. "With American investment and ingenuity — and resources grown right here at home — we can lead the way toward a new green energy economy."

The U.S Department of Energy (DOE) Biomass Program will leverage DOE's national laboratories, universities, and the private sector to help improve biofuels reliability and overcome key technical challenges, with the goal of creating third-generation biofuels like green gasoline, diesel, and jet fuels.

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Do you want to read more about the Embassy's work with the One Big Thing?  
See [www.usemb.se/Environment](http://www.usemb.se/Environment)



**Embassy of the United States of America**  
Dag Hammarskjölds väg 31  
115 89 Stockholm

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