

One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

Summer 2008 Newsletter

Renewable Mission Participants Briefed By Olofsson

The first-ever U.S. Renewable Energy Mission to Scandinavia May 26-28 attracted 22 U.S. participants from universities, venture capitalist firms and sustainable construction companies.

The mission visited two countries, Sweden and Denmark, and in Sweden the activities were centered on the World Bioenergy Conference in Jönköping. Under the auspices of the conference, the participants were able to see the Swedish clean tech industry at work. Several of the companies chosen for site visits are featured on Ambassador Wood's list of interesting clean tech companies, such as biodiesel processor manufacturer Ageratec, Swedish Biogas and Econova, which specializes in handling and recycling different kinds of waste products and biofuels.



The World Bioenergy Conference offered the possibility for the mission participants to take part in high-level networking events, and one-on-one "speed-dating" meetings where Swedish companies interested in American cooperation could learn more. Maud Olofsson, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Communication, also held a briefing on Swedish business opportunities.



Under the leadership of Paul Dickerson of DOE, the event advanced existing alternative-energy programs, such as the Michigan Economic Development Corporation projects in Flint and Escanaba.

Scania generously provided a RME (Rape Methyl Ether) fuelled bus for the mission's in-country travel.

Swedish Biogas and the City of Flint join forces to turn Waste into Energy.

Linköping-based Swedish Biogas signed a memorandum of understanding with Flint officials in a news conference on May 13 to bring a plant to Flint that turns human waste into energy. This new energy source may power city-owned vehicles and more.

“The project has the potential to expand to process biogas from other sources, including landfills, and to produce fertilizer as a moneymaking byproduct,” vice president of new market development for the Michigan Economic Development Corp Doug Parks told media.

The increasingly close ties between Michigan and Sweden can, in part, be explained by the fact that Ambassador Wood was raised in Flint. Swedish Biogas CEO Peter Undén added that the area also is a perfect fit to replicate the model used in Linköping.



The Flint waste water plant that will be converted to produce biogas

Texas Governor Tells Amcham That 'Green Is Gold' In Texas

Texas Governor Rick Perry told the American Chamber of Commerce in Stockholm June 9 that “establishing a diverse energy portfolio is one of his major priorities for the state and renewable energy plays a key role in that diversification.” Perry told his audience about the work both he and his predecessor George W. Bush has done to encourage the use of wind power in Texas. The governor also discussed business opportunities in Texas with a particular emphasis on the growing 'green tech' sector.

The Governor added that the rise of wind power, as an energy source and as an industry, has led to the re-birth of rural Texas; an issue that is close to his heart as he grew up on farm in West Texas.

The U.S. wind industry grew by 45 percent in 2007, and over half of that growth was contributed by Texas. Texas is the leading wind state in the U.S., accounting for close to one-third of the nation’s total installed wind capacity, which is the equivalent of the electricity needed to power more than one million Texas homes. In 2008, Texas will produce twice as much electricity from wind as Denmark.

Ambassador Wood learns from Karlstad

With Karlstad’s ambitious program rid itself of its fossil fuel dependency, Ambassador Wood took the initiative to visit Karlstad to learn more. During his visit, Mayor Claes Wallenius told Ambassador Wood that the city is working together with the local housing company to use new technologies that will decrease energy usage in all its apartments. Åke Petterson from regional energy company talked about the wind power farm it is building in Lake Vänern, where the ten planned turbines will generate electricity equivalent to almost 10 percent of the current wind power output in Sweden.

Ambassador Wood told the local media that “there are four important climate change areas: energy; transports; houses and the industry. Here in Karlstad you have measures and programs



covering all four. I am impressed by your work.” The Ambassador particularly mentioned the housing project to save energy and the work in the regional paper industry cluster which has set the goal to use 30 percent less energy in its production.

Ambassador Wood talks to media during his visit at the Paper Province cluster

With his visit to Karlstad, Ambassador Wood has now visited all the 21 counties (län) in Sweden in his quest to find the most promising clean tech businesses and research projects.

Business Region Gothenburg Wins Clean-Tech Award

Business Region Gothenburg on June 10 received the Charles R. Imbrecht Blue Sky Innovation Award™ from Calstart for its work to boost biogas production and usage. Business Region Gothenburg launched its project Biogas West to stimulate the use of biomethane as a renewable transportation fuel now powering 4,500 natural gas cars, trucks and buses and a commuter trains in the region.

“California’s biogas industry will grow fast in the next couple of years, to a great extent based on what it has learned from Sweden,” Calstart CEO John Boesel said when presenting the award.

This is not the first time Swedish work on alternative fuel sources have caught attention in California. Jim Boyd, chairman of Calstart and deputy chairman in California’s Energy Commission visited Sweden in November 2007, and California and Sweden signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006 to cooperate on renewable fuels and energy.

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