One Big Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

June 2007 Newsletter

President Bush on Plans To Develop A Post-2012 Framework On Climate Change

The plan recognizes that it is essential that a new framework include both major developed and developing economies that generate the majority of greenhouse gas emissions and consume the most energy. The President said that climate change must be addressed in a way that enhances energy security and promotes economic growth.

"On May 15 Prime Minister Reinfeldt met President Bush and made climate change and the need for a post-2012 international agreement the centerpiece of his agenda," said U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Michael Wood, who attended the meeting. "In response to the concerns expressed by the Prime Minister and by other European and G-8 leaders, President Bush wants to build on common ground and develop a long-term global emissions goal."

Under the President's proposal, the United States will convene the major emitters and energy consumers to advance and complete the new framework by the end of 2008.

To read the full fact sheet, see: http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070531-13.html

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Ambassador hosts Parliament Committee

Ambassador Wood and Thomas Östros, Deputy Chair of the Committee, who will head the delegation to the U.S. in September.

Ambassador Wood and Embassy officials welcomed 12 members of the Swedish Parliament, from the Committee on Industry & Trade, to a lunch briefing on May 30, in advance of the Committee's September 2007 trip to the United States which will focus on alternative energy.

The Parliamentarians had expressed an interest in coming to the Embassy to hear more about Ambassador Wood's One Big Thing initiative, and also to seek ideas as they plan their trip to the United States.

Ambassador Wood gave an overview of U.S. policies on climate change and alternative energy, provided a status of U.S. One Big Thing efforts, encouraged closer dialogue with the U.S. Congress, and shared his thoughts on possible appointments while the Committee is in the United States.

Ambassador Wood briefing Parliamentarians about interesting alternative energy sites in the U.S.

Prime Minister Reinfeldt's Visit to the United States

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt May 15-17 visited the United States where he and President George W. Bush discussed climate change, trade relations and the Doha Round.

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After their meeting the President said that he shared the Prime Minister's concerns about greenhouse gas emissions, and added, "We talked about how, on the one hand, we can work together—as I understand, we are signing some agreements that have—that move forward alternative energy proposals. I assured the Prime Minister that here at home, that I'm concerned about the environmental issues, as well as the national security implication for being too dependent on oil."

After his meeting with the President, the Prime Minister traveled to California, where he met with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in Sacramento to discuss California's efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

After their meeting the Prime Minister said that he and Schwarzenegger shared views on how to best handle the climate issue and that he considers it a hopeful sign that several American states have joined efforts to implement tougher environmental policies.

On the last leg of the visit, the Prime Minister went to Colorado and toured the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the nation's primary laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. At NREL, the Prime Minster visited research facilities and viewed demonstrations on solar energy, bio-fuels, wind power, and hybrid vehicles.

Department of Energy official visits Sweden

Paul Dickerson, the Chief Operating Officer of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the Department of Energy, visited Stockholm May 31 – June 1 to meet with alternative-energy contacts from both the public and private sectors.

During a reception at Ambassador Wood's residence, Mr. Dickerson had a chance to meet with representatives of many Swedish alternative-energy companies. He briefed them on Department of Energy programs and activities. Dickerson said that he was impressed by Swedish alternative- and renewable-energy ambitions on all levels, and welcomed cooperation with both the public and private sectors.

Swedish Biofuels to receive DARPA funding

Swedish Biofuels AB, a Stockholm-based company that develops alternative motor fuels, has been selected to receive research funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), a division of the U.S. Department of Defense. The U.S. Embassy in Stockholm facilitated contacts between Swedish Biofuels and DARPA and assisted Swedish Biofuels in framing the grant request. According to Michael Wood, the U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, “This shows we are on the right track in our efforts to build cooperation between the U.S. and Sweden in the area of alternative energy. There are some great ideas in Sweden that can be developed with American assistance.”

Swedish Biofuels AB was established in 2000. The company has four full-time staff and a laboratory at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm. Swedish Biofuels has developed motor fuels containing high energy bio-components for standard motor engines and the advanced technology to produce such bio-components.

In the DARPA project, Swedish Biofuels will apply this technology to jet fuel. Company founder Dr. Angelica Hull said “Developing a 100% biological jet fuel is a great challenge. But we have the know-how to do it.” Swedish Biofuels’ research is based on grain crops.

Ambassador Wood visits Ludvika

Ambassador Wood with Bo Normark, left, and Dan Wikström, both ABB.

The Ambassador on May 30 visited the High Voltage DC testing facility of ABB in Ludvika, where he was given a presentation about the 800kv HVDC Light product which can deliver high-voltage power over long distances with minimal loss of electricity.

This means it would be possible - with a small fraction of the Sahara desert to supply all the energy needs of Europe and, in fact, of the world - and ABB has even worked out a scheme to cover the nightfall power loss.

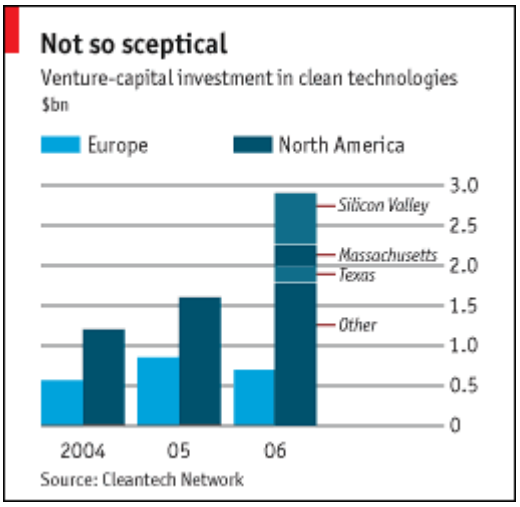
The Ambassador also toured ABB’s STRI testing facility, where the company can simulate smog, ice, and severe heat conditions for their HV equipment. ABB ended the day by presenting the Ambassador with a map of Europe demonstrating where wind and solar equipment could be located on the continent to provide an entirely fossil-fuel-free energy base.

Jeffrey Serfass, Hydrogen Expert, visits Sweden

Jeffrey Serfass, President of the National Hydrogen Association, visited Stockholm on May 20-22 to discuss the potential for commercialization of hydrogen techniques with various representatives for Swedish experts in the field.
Mr. Serfass visited Ångpanneföreningen, an engineering consulting firm focusing on projects related to the energy and environmental sector, where he participated in a roundtable discussion. He also met

with two professors from the Ångström Laboratory at Uppsala University and toured the laboratory. The Ångström Laboratory, which the Ambassador also visited previously this spring, is one of Sweden's leading research facilities on alternative energy.

North American Investment in Clean-Tech Outpaces Europe



The May 24 edition of "T*he Economist*," reported that while Europeans might not think highly of the United States' environmental record, the U.S. invests four times as much as Europe on clean technology.

Clean-tech venture capital investment in North America has more than doubled in the past two years to $2.9 billion, according to the Cleantech Network, an industry research body (see chart). That makes it the third-largest recipient of venture money after biotech and computing.

U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Fossil Fuels Declined By 1.3 Percent In 2006

U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels decreased by 1.3 percent in 2006, according to preliminary estimates recently released by the Energy Information Administration. The economy, as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), grew by 3.3 percent and energy demand fell by 0.9 percent indicating that energy intensity (energy use per unit of GDP) fell by 4.2 percent. Carbon dioxide intensity (CO_2 emission per unit of GDP) fell by 4.5 percent.

Factors that drove emissions lower included weather conditions that reduced the demand for heating and cooling services; higher energy prices for natural gas, motor gasoline, and electricity that reduced energy demand; and the use of a less carbon-intensive fuel mix in the generation of electricity.

For full text, see http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press284.html

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