

One Big Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

March 2009 Newsletter

Chargé d'Affaires Tours Linköping Region

Taking over the reins of the Embassy and the 'One Big Thing,' Chargé d'Affaires Robert Silverman traveled to Linköping and Norrköping to meet with one of the key waste-to-energy companies in the region as well as businesses that are named on the Ambassador's List of clean tech companies. At Tekniska Verken in Linköping, the Chargé was briefed by CEO Stig Holm about the company's operations and plans for the future. Tekniska Verken is owned by the Linköping municipality and offers services ranging from traditional waste management to district heating as well as district cooling. Also present was Carl Lilliehöök, Marketing Director for Usitall, a company in the Tekniska Verken group responsible for introducing Tekniska Verken's know-how and experience of waste management energy production and distribution to national and international markets and to broker joint ventures.

Chargé Silverman also visited the facilities of Swedish Biogas and Ageratec. Swedish Biogas, a Tekniska Verken spin-off, produces biogas from waste, and last year entered the U.S. market in Flint, Michigan, thanks to the connections made via the Ambassador's List. CEO Peter Undén guided the Chargé's delegation through the facility.



Ageratec CEO David Frykerås, Chargé d'Affaires Robert Silverman, Kajsa Funkesson, Quality Manager Usitall AB, Catharina Kronström and Frank Carrico, Foreign Commercial Service (Ageratec photo)

The final stop on the tour was at Ageratec in neighboring Norrköping. Ageratec produces modular biodiesel processors, the majority of which are exported. Ageratec recently entered the U.S. market as well.

Read <http://www.linkopingstidning.se/article/articleview/7503/1/2/> for coverage on the visit.

Minnesota Delegation Studies Swedish Bioenergy

During the first week of March a delegation from the U.S. visited southwestern Sweden to take a closer look at bioenergy technology. Arranging the visit was the Scandinavian Cleantech Export Association <http://scandinaviancleantechexport.org/>, and ÄFAB, another of the companies on the Ambassador's List. The Scandinavian Cleantech Export Association is working to create efficient cooperation between its member companies to help them succeed on the global market. On the other side of the Atlantic, the visit was arranged by the BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota <http://www.biobusinessalliance.org/>.

During the visit, the delegation visited Renova's combustion facilities in Gothenburg (Renova is, incidentally, also on the Ambassador's List), a biogas plant in Trollhättan, as well as a showroom in Lidköping where the member companies of the Scandinavian Cleantech Export Association will be displaying their products.

Economic Stimulus Act Provides \$16.8 Billion for EERE Programs

President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, and the measure includes \$16.8 billion for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). The funding is a nearly tenfold increase for EERE, which received \$1.7 billion in fiscal year 2008. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy was formerly headed by Andy Karsner and is now under the leadership of David Rodgers, both of whom have been regular visitors to Sweden – [please see the next item for more on David Rodgers.](#)

The Act directs \$2 billion in EERE funds toward grants for the manufacturing of advanced battery systems and components within the United States, as well as the development of supporting software. The battery grants will support advanced lithium-ion batteries and hybrid electric systems. Another \$300 million will support an Alternative Fueled Vehicles Pilot Grant Program, and an additional \$300 million will support rebates for energy efficient appliances, while also supporting DOE's efforts under the Energy Star Program. The Act also stipulates that \$3.2 billion will go toward Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, which were established in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, but were not previously funded. The grants will



go toward states, local governments, and tribal governments to support the development of energy efficiency and conservation strategies and programs, including energy audit programs and projects to install fuel cells and solar, wind, and biomass power projects at government buildings.

President Obama signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Deputy Assistant Secretary Rogers to Sweden

On April 2, the American Chamber of Commerce in Stockholm will host an event with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy David Rodgers. Mr. Rodgers' office is responsible for the \$16.8 billion in new alternative energy efforts described above. At this event he will brief AmCham members and guests about this and other recent developments in U.S. energy policies.

Also speaking at the event is André Heinz of the Sustainable Technologies Fund and chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce's Green Committee. For more information and to register to attend, please see the Chamber's webpage: <http://www.amchamswe.se/>



A-List Company Secures Investment

Cortus, one of the companies highlighted on Ambassador Wood's list of interesting Swedish cleantech companies has secured funding worth SEK 2 million (\$217,600) from the venture capital fund STING Capital. Cortus, which started up shop in 2006, has created and patented a unique gasification process for bio fuels, with the target of supplying high-quality non-fossil fuel to the processing industry, where there are high standards for combustion temperatures.

In a statement announcing the deal, Cortus CEO Rolf Ljunggren said: "We are in the midst of negotiating with clients a first pilot facility, which we hope will lead to a breakthrough on the market by 2010. The investment from STING Capital means that we now can intensify the work on the pilot facility and recruit new key staff."

Chargé d’Affaires to speak at the Swedish National Energy Convention 2009

Chargé d’Affaires Robert Silverman has been invited to speak at the annual National Energy Convention to be held in Stockholm on March 11-12. Mr. Silverman will appear in session 71 on March 12 to discuss new U.S. energy policies with a focus on President Obama’s plans to significantly increase alternative energy production. <http://www.sverigesenergiting.se/>

Do you want to read more about the Embassy’s work with the One Big Thing?

See www.usemb.se/Environment



Embassy of the United States of America

Dag Hammarskjölds väg 31
115 89 Stockholm

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