

# Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA) Monthly Newsletter, Sep/Oct 2011

*The SAGA Monthly Newsletter is distributed by the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden. Each month some of the most compelling stories from [sagastory.blogspot.com](http://sagastory.blogspot.com) are compiled into a newsletter and sent to government officials and the SAGA network.*

## **Senior Officials Promoted SAGA in DC and Stockholm**

The U.S. and Swedish governments teamed up for parallel events to highlight SAGA as the main vehicle for building U.S.-Swedish ties in clean energy. On September 22 at the House of Sweden in Washington, D.C., Swedish Trade Minister Ewa Björling joined State Department Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic and Energy Affairs Deborah McCarthy and officials from the Commerce Department, journalists, Swedish Trade Council and U.S. and Swedish businessmen to increase awareness about partnerships under the Swedish American Green Alliance. On September 28 in Stockholm, Swedish State Secretary for Energy Daniel Johansson joined U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Bill Stewart in hosting approximately 100 businessmen, entrepreneurs, academics and government officials at a similar event to discuss cleantech partnerships. Both events profiled U.S. & Swedish clean tech trade and foreign investment initiatives that have created cleantech jobs in the U.S. and Sweden.



## **City of Stockholm Considering Chevy Volt and Vantage**

U.S. cars are now competing to be part of the largest electric vehicle order in Swedish history. The City of Stockholm has decided that the City and its municipality and corporate partners will include Chevy Volt vehicles and California-made Vantage EV Utility Trucks as part of the selection and procurement process for over 5,000 electric vehicles in 2012. The vehicles will be used all over Sweden. Annika Ramsköld from leading energy company and corporate partner Vattenfall noted that the procurement “will dramatically increase the number of electric vehicles on Swedish roads.”

### **U.S. Professor to Work on Computer Efficiency at Swedish University**

David Whalley, the E.P. Miles Professor and Chairman of the Department of Computer Science at Florida State University, was one of approximately 40 people in the United States chosen to receive a Fulbright Distinguished Chair this year. Professor Whalley, who received the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Alternative Energy Technology, will spend the 2011-2012 academic year at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden. At Chalmers, he will collaborate with faculty in the computer science and engineering department to find ways to get computer systems to run more efficiently in order to conserve battery power. This will allow computers and mobile devices to last longer on a single charge.



### **Skanska Awarded NYC Subway Contract for \$386M**

Swedish green building giant Skanska has signed a new contract with the New York Metropolitan Authority to furnish and install finishes and systems to the Number 7 line subway extension from Times Square to West 25th Street and 11th Avenue in New York City. The project includes various civil improvements, including utility connections, architectural finishes, structural work, elevators, escalators, HVAC, tunnel ventilation, fire protection, plumbing, electrical power and lighting, instrumentation and controls, signal systems, communication systems, traction power systems and track work for the running tunnels, station cavern and four ventilation buildings.

### **IKEA Portland Plugs In Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

IKEA installed two Blink Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations at its Portland, Oregon store as part of its partnership with ECOTality, a San Francisco-based company focused on clean electric transport and storage technologies. Customers can pull into a designated parking spot, swipe their Blink InCard, plug the charger into their vehicle, and charge up while they shop and eat at IKEA. IKEA plans to install the charging stations at eight other stores in the Western United States.





### **DOE Awards \$3.4 million to Swedish Atlas Copco for Geothermal Research**

US Department of Energy awarded Sandia National Labs and Swedish industrial equipment company Atlas Copco \$3.4 million for a joint research project to develop technology to increase the speed of drilling deep geothermal wells, and reduce the cost. During the three-year project, Atlas Copco Secoroc will design, develop, and test equipment while Sandia will provide computer models to evaluate hammer performance, materials and components, and develop a high temperature test cell to evaluate hammer prototypes. Atlas Copco Secoroc has manufacturing facilities in Grand Prairie, Texas and Ft. Loudon, Pennsylvania.

### **Swedish Students Build High Efficiency Home in Illinois**

Since 2009, students from Lidköping, Sweden have been going to their sister city of Rockford, Illinois to build American style homes. This time, they will build a house with Swedish-style high energy efficient standards, including thick walls, heavy insulation and triple pane windows. Rockford East High School construction teacher Matt Walling said his students were learning from the Swedish kids, who were about "Three decades ahead of us on building energy efficient homes." Walling believes when the home is complete it should take about 50 dollars a month, or less, to heat.



### **Boeing and Virgin Atlantic Test Swedish Green Fuel**

Virgin Atlantic announced development of a world-first synthetic jet fuel with half the carbon footprint of the standard fossil fuel alternative. The partnership with Stockholm-based Swedish Biofuels, LanzaTech of New Zealand, and Boeing will capture waste gases from industrial steel production, and use Swedish Biofuels technology to ferment and chemically convert the gas for use as jet fuel. Virgin Atlantic will be the first airline to use this fuel, and will work with Boeing and Swedish Biofuels to get the technical approval required to use new fuel types in commercial aircraft. A 'demo' flight with the new fuel is planned in 12-18 months.

### **New Report from the Swedish Trade Council: Geothermal Opportunities Growing in the U.S.**

In the U.S., the future is bright for the geothermal heating industry, according to a recently released report from the Swedish Trade Council. The sector is showing signs of growth and offers opportunities for Swedish companies who want to make this eco-friendly option more available in the U.S. Geothermal heat pumps are an eco-friendly option for heating buildings where Swedish technology is at the cutting edge. The full report is available to the SAGA network. For more information go to: [swedishtrade.se/saga](http://swedishtrade.se/saga).



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