

Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA) Monthly Newsletter, Jan/Feb 2012

The SAGA Monthly Newsletter is distributed by the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden. Each month some of the most compelling stories from SwedishAmericanGreenAlliance.org are compiled into a newsletter and sent to government officials and the SAGA network.



U.S. and Sweden Launch New Climate Initiative

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Swedish Environment Minister Lena Ek, and their counterparts from Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico and the UN Environment Program launched the “Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants.”

This new global initiative will focus on reducing black carbon, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and methane.

Swedish American Green Alliance - Two Years of Sustainable Success

February 18 marked the two year anniversary of the Swedish-American Green Alliance (SAGA). SAGA has brought together students, universities, businesses, NGOs and cities in the fields of clean technology, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. In a public statement marking the anniversary Sweden’s Minister of Energy and Information Technology Anna-Karin Hatt said the ambition of the Swedish government is to further increase the development and exchange of green technologies with the U.S., and she sees great potential for future cooperation.



Swedish-American Plantagon Builds World’s First Greenhouse for Urban Agriculture

Plantagon, owned by Swedish consulting company SWECORP and Native American Tribe Onondaga Nation, broke ground on the first Plantagon Greenhouse in Linköping, Sweden. The Plantagon greenhouse, developed together with Sweco, is designed for vertical farming of vegetables in urban areas. The greenhouse will increase the municipality’s capability to grow vegetables and grains locally, and will use excess heating and CO2 from industries.

Students from Dalarna, Stockholm, Västerbotten and Västergötland Selected for REACT U.S.

Five Swedish graduate students have been selected for Research on Environmental Action and Clean Tech in U.S. Cities (REACT U.S.).

REACT U.S. is an opportunity for five Swedish graduate students to conduct two weeks of research on urban sustainability in five different U.S. cities. U.S. Embassy Stockholm, in collaboration with Sustainable Sweden, will fund the students' air fare and accommodation.

The cities participating in the program are: Boulder, Colorado; Madison, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon; and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.



Swedish-Swiss ABB Acquires U.S. Company Thomas & Betts, and part of a California Solar Firm

Swedish-Swiss power and automation technology group ABB, one of the world's largest producers of power-distribution equipment, agreed to buy Thomas & Betts for \$3.9 billion to boost sales of low-voltage gear. Thomas & Betts brings ABB a network of over 6,000 distributors and wholesalers in North America. Separately, ABB announced it agreed to invest approximately \$20 million for a substantial minority stake in California-based GreenVolts, which provides turnkey concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) systems. GreenVolts says its CPV system is more efficient than traditional photovoltaic and thin-film modules because by optimizing and integrating components such as proprietary optics and tracking technology into a complete system, GreenVolts delivers energy yields that can be 30 to 40 % higher than traditional panel-based systems.

U.S. Energy Department Awards \$19 Million to Volvo for More Fuel-Efficient Trucks

Through its SuperTruck program, DOE awarded the Volvo Group \$19 million, which Volvo is matching dollar for dollar, to improve efficiency of heavy-duty vehicles like Mack and Volvo Trucks. Volvo Group has also embraced manufacturing efficiency as part of the DOE's Better Buildings, Better Plants Program, pledging to reduce the energy intensity of its manufacturing plants with assistance and guidance from DOE.





American Swedish Institute to Unveil LEED Gold Standard Energy-Efficient Building in Minneapolis

In June, the American Swedish Institute will open the Carl and Leslie Nelson Culture Center in Minneapolis. The building, designed to achieve the Green Building Council's LEED Gold rating, features a sloping green roof and geothermal well field for heating and cooling.

Sweden's Clean Tech Sector 5th Largest in the EU

According to a new report by the European Commission, the clean technology sector in the European Union provides 1.14 million jobs. Sweden has the fifth largest clean tech sector in Europe, totaling over 54,000 jobs, trailing only Germany, France, Italy and Spain.



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