

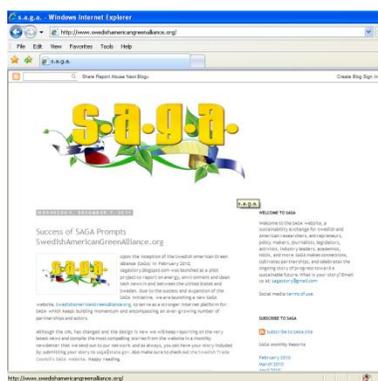
# Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA) Monthly Newsletter, Nov/Dec 2011

*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.*

## Swedish Students Are Invited to Apply for REACT U.S.

Swedish Masters students enrolled in programs with a focus on environment, alternative energy, urban sustainability and/or clean tech are invited to apply for Research on Environment Action and Clean Tech in U.S. Cities - REACT U.S.

This initiative is being launched under the Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA). REACT U.S. is an opportunity for five Swedish graduate (Masters-level) 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, accommodation and also provide per diem. More info is available on [SwedishAmericanGreenAlliance.org](http://SwedishAmericanGreenAlliance.org).



## Success of SAGA Prompts SwedishAmericanGreenAlliance.org

Upon the inception of the Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA) in February 2010, sagastory.blogspot.com was launched as a pilot project to report on energy, environment and clean tech news in and between the United States and Sweden. Due to the success and expansion of the SAGA initiative, we are launching a new SAGA website, [SwedishAmericanGreenAlliance.org](http://SwedishAmericanGreenAlliance.org), to serve as a stronger internet platform for SAGA which keeps building momentum and encompassing an ever-growing number of partnerships and actors.

Although the URL has changed and the design is new we will keep reporting on the very latest news and compile the most compelling stories from the website in a monthly newsletter that we send out to our network. And as always, you can have your story included by submitting your story to [saga@state.gov](mailto:saga@state.gov). Also make sure to check out the Swedish Trade Council's SAGA website: [swedishtrade.se/saga](http://swedishtrade.se/saga). Happy reading.

### Facebook to Harness Hydropower in Sweden

Social media giant Facebook announced plans to build a new data center in Luleå, Sweden. The center will be the largest of its kind in Europe, and the northernmost of this magnitude on earth. The location was chosen for its access to renewable energy, as well as the cold climate that is crucial for keeping the servers cool without the use of powered cooling systems. Scheduled for completion in 2014, the center, consisting of three 28,000 square meter buildings, will be deliberately situated close to a source of hydro-electric power.



### Swedish Green Building Giant Skanska Invests \$86 M to Start New LEED Platinum Project in Houston

Skanska plans to invest \$86 million to develop and construct an office project in Houston, TX. The office building will consist of 28,000 square meters and will have twelve stories of office space atop of an eight story parking garage. The property has been pre-certified in accordance with the international environmental system LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) at the highest level, Platinum. The building will include features for maximizing energy efficiency, light control systems and rainwater storage. Construction will start immediately and be implemented by Skanska USA Building. It is scheduled for completion by the third quarter 2013.



### Swedish and American Universities Shared Thoughts on Commercializing Research

The Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), in partnership with Embassy Stockholm, hosted a panel discussion on commercializing university innovations in Stockholm. Swedish and American universities in the forefront of commercialization exchanged best practices and discussed ways to overcome obstacles. Sweden and the U.S. approach the issue of commercialization somewhat differently, particularly in regards to patent ownership. Regardless, the common denominators outweigh the differences. "I am very pleased with the discussion and I was surprised how small the difference is between Swedish and U.S. universities in the commercialization of university technologies," said Professor Steven P. Nichols of University of Texas at Austin.





### **Swedish Atlas Copco Tools Installs Solar Panels at U.S. HQ**

Swedish industrial equipment company Atlas Copco is investing in solar panel technology at its North American Headquarters in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Nine solar panels have been installed to supply power to the building, generating a combined 8.8 megawatt-hours a year. The panels yield power on both cloudy and sunny days. The company's 42nd parallel geographic location receives up to 14 hours of usable sunlight during the summer and 10 hours during the winter. This results in a substantial reduction in carbon emissions and concurrent cost savings.

### **BioBusiness Alliance of MN to Collaborate with Svebio under SAGA**

Svebio (The Swedish Bioenergy Association) has teamed up with The BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota (BBAM) in the U.S., under the Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA) framework, to jointly contribute to the increased use of bioenergy in the state. One goal is to provide assistance to a broad base of stakeholders through Svebio's network and BBAM's life science community in the State of Minnesota, regarding the optimal use of bioenergy.

The partnership also aims to build the position for bioenergy and enhance visibility as well as aligning interests towards biomass-based energies. The project goal is to establish a series of biomass to energy installations in Minnesota. The project is made possible by the Swedish Energy Agency, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and the Blandin Foundation.



*Questions, suggestions or to unsubscribe, please email [saga@state.gov](mailto:saga@state.gov).*

*For more stories visit [SwedishAmericanGreenAlliance.org](http://SwedishAmericanGreenAlliance.org).*



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