



Swedish American Green Alliance
Newsletter



U.S. Embassy Sweden-WWF Film Screening Zeroes in on the Arctic

On Friday March 8, the U.S. Embassy in Sweden hosted an exclusive screening of documentary film ‘Chasing Ice’ in partnership with WWF. Sixty guests including students, policymakers, researchers, government officials and private sector representatives attended the event.

U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, Mark Brzezinski, opened up the event by stressing the important role the Arctic is playing and the need to address the security and environmental challenges that the region is facing. Following Ambassador Brzezinski’s remarks, WWF’s Tom Arnborn offered his take on the future of the Arctic.



“The Arctic as we used to know it is not going to come back. Too much of the ice cap is already gone and this process is moving fast. What we need to do is to take strong action to protect the future of this region but we can not expect that it will go back to what it was ten or twenty years ago”, Arnborn said. [Read more.](#)

Photos: chasingice.com and U.S. Embassy Stockholm

Arctic Environment Ministers Meet in Jukkasjärvi

The Arctic environment ministers met to discuss Arctic environmental issues in Jukkasjärvi, Sweden, on 5-6 February 2013. The theme of the meeting was Arctic change - global effects.

Rapid changes are taking place in the Arctic due to climate change and increased global resource use. The region is rich in biodiversity and home to many species of global significance. In summer 2012, the extent of Arctic sea ice was the lowest in modern times, which is yet another reminder of ongoing climate change and how the region is rapidly changing.

Discussions on reducing black carbon emissions in the Arctic and measures to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem functions in the region were discussed in particular detail. [Read more.](#)



Photo: NOAA

Cleveland, Madison, Portland, Portsmouth and Tallahassee to Host REACT U.S. Students

In August 2013, five Swedish university students will be conducting three weeks of research on urban sustainability in the United States under a program dubbed Research on Environmental Action and Clean Tech in U.S. Cities (REACT U.S.). Each student will be designated a specific city where she/he will get to explore its sustainable practices. The program is administrated by Sustainable Sweden and the U.S. Embassy in Sweden.

The cities participating are now confirmed. Cleveland, OH; Madison, WI; Portland, OR; Portsmouth, NH; and Tallahassee, FL will be hosting this year's students. [Read more.](#)

Swedish and U.S. Companies on Top 100 List of Most Sustainable Businesses



Corporate Knights, a Toronto-based media and investment research company, announced in January its Global 100 list of the world's most sustainable corporations at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

In aggregate, the Global 100 had revenues of US\$3 trillion (roughly 4.5 per cent of global GDP) and a workforce of nearly 5.3 million in 2011. The top-ranked company in this year's Global 100 was Umicore, a Belgium-based materials technology and recycling company.

Several U.S. and Swedish companies made the list, including Biogen Idec (U.S./8), Intel (U.S./14), Atlas Copco (Swe/18), Cisco (U.S./20), Agilent (U.S./24), Scania (Swe/27), Ericsson (Swe/30), Life Technologies (U.S./33), General Electric (U.S./51), Electrolux (Swe/58), and H&M (Swe/73). [Read more.](#)

Photo: Swedish American Chamber of Commerce



Westinghouse to Provide Fuel Deliveries for Swedish Nuclear Power Plants

Westinghouse Electric Company announced yesterday that it has been selected by Vattenfall Nuclear Fuels AB in Sweden to provide replacement fuel deliveries for the Forsmark 1 and Ringhals 3 nuclear power plants in 2015, with an option for additional deliveries in 2016.

Under terms of the contract executed with Westinghouse Electric Sweden AB, Westinghouse will produce the fuel at its fabrication facility in Västerås, Sweden. [Read more.](#)



Swedish Alfa Laval Acquires U.S. Energy Company

Alfa Laval has acquired U.S.-based company Air Cooled Exchangers (ACE), a manufacturer of air-cooled heat exchangers used to cool air, natural gas, oil and water in the natural gas market as well as other energy-related end markets.

ACE is expected to generate sales of approximately SEK 350 million in 2012, according to a press release from Alfa Laval. ACE was founded in 1964 and the company currently employs 230 people in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. [Read more.](#)

Photo: Alfa Laval



Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Sales Rose by 73% in the U.S. in 2012

For years, alternative fuel vehicles appeared to be a somewhat futuristic dream for environmentally concerned individuals but today they are a reality for an increasing number of U.S. consumers. The latest research from Mintel shows that sales are up 73% with nearly 440,000 hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and electrics sold thus far this year.

According to the report, the rapid sales growth in hybrid and electric vehicles makes the segment the fastest growing in the United States for 2012, supplanting the still fast growing, compact car vehicle segment. [Read more.](#)

Photo: PRNewswire

Saga Student Network Meets with IEA Executive Director

The Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA) student network met with the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), Maria van der Hoeven, to discuss global energy challenges. The Executive Director outlined some of the key findings of the World



Energy Outlook 2012 report and took questions from the students. The meeting took place in Royal Seaport, a Stockholm Sustainable neighborhood in the making, which presented an opportunity to explore some of the city's upcoming green initiatives. [Read more.](#)

Photo: Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Energy



Swedish Researchers, SIDA and U.S. Embassy Sweden Zero In on Agricultural Waste

On February 25, researchers from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and program officers from Sweden’s International Development Assistance Agency (SIDA) came to the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm for a roundtable discussion on food security in the developing world, focusing specifically on the challenge of post-harvest loss.

Post-harvest loss is collective waste all along the agricultural production chain, from harvest and handling to storage and processing to packing and transportation. Each year, roughly one-third of the food produced in the world goes to waste, which is equivalent to 1.3 billion tons. [Read more.](#)



Photo: U.S. Embassy Sweden

Solvatten Produces Clean Drinking Water



Photo: Solvatten.se

Swedish company Solvatten has developed a household water treatment unit that has been tested in several developing countries. The invention, a portable 11 liter container, is placed in sunny locations and makes the water drinkable within two to six hours.

Once the unit is filled with water it is placed in the sun and the infrared and ultraviolet rays heat and treat the water. The device can also be used to provide hot water for cooking. [Read more.](#)

WWF and H&M Develop Water Strategy



Conservation organization WWF and Fashion Company H&M have entered into a three-year global partnership. During 2012, they performed a comprehensive evaluation of all H&M's efforts and challenges in connection with water which formed the basis of the new water strategy.

H&M designers and buyers will receive additional training in the water impacts of raw material production as well as wet processes for different styles, to promote more sustainable choices. WWF and H&M will work in collaboration with public policy makers, NGOs, water institutions and other companies to support better management of particular river basins in China and Bangladesh. [Read more.](#)

Food Waste Converted into Biogas in Örebro

From the beginning of March, the Municipality of Örebro in Sweden will convert all its food waste into biogas, Energinyheter reports. Biogas can be used as a transportation fuel or for heating. In 2012, Örebro collected 7,254 metric tons of food waste. Approximately 486,000 liters of gas or 362,700 liters of diesel can be replaced by waste-produced biogas. [Read more.](#)