



Swedish American Green Alliance

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Clinton and Ek Addressed Short-Lived Climate Pollutants in Stockholm

On June 3, at the Museum of Photography in Stockholm, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Sweden’s Minister for Environment Lena Ek raised the awareness of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs). The event was hosted by H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria. [The Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#) (CCAC) was launched in Washington, D.C. in February this year to reduce SLCPs.

Short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon, methane and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are responsible for a substantial portion of current global warming and result in millions of premature deaths and extensive crop losses each year. The awareness raising initiative aims to communicate these pollutants’ impacts and the opportunities that exist to address them.

“We were proud to host the first formal meeting of the coalition here in Stockholm in April, where we were joined by new members, and the coalition has now grown from six to 16 countries, plus the European Commission, UNEP, and the World Bank. And we especially, of course, welcome the decision of all G-8 members to join at the recent summit in Camp David,” Minister Ek said. Secretary Clinton highlighted the momentum that the CCAC currently enjoys and revealed a new global contest to close the information gap about short-lived climate pollutants:

“Today, Sweden and the United States are beginning a global campaign to close the information gap about short-lived climate pollutants. Few people actually know



about the impact we could have on global warming if we aggressively target them. And fewer still know that many cost-effective solutions already exist and are just waiting to be broadly implemented.”

“I invite everyone to visit the coalition’s new website for further information. The address is UNEP.org/CCAC. “

[Read more.](#)

Photos: Top (left to right): Minister Lena Ek, H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria and Secretary Hillary Clinton; Middle: Secretary Clinton announcing a competition to raise awareness about short-lived climate pollutants; Bottom: A crowd of people greeted Secretary Clinton as she arrived to the Museum of Photography in Stockholm. U.S. Embassy Sweden.



Empire State Building Saves Millions of Dollars in First Year of Energy Efficiency Plan; U.S. and Swedish Companies Leading the Charge

One year after an innovative building retrofit project, the Empire State Building is ahead of plan and has exceeded its year one energy-efficiency guarantee by five percent, saving \$2.4 million. Not only is the Empire State Building more energy efficient, but it is also estimated to have saved 4,000 metric tons of carbon, the equivalent of that offset by 750 acres of

pine forests. Once all tenant spaces are upgraded, the building will save \$4.4 million a year, a 38 percent reduction of energy use that will cut carbon emissions by 105,000 metric tons over the next 15 years.

U.S. companies [Johnston Controls](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and Swedish green construction company [Skanska](#) are some of the tenants leading the charge in making the Empire State Building more energy-efficient.

[Read more.](#)

IKEA U.S. Announces New Solar Energy Plans - Extends Solar Presence to 89%

Recently, Swedish furnishings retailer [IKEA](#) announced plans to install solar energy panels on two more of its United States locations – both of them distribution centers in the Eastern U.S. Installation will occur this summer on the IKEA Distribution Center in Perryville, Maryland and Westampton, New Jersey. Both projects will rank among the largest commercial rooftop solar installations in the U.S., and their implementation will extend the IKEA solar presence to nearly 89 percent of its U.S. locations.



Collectively, the two distribution centers will total 4.92 Megawatts (MW) of solar generating capacity, more than 34,000 panels, and an annual output of 5,933,200 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity – the equivalent to reducing 4,509 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) – equal to eliminating the emissions of 802 cars or providing electricity for 510 homes yearly.

[Read more.](#)

Volvo Mack Trucks Adding New Vehicles Running on Alternative Energy



Two new truck models will roll off [Mack Trucks](#) production line next year, expanding the truck maker's alternative fuel lineup. Mack is adding natural gas-powered versions to its Granite construction rig

and Pinnacle truck, which is used to pull trailers. Mack already produces natural-gas powered rigs

such as its TerraPro refuse truck.

"We've offered natural gas since it became clear that it was a viable energy solution in the refuse segment," said Kevin Flaherty, Mack president of North American sales and marketing.

Mack, a division of Sweden's [Volvo AB](#), is headquartered in Greensboro, N.C., and produces all rigs at its Lower Macungie Township plant, which employs roughly 1,700 workers. [Read more.](#)

Chicago Learns from Swedish Sustainable Planning; Portland Next



More and more Americans are becoming familiarized with SymbioCity, a Swedish concept for sustainable city planning.

In mid-

April, [Swedish Trade Council](#) consultants David Kördel and Phil Thompson held another presentation on SymbioCity, this time for Chicago's Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC).

MPC has been dedicated to shaping a more sustainable and prosperous Chicago since 1934. As an independent, nonprofit organization, MPC serves communities and residents by developing, promoting and implementing solutions for regional growth. Currently, MPC has a strong focus on Sustainable Trans-

portation which is a challenge in a metropolis like Chicago.

The presentation at MPC expanded the Swedish

American Green Alliance network further and resulted in new contacts for future discussions.



The Swedish Trade Council is planning additional events on SymbioCity this fall. In October, the organization will present the case of Western Harbor - a sustainable neighborhood in the City of Malmö - at the Portland Eco-District Summit. [Read more.](#)

Harry Stokes Wins World Bioenergy Award in Jönköping



The winner of the World Bioenergy Award 2012 was announced on 29 May in Jönköping, The winner is

Harry Stokes from the United States. Harry Stokes has developed, funded and managed Project Gaia to improve the health, economic status and quality of life of a significant number of families in the developing world. He has led a global initiative that promotes using sustainable fuels for cooking and other household appliances.

The aim of the award is to recognize a person who has made a contribution to the development of the bioenergy sector.

"This year's finalists are entrepreneurs, government officials and researchers from India, Russia, Spain, UK and USA. They have all made important contributions to different sectors and disciplines within the global bioenergy sector and they show the diversity of the global bioenergy sector - from small-scale cooking technology for families in poor countries to large scale biofuel production plants," said Jakob Hirsmark, initiator of the award and member of the jury. [Read more.](#)

Minnesota Study Team Visits Swedish Bioenergy Facilities

A group of Minnesota delegates recently visited several bioenergy facilities throughout Sweden to study what might be possible in regard to implementing similar projects within the state.

The study group, made up of bio-



energy industry members, academia, state government, a tribal organization, and non-profits, conducted several site visits of bioenergy operations during their time in Sweden, including some large-scale combined-heat-and-power facilities. [Read more.](#)