



ONE BIG THING

Minnesota and Sweden Partner in Clean Tech



Dale Wahlstrom, CEO of the BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota, recently visited Lidköping, Sweden during the International BioEnergy Days.

The BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota (BBAM) in collaboration with Minnesota State University, Mankato and the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) has become a lead actor in assisting Sweden-based bioenergy companies seeking to enter the US marketplace.

BBAM and member companies of Scandinavian Cleantech Export Association (SCEA) prepare Swedish companies to do business in the United States. One of these companies, ABioNova, is a provider of biomass-fueled boiler plants. Another is GOTFire, a manufacturer of fully automatic wood chip burners for heating systems.

Dale Wahlstrom, CEO of the BBAM says: "The collaboration will provide the U.S. with access to people and knowledge from across the globe to facilitate rapid deployment of new technologies and Sweden will have access to a new market."

House of GreenTech Opens in Maryland

Sales and marketing company Salesgen is opening the House of GreenTech in the State of Maryland. The overall objective of their new office will be to bring Nordic clean tech companies to the United States. In addition, Salesgen serves as Maryland's foreign office in Sweden.

Salesgen's Executive VP, Peter Selemark says on their website: "The capital infusion allows us to establish House of GreenTech and further emphasize the advantages of Salesgen; to be able to market Swedish GreenTech in the United States from U.S. offices."



Public Affairs Counselor Chris Dunnet delivering his remarks

Public Affairs Counselor Addressed the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Naturskyddsföreningen) is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Chris Dunnett, Public Affairs Counselor at Embassy Stockholm, was invited as a speaker to the organization's annual fall conference ([clip](#) available in Swedish only).

Mr. Dunnett illuminated that, due to the United States' federal political system, not all green initiatives derive from the national government in Washington, D.C. Instead, states and cities enjoy a great degree of autonomy in this regard. For example, the State of California has long advocated for more ambitious car fuel standards, which President Barack Obama signed into law this spring. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is yet another example where ten states on the east-coast implemented a cap-and-trade scheme for carbon dioxide.

Furthermore, Mr. Dunnett concluded that the financial crisis should be considered an opportunity to create a green economy. "Since Sweden and the United States host many of the world's most prominent researchers and companies, we will largely benefit from such a green industrial revolution", he said.

For more information on the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, please visit: <http://www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/in-english/>

Swedish-American Venture Reduces Oil Consumption



[Clean Oil Technology](#) (COT), based in Gothenburg with a subsidiary in Chicago, has succeeded in moving from research & development to commercialization of its patented solution to cleanse lubricating and hydraulic oils while the systems are running. COT filters reduce the number of oil changes, hence reducing oil consumption and associated environmental hazards. Applications range from passengers cars and trucks to forest machinery and wind turbines. This

technology can help ease transition to use of alternative fuels such as biodiesel, ethanol and biogas to make vehicle fleets more environmentally-friendly by offsetting the more frequent oil changes engines using such fuels often require.

Upon establishing its subsidiary in the United States in spring 2009, COT America CEO Paul McCue said: "Our presence on the American market is becoming more and more important. New realms of interest include wind power and the growing alternative fuels market."

Incoming Head of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Meet with Ambassador Barzun



Ambassador Matthew Barzun and Mayor Elizabeth Kautz discussed green initiatives launched on the local level in the United States.

On November 24, incoming head of the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#), Elizabeth Kautz of Burnsville, Minnesota visited Ambassador Matthew Barzun at the U.S. Embassy to discuss ways to increase collaboration between Swedish and American cities in the field of clean tech and environment. Mayor Kautz also made the Ambassador aware of some of the numerous green initiatives launched by U.S. cities. In the United States, citizens, cities and states are often considered the vanguard of innovation and action on clean tech and climate.

The City of New Orleans, Louisiana serves as one example of such local ingenuity. In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, New Orleans has reinvented itself through green

entrepreneurship. The city now operates a fleet of biodiesel busses, is building new schools and thousands of homes that comply with the highest green building standards. Yet another example is the state of Texas, which is commonly associated with the oil industry, where wind power accounts for 20 per cent of the power consumption. In fact, Texas has more installed wind power than all but four countries in the world.

Ambassadorial Duo Makes Climate Connections Amidst COP15



U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland Donald Beyer, U.S. Ambassador to Finland Bruce Oreck, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, U.S. Ambassador to Denmark Laurie Fulton and U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Matthew Barzun.

Ambassador Barzun and his specially invited guest U.S. Ambassador to Finland [Bruce Oreck](#) visited Malmö, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark on December 14 to explore possibilities in improving the environmental performance of cities. The ambassadors welcomed a delegation of U.S. clean-tech business representatives in Malmö who had crossed the Öresundsbron to Sweden from Copenhagen where they were exhibiting the best of American environmental technologies and services at the [Bright Green](#) business expo in conjunction with the [COP-15](#) climate talks.

The ambassadors also toured Malmö's Western Harbor development, which exemplifies the city's ongoing transformation from an industrial center to one of Europe's most sustainable cities. Ambassador Barzun explained that American cities are also in the vanguard of reducing environmental impacts in the United States. This is demonstrated by the commitment of over 1,000 U.S. mayors, representing 90 million Americans, to meet or exceed existing United Nations greenhouse gas reduction targets as part of the [U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement](#). Excellent examples of the many steps American cities and their citizens are taking to reduce emissions can be found [here](#). Ambassadors Barzun and Oreck sought to learn from Malmö's experience as part of deepening U.S.-Nordic cooperation in meeting the climate challenge.

In Copenhagen, the duo met with General Electric and the U.S. Green Building Council. They also attended a reception for California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at the residence of U.S. Ambassador to Denmark, Laurie Fulton.