Baltic Cities

Environmental bulletin • No 2, 2007

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

Update your methods and tools

UBC Sustainable Development Survey stresses need for more actions in the cities

Results of the Best Environmental Practice Award 2007

Baltic Cities
Environmental bulletin 2/2007

We are committed to sustainable cities!

Water binds together the populations of the cities around the Baltic Sea. This has been the case throughout history and now the cooperation is being further developed. Closer ties are emerging through contacts between countries, through the many different joint projects and the positive spirit of cooperation that are in the process of being consolidated.

We all share an asset represented by the Baltic Sea, but we also share responsibility for protecting and restoring the environment and quality of the water, so that this sea can continue to be a source of recreation, culture, fishing, trade and contacts.

The Swedish Government is giving priority to combating climate change and improving the marine environment. These issues are closely connected with development in the cities around the Baltic Sea. These cities are becoming increasingly important for the economy, for growth and for the environment. Aesthetic urban design is part of daily life of an increasing number of people. Continued urbanisation has meant that a majority of the world's populations already live in cities. Achieving sustainable development for our cities and developing sustainable societies are key issues for the future.

Cities and municipalities have a vital role in this work. A firm foundation already exists. Many of the worst emissions of polluted water from the cities have been dealt with. An increasing number of cities are giving priority to sustainable urban development, to local Agenda 21 work and sustainable development. Cooperation within the UBC is an important part of these efforts. It is also positive that a growing number of cities have signed the Aalborg Commitments. Work in the EU to promote sustainable urban development and cooperation within Baltic 21 are other important inputs.

The future potential of a vital Baltic Sea region with sustainable cities is enormous. Even now, sustainable urban development projects such as Hammarby Sjöstad in Stockholm are attracting delegations from all over the world. The export of environmental technology and know-how, in connection with sustainable town planning has the potential to make a significant contribution to growth and economic development in our countries.

The Swedish Government is currently investing in encouraging the development of sustainable societies and environmentally-driven growth. This involves supporting urban development projects that, with advanced technology, systems thinking and peak environmental performance, are helping to demonstrate the development potential of sustainable societies. A special delegation will be given the task of contributing to methods development and supporting existing positive initiatives for sustainable urban development. Our ambition is to be able to encourage projects such as new, completely climate neutral urban areas or to contribute to the renovation of older housing areas that minimise the use of energy and create a more integrated city.

Together let us continue our efforts to achieve sustainable cities around a living Baltic Sea.

Andreas Carlgren

Minister for the Environment, Sweden

UBC member cities (as of August 2007)

Aarhus • Baltijsk • Bergen • Cesis • Chojnice • Copenhagen • Elblag • Elva • Espoo • Fredericia • Gargzdai • Guldborgsund • Gävle • Gdansk • Gdynia • Göteborg • Greifswald • Haapsalu • Helsinki • Horsens • Jekabpils • Jelgava • Jõhvi • Jurmala • Jyväskylä • Järvenpää • Kaliningrad • Kalmar • Karlskrona • Karlstad • Kaunas • Keila • Kemi • Kiel • Klaipeda • Køge • Kolding • Koszalin • Kotka • Kristiansand • Kristianstad • Kronstadt • Kuressaare • Krynica Morska • Kärdla • Lahti • Liepaja • Linköping • Lomonosov • Luleå • Lübeck • Leba • Maardu • Malbork • Malmö • Mariehamn • Marijampole • Moletai • Nacka • Narva • Naestved • Norrtälje • Nyköping • Oskarshamn • Palanga • Paldiski • Panevezys • Pärnu • Peterhof • Pori • PruszczGdanski • Reda • Rezekne • Riga • Rostock • Robertsfors • Sestroretsk • Siauliai • Sillamäe • Słupsk • Sopot • Stockholm • St.Petersburg • Sundsvall • Szczecin • Tallinn • Tampere • Tartu • Tukums • Turku • Umeå • Vaasa • Viljandi • Vilnius • Visby • Vordingborg • Võru • Västervik • Växjö • Wismar • Örebro

Contents

Q's corner

A new question & answer corner starts with this issue. Read what Stella Aaltonen writes about the Nordic Baltic Aalborg Network co-operation on page 19.

Practical methods and tools for cities

Green footprints, page 15.

Moving Sustainably Guidebook, page 8.

UBC Energy Commission

Editorial information

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Text: Virpi Kaukavuori **Photos:** Kyösti Lempa

Survey 2006/2007 reveals: strategies well integrated, implementation

Climate change

A majority of the Baltic Sea Region Cities are sustainable, at least on a strategic level, confirms the recently published second Baltic Cities sustainable development survey 2006/2007. However, the cities are still not combating the emissions causing the climate change as strongly as is needed. An implementation gap is foreseen in each and every focus area of the UBC agenda 21 action programme.

The survey, which had a 72 % of the UBC member cities, response rate confirms that in most of the cities efficient network cooperation has been established, which forms a firm foundation for sustainable development within UBC member network. This has been verified in studies during the last three four years in other research projects.

Another positive finding was that the cities have also reached the goals set in good governance, air quality and waste water management. Yet, they should pay much more attention to global environmental threats such as the climate change.

"The lack of concrete actions still remains, even though sustainable development is quite well integrated to the strategies", confirms researcher **Niina Salonen**.

Transport creates greenhouse gases

One of the most relevant risks to be kept in mind is the uncontrolled transport load. An increasing number of private cars is a side effect of economic growth. According to the cities, motorised transport is also the main source of CO_2 emissions.

The survey reveals that in the northern region the share of public transport is lower than in East or South Baltic Regions. It can be explained as a result of different lifestyles: using public transport is not only a matter of infrastructure, but also attitudes. The use of public transport should be supported even more and made a more attractive option for the citizens in all regions.

UBC EnvCom, in cooperation with UBC Transport Commission, is already working, with fruitful results, on sustainable urban transport in the BUSTRIP project. Twelve partner cities are among the first cities in Europe to have prepared sustainable urban transport plans and started to implement them.

"In this respect UBC and our cities are forerunners. We will continue this work, as the survey strongly supports it", says **Björn Grönholm**, head of UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat.

Economy searching for balance

In almost 40 per cent of the researched UBC cities there is almost full employment. In over half of the cities the unemployment rate is under five per cent.

Unemployment concentrated in some areas. At the same time, some regions are in great need of skilled employees.

lacks behind

requires actions

Variation in unemployment figures raises also the question of how to create more balanced social and economic development in the region.

"UBC wants to point out that economic growth and sustainability should not be seen as contradictions. Instead the cities should consider ways of building sustainable and attractive cities for citizens and businesses", Grönholm says.

The survey suggests practical actions

In some of the UBC cities, recycling is still at an unacceptable level. In landfills, the waste that could have been composted or recycled, rots and causes greenhouse gases such as methane. Clear actions are required.

Warm thanks to following cities who contributed to the survey
Estonia: Elva, Haapsalu, Jõhvi, Keila, Kuressaare, Kärdla, Maardu, Narva, Paldiski, Pärnu, Sillamäe, Tallin, Tartu, Viljandi, Võru
Finland: Espoo, Helsinki, Hämeenlinna, Jyväskylä, Kemi, Kotka, Lahti, Mariehamn, Pori, Tampere, Turku, Vaasa
Germany: Lübeck, Rostock
Latvia: Jekabpils, Jelgava, Jurmala, Liepaja, Riga, Tukums
Lithuania: Kaunas, Klaipeda, Molėtai, Palanga, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Vilnius
Norway: Kristiansand
Poland: Chojnice, Elblag, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Koszalin, Krynica Morska, Łeba, Malbork, Pruszcz Gdański, Reda, Szczecin
Russia: Baltijsk, Kaliningrad, Krohnstadt, Sestroretsk, St Petersburg
Sweden: Gävle, Karlstad, Linköping, Nacka, Norrtälje, Oskarshamn, Robertsfors, Stockholm, Umeå, Visby, Växjö, Örebro

Capacity-building and awareness-raising are also important in waste management issues. "Linking them to the climate change could also improve the understanding of the connection of our everyday habits and environmental threats", Niina Salonen says.

Analysing the survey results has lead to formulation of five practical actions that the cities should immediately start implementing. A good starting point is concrete CO_2 reduction targets in both clear figures in tonnes or percentages of reduction, and investments in renewable energy.

Atleast the overall trend in sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region is not negative.

"Although the direction is right, we all have to admit that there haven't been major changes compared to the previous survey which was carried out two years ago", Salonen says.

Source of new action period

The survey is an important source for the planning of the new UBC Action Programme. It provides the UBC commissions with unique information, findings and possibilities for activating relevant areas of actions - all based on the UBC member cities. Cities can use the surveys as a benchmark tool.

"The surveys are also important for presenting the strong development of our region and our member cities. We hope that the surveys and the results support and motivate people in the city administrations to continue the good work they are already doing", Grönholm says.

The survey was carried out by the UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat. Data was collected during December and January 2006/2007 with a response rate of 72. The survey is the second out of three assessments of the state of sustainability in the Baltic cities. It is based on evaluating the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 - Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities. The full report with more detailed information will be available later this autumn.

Read the summary report of the survey in PDF:
www.ubc-action21.net

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The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2007

Fossil fuel free Växjö wins

Text: Virpi Kaukavuori

The winner of The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2007 has been announced. The award committee received altogether eight applications from the member cities. This time the highest scores were given to the city of Växjö, Sweden, for sustainable energy management. The winner and two other nominated cities were announced in the IX UBC General Conference in Pärnu, Estonia, on 27th September.

The award committee, who made the final decision, consisted of the two co-chairmen of UBC Environmental Commission **Mikko Jokinen** and **Guldbrand Skjönberg**, Head of Technical Unit **Carl Nielsen** from the city of Århus and Head of Environmental Protection Division **Marija Stanikuniene** from the previous winner city, Kaunas.

"The competition between the candidates was hard. The Växjö nomination fulfills the award criteria – innovativeness, relevancy and quality – with high scores. We are delighted that a western member city has finally been selected as a winner", says Guldbrand Skönberg.

Best practice in category 1 and the overall winner: Sustainable Energy Management

Växjö

Fossil Fuel Free Växjö is a climate strategy, including goals and actions for Växjö to become a fossil fuel free city. Already in 1996 the politicians of Växjö unanimously made this decision. As a measurable goal, it was said that the CO_2 emissions shall be reduced by 50 percent per capita by 2010 compared to 1993. There is also a goal of a 70 percent reduction by 2025. So far (2005) a reduction of 24 percent have been accomplished.

The strategy contains actions within heating, transport, energy efficiency and changed behaviour. Actions have been performed/will continue to be performed in large and small scale. Many different stakeholders are involved in the work – the city administration, energy companies, housing companies, transport companies, NGO's, university and private persons. Read more in page 16.

Best practice in category 2: Use of Sustainable Economic Instruments/Incentives

Gdynia

Since 1996, the inhabitants of Gdynia have been granted subsidies for more ecological choices. Since the beginning of 2007, the Bank Ochrony Srodowiska SA – BOS SA (Environmental Protection Bank) has provided subsidies for ecological investments in cooperation with the city. One may receive a subsidy and /or loan for the following purposes: heating system modernisation including installation of unconventional energy sources for example heat pumps, solar collectors, etc; removal of asbestos from roofing and facades of residential buildings; removal of a septic tank; connecting a property to the municipal sanitary sewage system or for the purchase and installation of a biological treatment plant next to one's home. The loan offered by BOS SA Bank is complementary to the subsidy provided by the city and is given on preferential terms fixed annual interest rate of 3,5 percent.

Best practice in category 3: Communicating/ Reporting the State of Environment

Kristiansand

The Eco Lighthouse EMS was invented in the Municipality of Kristiansand in 1996 as a part of the Municipality Sustainability Development Focus. The Eco Lighthouse was part of the municipality administration until The Eco Lighthouse Foundation was established in 2004/2005. The goal is to give both private and public enterprises – mostly SMEs – a possibility to have more sustainable management with substantial results. Increase environmental effectiveness and environmental focus will allow enterprises to take more social responsibility and to provide examples within each sector towards a more sustainable future. Today, over 1350 enterprises all over Norway have gone through the certification process. There are over 1100 valid certificates and many municipalities and counties are using the Eco-Lighthouse as a tool and indicator within their sustainability action planning. The actual certified enterprises can present very positive results both economically and environmentally.

A model for sustainable cities

Text: Annika Claesson
Photo: MUE-25 -project

To make the vision of a sustainable future for our cities come true we need good management tools. Many tools are being used today but generally lack a coherent framework. Together with 25 cities MUE-25 has tested a model for integrated management that describes an annual cycle of 5 steps that all cities can link up to. Applying the model improves the cooperation between the administration, politicians and stakeholders in the city and makes it easier to direct their joint efforts towards a common goal. The MUE-25 model and city examples will be gathered in a toolbox to be launched by the end of February 2008.

Baseline Review

This is the beginning of the 'cycle' and the background to further steps in the integrated management system. The review report can be prepared in relation to the thematic fields of the Aalborg Commitments. Thanks to this first step, we can identify our challenges, our legislative duties city wide, all systems and procedures in place to realise existing plans and programmes, gaps, relevant stakeholders etc. The report is updated continuously at least every 3-5 years or if big changes have occurred.

Target Setting

By means of participatory processes, by incorporating existing Local Agenda 21 or other local sustainability plans, and taking into consideration the results of the local baseline review, we can identify priorities, indicators, targets and actions.

Evaluation and reporting

It appears "in the end" of the cycle but is also the beginning of a new cycle i.e. a new year. It helps decision makers to understand if progress has been made and if not, the causes can be identified so that there can be decisions for the next annual cycle. Adapting targets? Other actions? More/or other stakeholders involved?

Evaluation –Provides an answer to why targets are being reached or not. **Reporting** – informs decision makers and also the public about the progress in reaching the targets and what has been done.

Political Commitment

Cooperation between the administration and the politicians is important for achieving what has been planned. This step specifically requires that the targets and the actions are approved by the city council. Some cities do this at the same time as the annual budget is approved.

Implementation and monitoring

To go from plan to action can sometimes be the most challenging step. Here the motor of the system, i.e. the organisational set-up to run the system, is being tested. During this step there should be continuous monitoring of the actions taken and their effects on the targets.

This is important if we want to avoid duplication of work and to be able to take corrective measures in time. To reach out to the whole urban area, there is a need for partnerships to be formed with stakeholders and neighbouring municipalities. Equally important are agreements on receiving data from all those involved internally and externally.

WEB Annika Claesson tells more about the integrated management system at www.ubc-action21.net.

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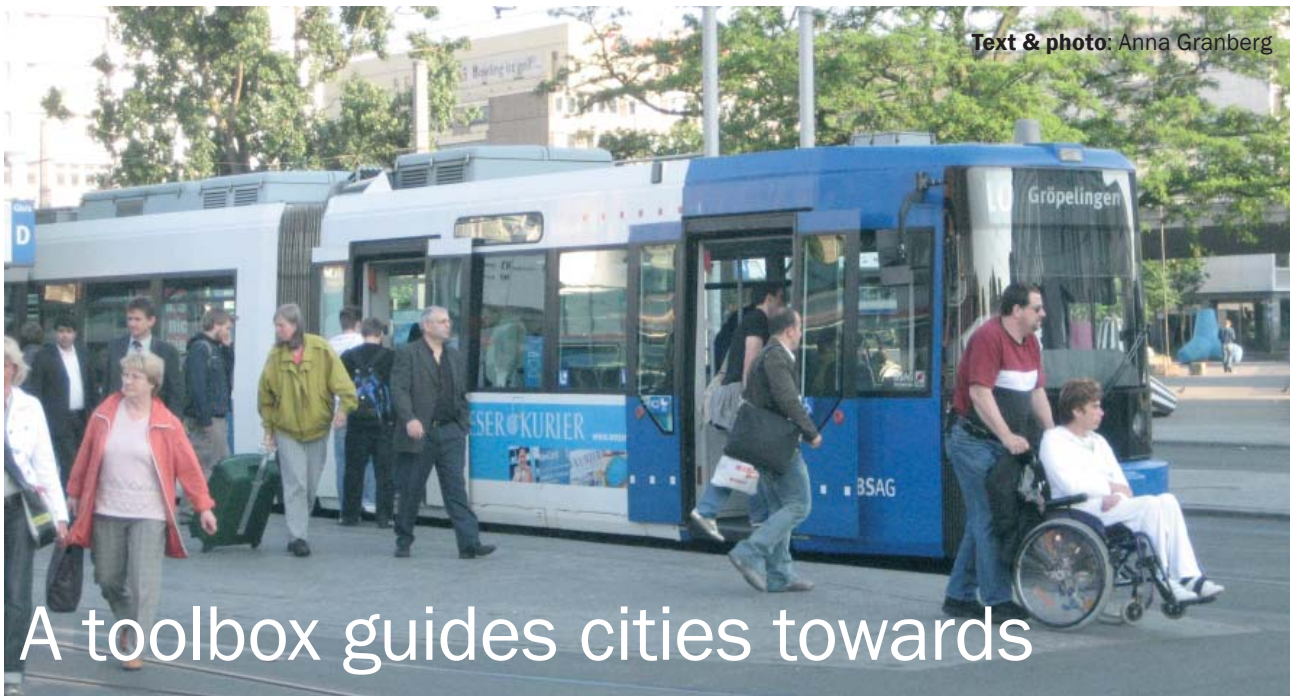

Text & photo: Anna Granberg

A toolbox guides cities towards sustainable transport

The BUSTRIP project has produced a sustainable urban transport plan (SUTP) guidebook that is based on the findings and lessons learnt from the twelve Baltic Sea Region cities that have been preparing Sustainable Urban Transport Plans. The cities will present the achievements of their SUTP processes at the BUSTRIP Final Conference in November 2007.

The preparation and adoption of an SUTP is a process that often requires a totally new thinking, cooperation and integration in the city administration. For this SUTP process comprehensive tools and guidance are required.

The SUTP process builds on the existing strengths and opportunities of the city. Integration is the key to a SUTP. Some European forerunners, especially bigger cities, have integrated land use and transport planning with great results. The integration of planning does not only have positive effects on the environment, with lowered air quality emissions, and lower noise levels, but it also affects people's lives in various ways and paves the way for more sustainable urban living.

The concept of an SUTP takes this thinking even a step further. The integration is not only about land use and transport issues, but also about integrating health, education, awareness raising, strategic business development, social issues, etc. into the planning of urban mobility.

Stakeholder involvement essential

SUTP calls for an extensive involvement of stakeholders outside the city administration: NGOs, citizens and business representatives. It requires close cooperation with the national and regional levels to ensure compliance with the higher level strategies and plans and to advance the sustainable development of the whole urban area, since mobility does not take borders into account. Furthermore, the SUTP concept acknowledges the importance of including all groups of society and a special focus on the gender aspect.

One fundamental ingredient of an SUTP is the use of a sustainable city vision as a starting point for the SUTP work. The vision that shows the high-level directions of the plan can serve as a guiding star for the whole process and it can be used in the marketing of the work. For a successful SUTP the setting of measurable and time limited targets is crucial; without these it is not possible to evaluate the plan. To measure and follow-up on the impact of the actions is another crucial part.

The final product of the BUSTRIP the SUTP guidebook – Moving Sustainably – provides tools and guidance for transport and urban planners. The users will be guided through the different parts of the SUTP process. The toolbox functions as a comprehensive guide in making the sustainable transport planning more structured and integrative. The toolbox will be published in the form of a guidebook and a web site in November 2007. The guidebook will be available in English, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Finnish, Swedish, German and Polish. The guidebook can be ordered free of charge from the contact below.

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Practical tools and methods for cities

A new tool for sustainability management

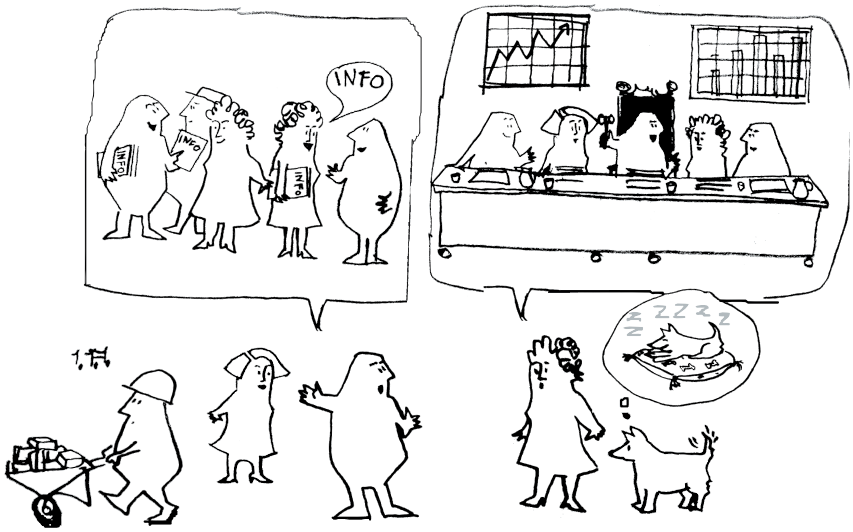
URBANworks !

Does our city have strategies, political support and a mandate for the sustainability work? Do we have the sufficient resources? How can we raise the awareness among citizens? What are the ways to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation? These are the kinds of questions that cities´ sustainable development units are likely to work with and that the SUSTAINMENT toolkit helps them answer.

Text: Eija Eloranta **Illustration:** Liisa Kanerva

URBANworks, developed in the SUSTAINMENT -project provides guidance, good practices, and a framework. URBANworks is an interactive toolkit for cities and municipalities tackling sustainable development issues from an organisational standpoint.

In the BSR, cities manage sustainability in different ways; the organisation can be an Agenda 21 office, Department of Development, or a network within or outside the administration. Each of these solutions have its own unique characteristics and own challenges. But each of these units continuously makes decisions that will affect the direction the city development will take for years to come. Moving towards a sustainable direction requires resources, skills, understanding, good communication and commitment, and most of all - an organizational structure to manage the efforts.



Guidance, tools and practical examples

URBANworks supports the development and establishment of an organizational structure, or unit, that will effectively manage the city development in a sustainable manner. The toolkit provides city administrators with tailor-made guidance, and concrete city examples related to the major sustainability management issues. It also gives them a framework for creating a Development Plan for this management unit.

Comparing the establishment of the unit to the construction of a house, the guide identifies the basic elements necessary for this work. It provides the cities tools to organize their administration sustainably and effectively, and thus results as more positive city development in terms of environmental, economic as well as social development. Building up, or further developing an existing office, starts with a solid foundation: in other words with creating the common understanding of the sustainable development within the city.

A house, as well as a sustainability management unit, needs also sufficient amount and optimal mix of construction materials: financial resources, but also sufficient number of staff with the right skills! What else would your unit, and your city, need to be able to develop sustainably? Find out in November!

The English version of the toolbox will be published during the SUSTAINMENT Final conference in Gdansk 12th-14th November. At the end of the year the toolkit will be available also in 8 Baltic Sea Region languages. It will be available as CD, Internet as well as a paper version.

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Experiences from the Hanseatic City of Rostock

Soil protection concept as a tool of urban planning

Text: Andreas Neupert **Photo:** City of Rostock

Soil is a limited resource especially in urban areas with an increasing population. Six years ago the citizenship decided to establish a soil protection concept for the Hanseatic City of Rostock. It should become a base for all municipal plans and a guideline for the administration.

In June 2007, the city established a renewed concept considering the experiences of the last years and the aspects of sustainable development. It contains a description of soil related issues and a catalogue of measures for improvement or conservation of the soil functions.

The Hanseatic City has responsibility for identifying, recording and monitoring contaminated sites. Since 1991 the environmental office has systematically been tracking sites suspected of containing hazardous substances in a register of contaminated sites.

Data on the specific condition and pollution levels of soil, water, air climate and their interaction are being collected in databases. They include details on land uses, soils and soil types, the groundwater situation and water management. The focus in the concept will be on the regeneration of Brownfields by remediation of contaminated sites.

Re-use of brownfields in focus

The revitalisation of areas formerly used by the armed forces, like the shooting ranges in the Rostocker Heide, had largely been completed in 1995. Now the re-use of land formerly used for industrial and commercial purposes is of foremost importance in Rostock.

The Hanseatic City recently participated in the Brownfield European Regeneration Initiative (BERI) together with 7 other European municipalities and regions. The focus of this project is sharing experiences by means of a practical, case study based approach.

Further essential points of the soil protection concept are

- Protection of peat bogs and forest soils. The mapping showed a decrease of bogs down to 7 % of the City's area. We defined a protection stripe of 60 meters around a bog.
- Soil investigation in allotments and playgrounds. Examination has been carried out using a Minimum Investigation Protocol. It was done in cooperation with the University of Rostock comprising the sequence of soil layers, harmful substances, macronutrients etc.
- Limitation of sealing and small-scaled reduction of existing sealings. Aerial photos show an increasing demand in areas for settlement in Rostock – a consumption of 23 ha on an average per year since 1989.
- Soil management is required in the case of projects with more than 10.000 m^3 soil excavation or filling.
- Extension of the existing Soil Information System.

Various concepts and basic information documents are directly or indirectly related to soil protection like the LA 21-Guidelines for the City Development, the Environmental Quality Target Concept and Urban Soil Mapping.

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Text: Dr. Natalia I. Koryakina and Kirill Sevenyuk

Photos: St. Petersburg

St Petersburg improves youth involvement in sustainability issues

The city of St Petersburg has paid a special attention to young people's participation. Supporting the UN Decade of education and sustainable development, the city has used a wide range of approaches involving the key sectors of the local communities. The aim is to provide young people with greater opportunities for active participation, decision making and being heard.

Excursions to enterprises and different organisations have given students opportunities to get familiar the environmental impact of the industries, as well as future career opportunities. Leaders of these organisations, on the other hand, have increased their understanding of education for sustainable development, and reasons why working with youth is important.

In practice, the work has been organised together with the city of Lahti, Finland, in a project "The city as a learning and healthier environment for young people." 17 Finnish and Russian authorities, seven enterprises and 12 NGO's have exchanged their experience in youth seminars, workshops and study visits to Finland. It has been expected to strengthen cross border and cross-sectoral cooperation, bringing new ideas and actions, as well as promote the concept of sustainable development at all levels.

In a specific City and Youth program students met local decision makers, organization leaders, city authorities and mass media. During these meetings students have practically learned about life in the city, its problems, functions and development - and finally how local questions connected with global issues.

In February 2007 a study visit to Lahti was organised for Russian enterprises representatives. The experience of Finnish enterprises in delivering environmental information and services to citizens and youth, in particular, was the focal point. In return, Finnish enterprises discovered the ways that Russians work with the youth. A similar tour in St Petersburg consisted of the Children's Environmental Center, the Museum of Water, South-West Water Treatment Plant and Environmental Center of Primorsky district.

Project is supported by European Commission under the TACIS Cross Border Cooperation.

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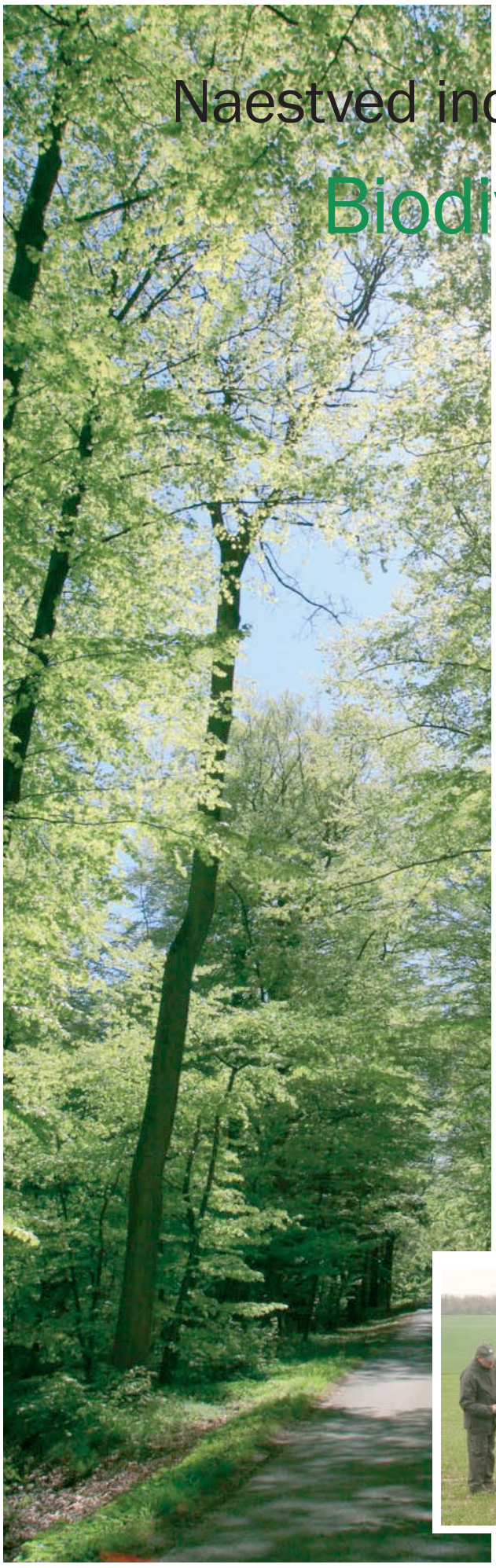
500 students and 83 teachers from St Petersburg and regional schools took part in a School Environmental Newspaper competition to learn how to communicate effectively and how to create a printed publication.



Text: Maria Santana
Photos: city of Naestved

Naestved increases forest areas

Biodiversity matters

Naestved Municipality has signed a cooperation agreement on afforestation with the Danish Ministry of the Environment. The objective of the project is to increase the forest area in the greater city by establishing public forests and green areas around Naestved.

Together with the already established forests, the project will create a greenbelt area dedicated to recreational and ecological use. For this purpose, the Naestved Municipality has given more than 210 hectares - over 2 million square kilometres - of land distributed in the areas of Even, Vridsloese and Roennebaek.

The trees to be planted in Naestved's new forests are native species, such as oak, beech, ash and birch, which are well adapted to the local conditions. They will also plant to coniferous trees - not only to create biodiversity, but also to give shelter to wildlife during winter. Also, earlier wetland habitats will be re-created.

In line with the development and expansion of the Naestved, the new forests will become an integrated part of the city. This will give the citizens easy access to forest areas, as it will only take five minutes on bicycle to reach these area any time of the day. The public forests are open 24 hours a day year-round providing nature experiences and outdoor recreation for everybody.

Through initiatives like this and through the green-plan, for the long term management of the city green areas, the city of Naestved is helping to ensure that the municipality's environment can also be enjoyed by future generations and wildlife.

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Short and longterm tools used in Botkyrka

Text: Ingrid Molander **Photo:** Monika Sidén

In Botkyrka, Sweden, the council has decided that the municipality should be a forerunner in the work towards sustainable development. It's easy to say, but how does one go about in practice?

The city has found two very useful tools, one for the long-term and one for the short-term.

Aalborg Commitments

Firstly, by signing the Aalborg Commitments, Botkyrka has accomplished a long term plan for sustainability, agreed on by all political parties in the council. Since the signing of the Aalborg commitment which took place in 2004, well over 100 officers and NGO's have been working producing this plan.

In doing the plan the city has looked 30 years ahead. The job will be ongoing, continuously updating the plan.

Certificate for Sustainable Development

Secondly, a certification of sustainable development has been introduced to make the everyday actions within the municipality sustainable. This too is broadly introduced within the administration. Each of our 150 units must annually fulfill 7 criteria to stay in line with the certificate:

1. Appoint a person in the management responsible for the process.
2. Appoint a working group for sustainable development.
3. Make a review of how the unit lives up to the three pil lars of sustainability, economy, environment and social aspects. The contents of each aspect are decided on by the council.
4. Set targets
5. Set a program for achieving the targets
6. Set a plan for educating the staff
7. Go through a annual internal audit.

It is obligatory for all staff within the unit to attend a half day introduction/education concerning the certificate and the different aspects that are included. So far, nearly 4000 employees have been trained. In 2008, all units with an altogether 5600 staff shall work according to the system

The staff members have been surprisingly positive and innovative in working in the certification system. Surveys show that they get a good feeling from contributing to a better future, being part of a bigger context and learning more about how to organise the multitude of tasks and duties that a Swedish municipality has. The result is that care workers, teachers, engineers, administrators and social workers all operate in the same system, making their contribution to a sustainable future in their daily work.

The Certification ceremony is a big event, attended by the mayor.

More information:
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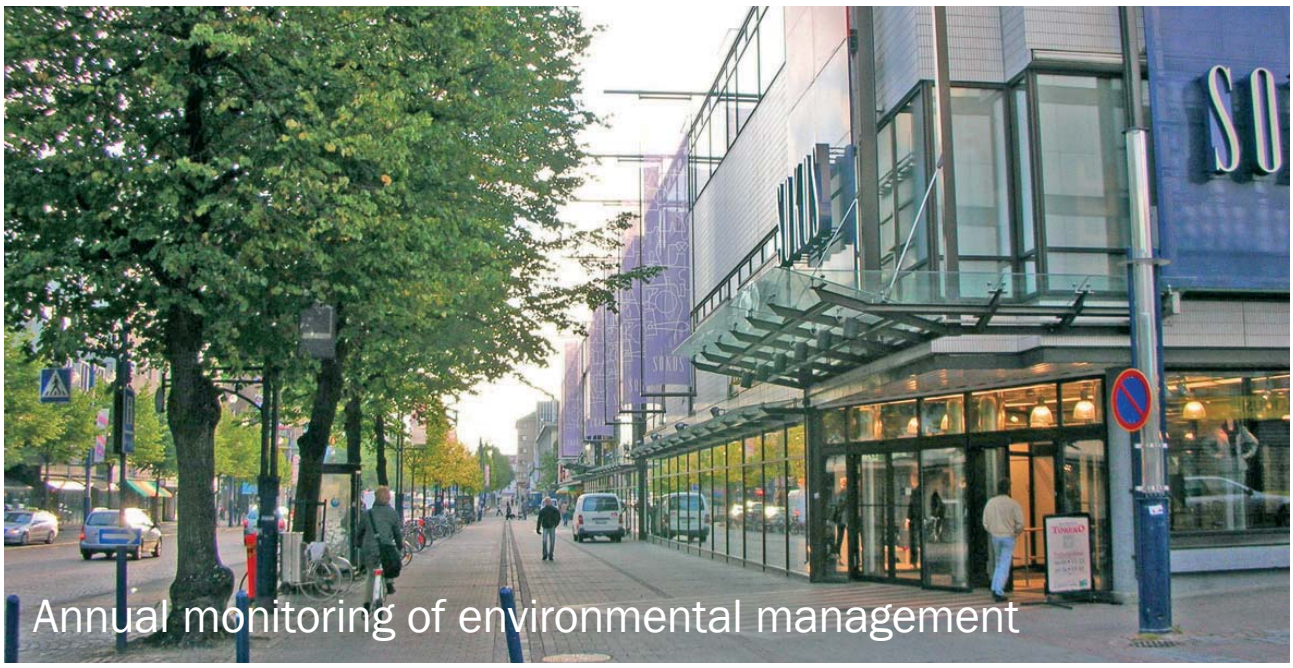
Support available for cities implementing Aalborg Commitments

The Local Resources 21 Toolkit provides resources and guidance to assist local governments in making effective progress towards local sustainability implementation, and is based around the principles of the Aalborg Commitments available in 7 EU languages, including English.

The Toolkit contains a database, divided into the 10 Aalborg Commitments. Under each Commitment you can find a list of resources. Each resource has a summary of and web links to relevant tools, policies, examples of good practices and organizations that support the implementation of the Aalborg Commitments. This toolkit has been developed through ACTOR project with a strong contribution of UBC EnvCom and UBC member cities. A big thank you to all who have contributed!

Please see more at www.localsustainability.eu/ and go to the link "Local Resources 21"



Lahti relies on Environmental Balance Sheet

Text: Mervi Virtanen **Photo:** city of Lahti

The Lahti Environmental Balance Sheet is a good method for annual monitoring of environmental issues in the city group. The Balance Sheet presents the state of the environment with figures, a verbal account and 45 environmental indicators.

Indicators are important locally because they describe the realisation of sustainable development and environmental protection. They also tell about changes in ecological and socio-economical issues in the long term. Regular monitoring in the form of the Balance Sheet was first used in 2002 and it is a part of the ten year old environmental management system. In addition, the balance sheet, is a tool for monitoring the environmental policy and objectives of the Lahti City group.

In the Lahti City Strategy 2007 sustainable development means that environmental impacts are considered in planning and construction. The impacts of climate change are the main focus. The key to success will be up-to-date environmental information as this supports the implementation of the environmental management. If the actual information of environmental state, environmental load and material and energy use are available, it´s easier to make positive political and operational decisions regarding the environment.

Describing the challenges with figures

This year, the balance sheet describes what have been done for the enhancement of the environmental state for example in protection of waters and nature as well as in environmental education and business. On the other hand, it shows the challenges that are typical for a western society such as the growing material and energy use. The growth can be seen in greenhouse gas amounts, electricity use and traffic, all of which affect the climate change. Without real facts it would be challenging to tell decision-makers about these issues and get them to commit to sustainable development.

Lahti takes care of environmental issues with good financial management and the continuous improvement of actions ensures that Lahti remains as a forerunner in promotion of the environmental issues and sustainable development. Balance sheet promotes knowledge and discussion of sustainable development in the region. The Environmental balance sheet is available to residents and anyone interested in environmental information.

The Lahti City Environmental System is part of the local agenda 21 work, which started in 1993 in Lahti region. It is realised by local authorities, several projects and volunteers. Lahti also uses environmental report and sustainable development indicators. The Local Agenda 21 programme and commitment to Aalborg Charter support the implementation. At the moment, Lahti is preparing an environmental strategy. This specifies objectives, targets and operations of environmental management. Lahti has also begun its Aalborg Commitments process and will make a decision about it with the City Council during this autumn.

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Text: Esther Kreutz **Photo:** Anja Schmitt

"Kiel-o-meters" for a better climate

Walking, cycling and skating to kindergarten, school and leisure activities is a lot of fun and helps to protect the climate. Nearly 12.000 children from kindergartens and elementary schools in Schleswig-Holstein took part in this year's "ZOOM Kids on the move" campaign week. They showed the adults how easy it is to be mobile in an environmental friendly way.

For every journey the kids covered in an environmentally friendly way, they pasted a "green footprint" in their sticker album. As "detectives on the road" they were searching for answers on how to improve the traffic situation with their everyday ways. The children learned a lot about mobility, the environment, the climate, and how they can contribute to climate protection.

The campaign "ZOOM – Kids on the move" is initiated Europe-wide by the "Climate Alliance", of which Kiel is a member. The project weeks were supported by an educational framework with a campaign guideline, ideas and material for lessons and games. The schools and kindergarten teachers were provided with background information about sustainability, climate protection and mobility.

Altogether 110.322 green footprints were collected in Kiel and Schleswig-Holstein. Equating with kilometers, the footprints would create a journey nearly three times around the world. "The children from Schleswig-Holstein are among the ultimate front-runners of the campaign in Europe", says the executive director of the Climate Alliance, **Ulrike Janssen**, about fantastic result.

All green footprints from the campaigns will be taken to the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December this year and the campaign will be presented to the representatives at the conference. Kiel is celebrating the end of the campaign within the "European Week on mobility" from 16th - 22nd of September.

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www.localclimateprotection.eu/zoom2007.html
Report from Kiel from 2003 (by email)

Biofuels for Transport

Text: Maryke van Staden & Ciara Leonard

Who are the end-users biofuels? They include groups or individuals that can switch to biofuels in their own vehicles or encourage such a switch within their areas of influence. This includes large-scale fleet owners such as fire brigades, municipal bus fleets and transport companies. They can also be farmers or private vehicle owners.

End-users are an important, yet a diverse group that is highly relevant to the successful wide-scale implementation of biofuels. Through a series of workshops in the Biofuel Cities project, this group's needs and perceptions on the challenges and opportunities they face are being identified and assessed. The partnership in the project is a platform for the introduction of biofuels across Europe that takes into account the complete biofuel chain from feedstock to fuel production, distribution and utilisation in vehicle fleets.

In May 2007, the first workshop for end-users was held in Stockholm - a city with extensive experience with the use of biofuels for transport in its community and a leader in the field in Sweden. Two examples were presented to kick off discussions, namely the 100% biodiesel public bus fleet in Graz (Austria) and the project 'Bioethanol for Sustainable Transport' (BEST), which introduced the Swedish experience.

Learn more about the Biofuel Cities European Partnership at www.biofuel-cities.eu or contact the team directly: secretariat@biofuel-cities.eu

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Text: city of Växjö **Photo:** city of Växjö

Focus on fossil fuels in Växjö

UBC member Växjö, situated in the southern part of Sweden, is an internationally recognised frontrunner in the fight against pollution and climate change. Växjö has undertaken an ambitious programme designed to protect and enhance its local environment.

The goals of Fossil Fuel Free Växjö are clearly defined. Växjö strives to make a shift from fossil fuels to bioenergy in the heating and transport sectors as well as to use energy efficiently. Between 1993 and 2005 the emissions of CO2 from fossil fuels have been reduced by 24 % per inhabitant and the share of renewable energy is now over 50 %.

In September 2007, the UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat granted the city - for its work towards more environmental friendly use of energy - the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award.

Växjö welcomes others to learn

In 2000, Växjö also won the International Environmental Award for excellent atmospheric protection. In 2007, the municipality was awarded the Sustainable Energy Europe Award by the European Commission.

These awards are not only good international marketing of the city, but push Växjö into doing even more in the struggle for being fossil fuel free. Växjö can be a role model for and inspire other cities in their environmental work.

Individuals and groups from all over the world visit Växjö to learn about Fossil Fuel Free Växjö and how the city manages its sustainable development, bioenergy, forestry, elderly care and gender issues. A new technical visits menu has been produced where seminars and study visits possibilities are presented. To download the menu, please visit the web site www.vaxjo.se/english.

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WEB Read how sustainable development has been described in the annual budget and about the 10 indicator the city of Växjö is using at: www.ubc-action21.net.

Text: Kirsi Kujala **Photo:** Elina Aitoaho

Turku to protect quiet areas

Places where the stillness of nature can be enjoyed are important but becoming more and more rare in urban areas. Even though the city of Turku is a small and relatively quiet place on a European scale, it is important to preserve the silent areas for relaxation of citizens.

In Turku, a survey of quiet areas was carried out using multiple methods to identify the areas that are quieter than their surroundings and offer places for peaceful relaxation. As well as locating the city's quiet areas, the survey canvassed the citizens' opinions about the meaning of silence and importance of quiet areas for them. The results will help city planners to pay more attention to these areas in the future.

The study started with mapping in June 2006. Noisy zones were cropped from the survey. The mapping processing continued by searching for potentially quiet areas, which were then examined by field surveys. The main tools used were human ears and a noise meter to test the noise level.

A classification of four categories was formed to describe different kinds of quiet areas;

1. Quiet central parks (noise level usually below 50 dB)
2. Quiet recreational areas (noise level usually below 45dB)
3. Quiet residential areas (noise level usually below 45dB)
4. Quiet nature, agricultural and forestry areas (noise level usually below 35 dB)

The survey was carried out in collaboration with the Turku University of Applied Sciences and Master Planning Office of the City of Turku. The survey will be a part of the green master plan, which aims at creating opportunities to maintain and develop the green areas of Turku. It will also be a part of the next legally binding master plan, which is produced by the Master Planning Office.

Opinions of the citizens were examined

An important part of the survey was a questionnaire for the inhabitants of Turku, which was available in libraries and on the city of Turku website. The purpose was to collect citizens' suggestions for the quiet areas and to examine the importance of quietness for them.

Most of the mentioned areas were parks and other recreational areas. Over half of the respondents thought that there were not enough quiet areas in Turku. Over 80 per cent of the respondents ranked quiet areas as highly important for recreation. Many of the answers stated that recreation in tranquility promotes mental health and decreases stress.

Peaceful and quiet areas can still be found in Turku.

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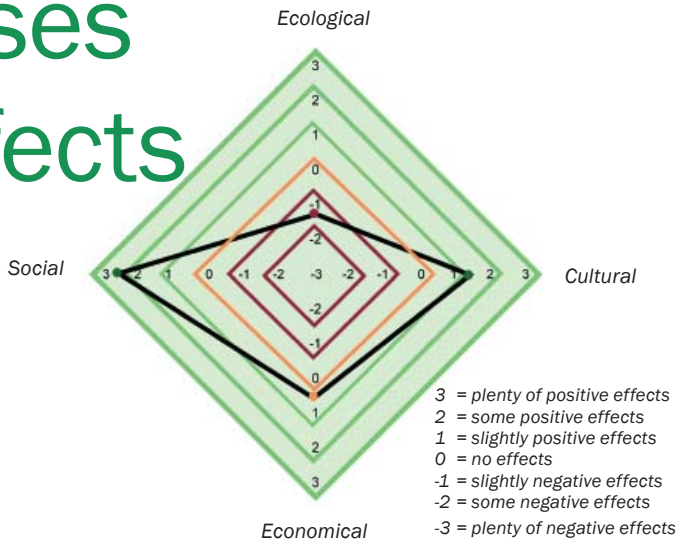
Text: Stella Aaltonen **Graphic:** Aino Myllyluoma

Instrument for assessing large municipal projects

Tampere assesses sustainability effects

In 2005, it became obvious in the city of Tampere that there was a need to develop an instrument for assessing the sustainability effects of the large scale municipal projects. An instrument assessing the ecological, social, cultural and economical effects of plans and projects was created.



Now in Tampere, the strategically important plans and projects are selected by the planning division of the city government for an assessment carried out by experts group. For each of the sustainability dimensions there is a separate group of experts composed of municipal officials.

The assessments are qualitative in nature and based on the expert group's common understanding of the probable effects of the planned project or undertaking. Each sustainability dimension has its own assessment criteria which are weighted according to their importance for the city of Tampere. The assessment scale is between +3 and -3. The assessment results according to each criteria are weighted and then a weighted average is calculated for each sustainability dimension. Together with short statements a graphic representation (example of the top right) is then made available for the decision making.

"So far we have tested the assessment instrument with master planning documents, in a regional cooperation project, as well as for assessing the targets of the coming city strategy. It has proven to be a good tool for decision makers to understand all the effects of their decisions and carrying out the responsibility consciously", says **Kirsi Hämäläinen**, the sustainability development coordinator.

In the future, the instrument will be used as a mean to assess the large scale projects before decision are made. The signing of the Aalborg Commitments in May 2007 was a strategically important element guiding the future work of the city of Tampere towards more integrated sustainability. Next challenge is the integration of the Aalborg Commitments into the everyday work of the city administration.

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Better practices for procurement

Public authorities, such as local governments, schools and hospitals, can make a difference through procurement! And the good news is that there are guidebooks that cover ways to become more environmental friendly and greener.

Procura+ Manual – provides practical advice on integrating sustainability into procurement, information on the costs and the model for systematical implementation. It offers the actual purchasing criteria for six high-priority product groups: construction, IT equipment, cleaning products, food, buses and electricity. The manual is a key tool for ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Campaign. www.procuraplus.org

RESPIRO – Responsible procurement includes social and ethical requirement in public and private sector purchasing. It encourages to exchange between the purchasers and suppliers and gives clear guidance for the construction and textile sectors for sustainable responsible procurement. The guide will be available in December 2007. A conference to accompany this project will be held in Lille, France on 3-4 December 2007. www.respiro-project.eu

DEEP Energy Effiecient Procurement Toolkit helps public authorities who wish to use purchasing power to improve their energy efficiency performance. 11 partners, amongst them Växjöhem AB, a community-owned housing company from the city of Växjö, have participated in the project. www.iclei.org/deep

BUY Fair – Guidance on public purchasing of Fair Trade products tells how public procurers across Europe can do it in practice and legally. www.buyfair.com

Source: ICLEI

Q's corner

A's provided by ***Stella Aaltonen****, Network Manager, UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat*

Q: What is the Nordic Baltic Aalborg Commitments Network (NBAC)?

A: It is a voluntary network open to all Nordic or Baltic local authorities that have signed the Aalborg commitments or are considering doing so. The Assiociation of Finnish local and Regional Authorities, together with UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat are hosting the network in 2007-2008.

Q: Why does our region need such a network?

A: The NBAC supports local authorities in carrying out the sustainable development process in all the sectors to exchange and benefit from the experiences of the other cities/municipalities in the network. Our region needs encouragement for the work on the Aalborg commitments and this network provides it in an easy way.

Q: What has NBAC done and achived so far?

A: In addition to the network meetings, NBAC has initiated interesting projects on topics such as the use of indicators in Aalborg Commitments, collection of good practices and the use of peer review method. This all has, hopefully, supported the rise in the number of Aalborg signatories among Nordic and Baltic local authorities – the figure now at 28.

Q: When is the next meeting?

A: The next network meeting takes place in Turku 16-17th October 2007. The themes for the network meeting are the social and economical aspects of the AC and the use of a peer review method. The agenda of the meeting will come out soon. For further information about the network, please visit: http://www.aalborgplus10.dk/default.aspx?m=2&i=379 or contact the UBC Environment and Sustainable Develpment secretariat.

In this Questions & Answers' Corner we bring interesting issues into discussion.

HIA – a young member in the

big family of impact assessments

Text: Heini Parkkunen
Photo: social services, city of Turku

We all know about environmental impact assessment and many are aware of the social impact assessment, but there exists many more. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is among the youngest tools in this big family of impact assessments.

HIA was born to follow the environmental impact assessment. There was a need to identify effects of the proposals indirectly related to health, such as transport plan. HIA should firstly predict the health effects of a proposal on a specific population group or groups, and secondly, inform decision-makers on how to improve their plans, policies and processes. One can say that a proposal affects health in two ways: directly, by e.g. reducing the taxation on alcohol, and indirectly, through many determinants of health. In both cases there are consequences for health, which the HIA seeks to predict.

HIA is most usually defined as "a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population" (Gothenburg consensus paper 1999).

Many factors have a positive or a negative influence on the health of cities and the individuals. These are known as the determinants of health. The main determinants are those at the individual level and moving through to those in the wider society. Lifestyle factors include diet, physical exercise, smoking, alcohol consumption, sexual behaviour and drug use. Social and community networks include family, friendship, cultural and religious groups. Some of the factors that affect health are completely outside of an individual's control, such as age and sex. However, local governments influence many of the determinants of health by decisions and exercising their various roles and responsibilities in transport, education, leisure and recreation.

WEB Read more about how HIA is carried out at www.ubc-action21.net.

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What can I do? What can your What can we do together?

We often talk about our energy consumption and the waste of resources. Instead of focusing on the problems, we would like to give you some examples of good practises. The cities of Kotka, Finland, and Örebro, Sweden, have been eminent and innovative when it comes to energy savings. At the 9th General Conference of UBC in Pärnu, we will spread a positive possibility focused approach.

Best regards, Sofie and Eva
UBC Energy Commission Secretariat

Kotka Energy concentrates on district heating and CHP by renewable energy sources

Text: Pekka Sihvonen **Photo:** Kotka Energy

The town of Kotka in Finland has made remarkable energy investments in the welfare of its population and companies. Kotka Energy Ltd (Kotkan Energia Oy) is 100 % owned by the town of Kotka. Kotka Energy concentrates on district heating and combined heat and power production (CHP) by renewable and recycled energy sources and natural gas. The turnover of the company was 29 Meur in 2006. The sale of district heat was 379 GWh, process steam 142 GWh and electricity 264 GWh in 2006.

In 2003, Kotka Energy built a biofuel power plant of 65 MW in Hovinsaari. The total investment cost of the plant was 25 MEUR. Because the plant is situated near the down-town of Kotka, special attention was paid to the purification of combustion gases. Combustion gases are decontaminated at first by an electric filter and after that by a flue gas scrubber. Ash, particles and dust are removed by eletric filter (resolution 99,82 % of particles). Gaseous impurities are removed when flue gas scrubber so that the total resolution for entire plant is 99,94 %.

The biofuel boiler plant burns wood fuels such as bark, saw dust, wood chips, wood residues, recycled wood and energy crops. In addition to these, milled peat and REF1 (recycled fuel) are also burned. This CHP-plant is producing the base load of the district heat in Kotka, process steam and electricity for Danisco xylitol factory and electricity for Norpool.

Remarkable results in reducing CO_2 -emissions

Kotka has made remarkable results combating climate change when promoting district heating and CHP. During the last 40 years, period district heating has turned into the most important heating system in Kotka with the market share of 55 %. The advantage of district heating and CHP, compared to the individual oil heating and to the separate condensing electricity production based on coal, is enormous. The annual reductions of CO_2-emissions are 180.000 tons.

Kotka Energy has also made important changes in fuel usage of Hovinsaari power plant. Originally the old power plant utilised coal. Ten years ago Kotka Energy invested in a combined cycle gas turbine using natural gas. In 2003, we invested in a biofuel boiler plant. These investements resulted in the annual reduction of 100.000 tons of CO_2-emissions.

In addition to the above mentioned measures, Kotka Energy has invested in wind power of two 1 MW units. The district heating boiler plant burns the biogas coming from Kotka's old dump. We are also utilizing energy crops. We have agreed with farmers to use about 500 ha field for fuel production. With these two measures, Kotka is reducing CO_2 -emissions annually by 30.000 tons.

Kotka Energy is also constructing a new modern municipal waste incineration plant in order to produce industrial steam, electricity and district heat in CHP-process. Construction started in 2006 and the plant will be in operation by the end of 2008. This plant will decrease CO_2 -emissions annually by 80.000 tons.

city do?

All together, the above mentioned CO_2-emission reductions in Kotka will amount to 390.000 tons a year, which is about 30 % of the total emissions from all energy and industrial production in the region.

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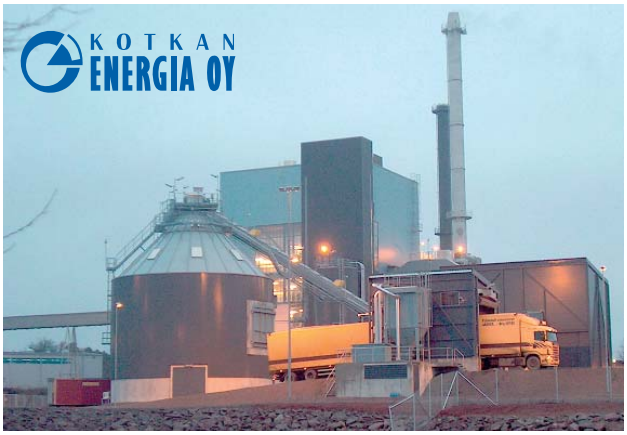

Substantial examples of municipal measures in Örebro

During the last years, the municipality of Örebro has experienced increasing financial constrains due to higher energy costs and diminishing resources for operation and maintenance of its existing building stock. This, together with a strong environmental commitment to reduce the CO_2 -emissions, was the main reason for the municipality to start an Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) project. In an EPC project, the contractor gives firm saving guarantees in relation to the reduction of energy use. By investing approximately 15 million euro the municipality will save 20 % energy. It will also reduce CO_2 -emissions by 36 percentage points and a cut 80 percent of its oil consumption. The project has a pay off time of 9 years and will be profitable during the first, if the profit and loss perspective is applied.

Another measure to reduce the CO_2 -emissions is a municipal document with environmental goals that was decided by the City Council in 2005. The document states that in order to reduce the CO_2 emissions, the municipal fleet of vehicles should consist of 80 % clean vehicles by 2010 following the definition for clean vehicles by The National Road Administration. That means that the number of clean vehicles must increase by 100 % in five years. By the end of 2007, we estimate the number of clean vehicles to 60 % of the municipal fleet of vehicles.

If there are no filling stations for gas, there will not be spread of gas powered vehicles. Also, if there is no gas vehicles there will be no filling stations for vehicle gas. In 2005, Swedish Biogas established the first filling station with biogas in Örebro. In 2006, the municipality signed an agreement with Swedish Biogas. The agreement says that Swedish Biogas will establish an additional filling station in Örebro and the municipality will guarantee sufficient usage by increasing the number of gas vehicles. With start in 2007, all new vehicles that are bought for municipal services are gas vehicles. This way, the municipality can create conditions for the citizens to change to gas vehicles as well.

To supply the filling stations with gas, the municipality expanded the production of biogas in the municipal water sewage plant. The municipality and Swedish Biogas are now planning to build a new Biogas Plant in Örebro. The plant is planned to be a crop gas plant with agricultural raw material. The estimated production volume is 3 million cubic meters per year. The political alignment is to work for a long-term profitable investment both in economic and environmental terms and to replace at least 4 % of all fossil fuel in the city of Örebro by the end of 2010.

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UBC Energy Commission Autumn 2007

September 26	*Board Meeting in Pärnu*
September 27-29	*General Conference in Pärnu*
November	*Competence Board Meeting in Kotka*
November	*UBC Energy Commission 1 year Anniversary*

UBC Energy Commission, Municipality of Oskarshamn,
Box 706, S-572 28 Oskarshamn, Sweden
Tel: +46 491 764 292, www.ubcenergy.org

Towards an integrated management system

A new project started in May 2007 called "Integrated Management System for Russian Cities – MATRUSCHKA". It aims at strengthening the capacity of local authorities and developing their municipality planning process. It contributes to the development of a solid foundation within local authorities upon which long term planning decisions can be made to support sustainable development. The project has targeted partners from Finland, Sweden and Russia and will either initiate or further elaborate their Integrated Management Systems around a chosen theme.

MATRUSCHKA
Stakeholder involvement

A special focus of the project is given to improved communication which is crucial to guarantee a smooth information flow in the municipalities between stakeholders. It will help cities/municipalities to address all dimensions of sustainable development by integrating participatory approach into planning processes.

Two extensive outcomes

The project will provide a Knowledge Management Database and Stakeholder Involvement Toolkit available not only for project partners but also other cities/municipalities for their further use.

Knowledge Management Database will offer a unique platform for benchmarking in the Baltic Sea Region and help local authorities in regards to sustainable development through gathering good practices and tools for their further use.

Stakeholder Involvement Toolkit will be a comprehensive guide for the local authorities on how to include different stakeholders in the decision making process. Through the toolkit, published in English and Russian, the cities/municipalities are able to become more stable in their work for sustainable development.

The project consortium consists of 10 partners in the BSR. MATRUSCHKA runs two years from May 2007 to April 2009. The project is part- financed by the European Union (European Regional Development fund) within the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme, TACIS and the partner cities.

Interested? Want to be part of the creation of the Knowledge Management Database or Stakeholder Involvement Toolkit?

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Environment Commission met in March 2007

UBC Commission on Environment had a meeting in March 2007 in Liepaja, Latvia. 30 participants concentrated on Response(s) of the Baltic Cities to climate change – from strategies to practical measures. The presentations and minutes of the meeting can be found at: http://www.ubc-action21.net/join_our_activities_liepaja.htm.

In the meeting, the name of the Environment and Agenda21 Secretariat was changed into Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat. This way the name of the secretariat describes better the work carried out. Also in the meeting, the Environment Commission initiated a work on "Cook book" assisting cities working against climate change. If you want to be part of this process, please, contact UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat.

The next commission meeting is during the UBC General Conference on 28th of September in Pärnu, Estonia.

Baltic Sea Region well represented in Seville

The 5th European conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns, Sevilla 2007, promoted further the implementation of the Aalborg Commitments. The conference met over 1600 delegates worldwide, interested in sustainability issues. The UBC Commission on Environment was one of the conference organisers.

The UBC provided information on the sustainable development work carried out by its member cities. The UBC EnvCom co-organised 5 workshops and was involved in sub-plenaries, tool demonstrations and mayors meetings.

A Baltic Sea Region (BSR) forum, hosted by the UBC President Per Boedker Andersen, was a meeting point for the BSR participants. The UBC stand in the exhibition area had a continuing stream of people interested in the network and its members, principles, working methods and projects.

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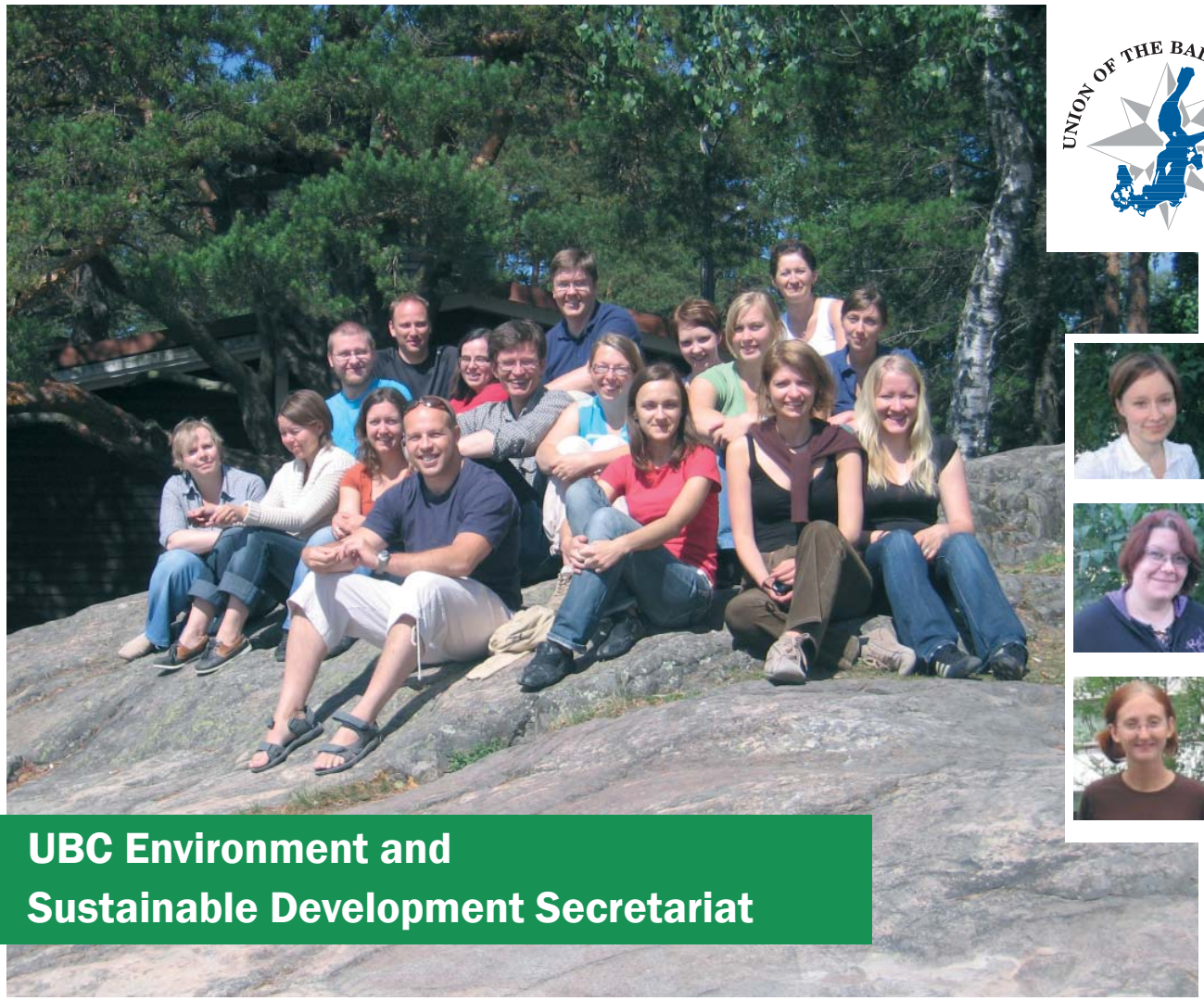
WEB Read on the NewHansa follow-up meeting held in Sopot, and about the Vitality Test for villages in Hinterland project at www.ubc-action21.net.



UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat

The UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat is the coordination and service unit for the implementation of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme. Its services for the cities include organizing meetings and policy work, preparing documents and publications, and initiating and running projects.

The current staff of Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat consists of 15 professionals and 3 trainees working fulltime for the UBC. The Secretariat is run by the Head of Secretariat Mr. Björn Grönholm.

At the moment we are working on preparing next projects that will support the valuable work UBC cities / municipalities carry out. If you are tackling with a problem / challenge - we are at your service to find solutions to it.

Back row (left) *Head of Secretariat Björn Grönholm, project officer Sakari Saarinen (BUSTRIP) and project officer Agnieszka Ilola (MATRUSCHKA),* **second row (left)** *web expert Kaj-Michael Lang, network manager and project co-ordinator Stella Aaltonen (MATRUSCHKA) and researcher Niina Salonen (MUE-25),* **third row (left)** *publications officer Sari Bowie, communication officer Virpi Kaukavuori, project co-ordiator Annika Claesson (MUE-25), project co-ordinator Kyösti Lempa (SUSTAINMENT), project co-ordinator Anna Granberg (BUSTRIP), trainee Esther Kreutz and project officer Heidi Tuhkanen (SUSTAINMENT),* **front row (left)** *financial manager Jussi Välimäki, trainee Anna Szary, Katarzyna Bogucka (has left the office) and project officer Eija Eloranta (SUSTAINMENT).* **Small photos right top** *Project officer Linda Talve (MUE-25) and publication trainee Sari Sariola. Project officer Sanna Erkko (SUSTAINMENT) is on maternity leave.*

More information about the projects and staff members at www.ubc-action21.net.

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www.ubc-action21.net

Practical tools and methods for cities

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

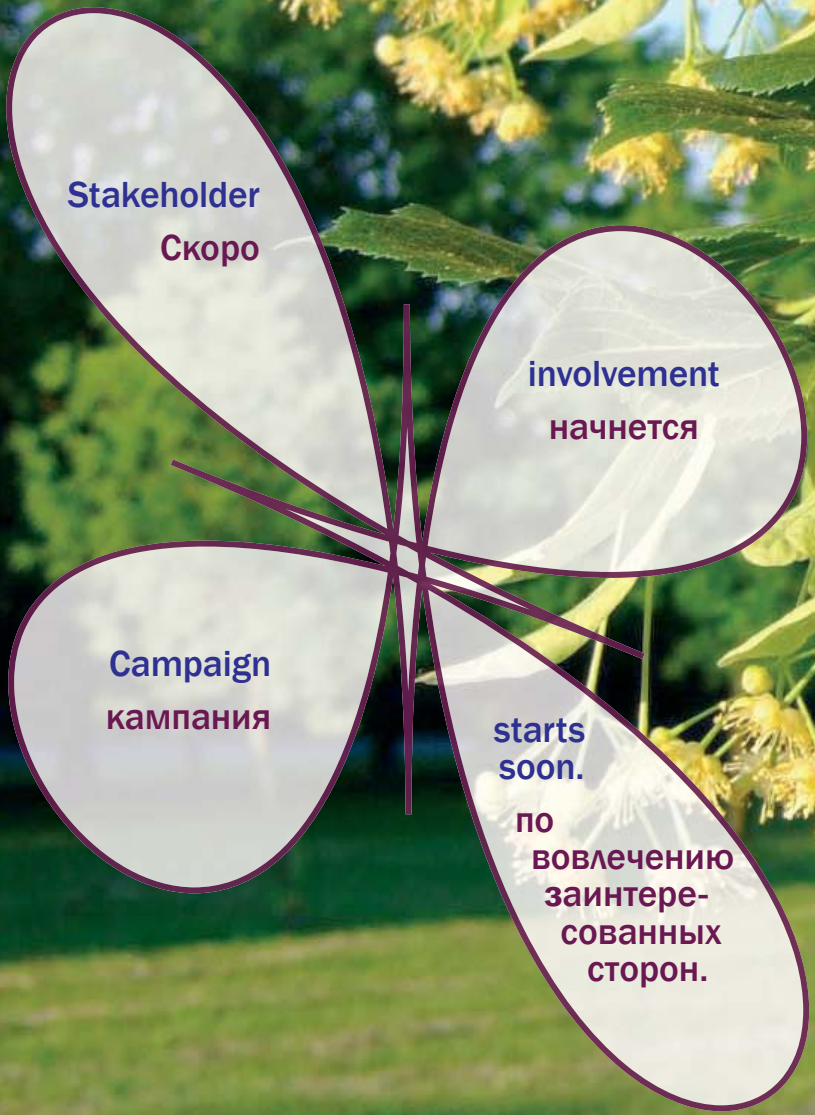
Coming out soon from the UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat

URBANworks November 2007 (9 languages)

Moving Sustainably November 2007 (8 languages)

Integrated Management System for cities February 2008 (8 languages)

For receiving the tools register to our tool online at: **www2.ubc-action21.net**



Do you want to develop BSR to the next level - participate in the next UBC projects. For further info contact us at environment@ubc.net .