



Baltic Cities

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# ENVIRONMENTAL

*bulletin* No 1, 2009



**ACTIVE  
STAKEHOLDER  
INVOLVEMENT  
IN UBC CITIES**

**BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE IN  
BALTIC CITIES 2009 AWARD IS OUT**

## Baltic Sea Region shares it's co-operation experience

It is our great privilege to live here, in the Baltic Sea Region. However, we are living in a very unique and fragile ecosystem and this privilege entails us to manage here in a responsible and sustainable manner.

**The initiative to elaborate a European Union Strategy** for the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) is an outstanding challenge for all of us. The Baltic Sea Region is rich in long-term and fruitful co-operation traditions between cities; different networks of local authorities, and well-functioning exchange of best practices are also of considerable value we can be proud of. As one aim of the BSR Strategy is to improve the already existing co-operation, our achievements can contribute directly towards the European Union's overall development and all other Member States will benefit from this new kind of experience.

Development of the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy requires a transparent spirit of co-operation, openness and smoothly working schemes for involvement of all interested parties. It is important to strengthen the sense of ownership towards our common regional goals in all participating Governments as well as other stakeholders. When initiating the Strategy, well-functioning local level networks of the region were actively involved in team-work with their ideas and proposals. I would like to stress that collaboration with local authorities and other interested parties already in the compilation process is a key for implementation of the Strategy - only a multi-stakeholder and open approach in all phases of elaboration is the bases for real success in the future actions.

**Sustainable development** is the main driving force for the region and therefore I would emphasize the cross-sectoral approach of the Strategy. Efficient use of innovative environmental technologies, sustainable use of natural resources as well as sustainable lifestyle and changes in our

daily behavior towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns could also be effectively supported through the implementation of the Strategy.

**Estonia's own experience proves** that economic growth and environmentally sustainable path of development can be achieved if relevant economic and fiscal measures are applied both at national as well as local levels. I do believe that well co-ordinated actions and goal-oriented implementation of the widely agreed targets are supporting national efforts and sending a positive signal to the regional level, and at the same time giving added value to the European Union sustainable development process.



*Jaanus Tamkivi*

Minister for Environment of Estonia

### UBC member cities (as of April 2009)

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Photo: city of Jekabpils

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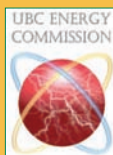
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Photo: Laima Grigulyte

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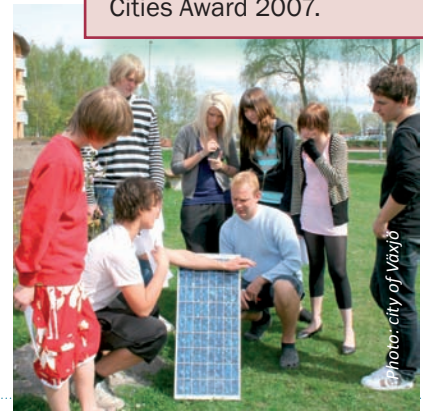


Photo: city of Växjö



## Editorial information

**Baltic Cities Environmental bulletin 1/2009** is published by the Union of the Baltic Cities Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat. **Chief-Editor:** Stella Aaltonen (firstname.surname@ubc.net) **Advisory board:** Kari Porra - Lahti, Tõnu Tuppi - Tallinn, Zane Silima - Tukums, Maciej Lorek - Gdansk, Thorsten Geissler - Lübeck, Merete Dissing Pedersen - Kolding **Address:** Union of the Baltic Cities Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat, Vanha Suurtori 7, FIN-20500 Turku, FINLAND, Tel: +358 2 262 3171, Fax: +358 2 262 3425, E-mail: environment@ubc.net **More information:** www.ubc-environment.net ISSN 1455-0903 **Cover photo:** City of Gdansk, Department of Environment **Printing house:** Painoprisma, in April 2009 on 100 % recycled paper.



# Lot of talk but few actions

## stakeholder involvement in local authorities work

Text & photos: **Stella Aaltonen**

Local authorities and politicians are often afraid of the consequences of active involvement to their role and mandates. They do not know how to manage the process and state that there is anyway a lack of resources to carry it out. A true involvement would require that in many cases the organizational culture of the municipality/city would need to change before any involvement could start. But what if the focus would be put on doing things with the stakeholder not just for them. What would happen?

During the “Integrated Management System for Russian Cities – MATRUSCHKA” – project, it became clear that more capacity building and development of organizational cultures in the project partners cities are needed in order to address challenges brought by the stakeholder involvement. The project consortium was formed of active and forward thinking cities that were

willing to develop their approaches further – for the benefit of the stakeholders. Each of the partners chose a theme to be addressed in the project and carried out baseline review analyses and target setting on it with increased stakeholder involvement. The MATRUSHKA project resulted in two extensive outcomes – “Engage your stakeholders” – toolkit and a Good Practice Database for local authorities. Both of them assist local authorities from moving from talk to action.

### Stakeholder Involvement process

Stakeholder Involvement can improve city management if all parts of the process are thought through. For this an “Engage your stakeholders – stakeholder involvement toolkit for local authorities” was published. The toolkit describes a full process of stakeholder involvement. This includes understanding the key

*- What is in it from our city? was the most wanted information after the Good Practice Database was launched for everyone to use. Participants started to discuss the future use of the database with lots of enthusiasm. Visit: [www.ubcwheel.eu](http://www.ubcwheel.eu).*



Stakeholder involvement in the local authorities is very often a one-off event, that is on the shoulders of few officers. Rarely the involvement is based on through analyzes or plans that would benefit the entire organization. Stakeholder Involvement often uses traditional ways of communication and involvement, not going beyond the legally required involvement of stakeholders.

terms and analyzing stakeholders as part of planning of the stakeholder involvement, implementing the most suitable method for the topic in question and reaching an outcome. The focus is on reinforcing the use of involvement methods as part of the decision-making in the cities and challenging the local authorities to go beyond the legally required involvement of stakeholders.

“Engage your stakeholders” - toolkit has used a tree symbolism for the local authorities. Stakeholder involvement is a core element for the local authorities work; it runs in the veins of the tree and can bring flourishing, growth and “fruits” for the citizens (e.g. practical actions and plans) to enjoy. The toolkit introduces a set of tested stakeholder involvement methods for the use of local authorities. These methods can be used separately or in combination with other methods. The examples in the toolkit provide further inspiration for the reader on how to use the methods.

### Good Practice Database

A Good Practice Database in the Baltic Sea Region was launched on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2009 at the Final Conference of the MATRUSCHKA –project in connection with the HELCOM International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Days”. Currently, the database includes 310 good practices from over hundred cities both in English and Russian. This gives a very good impression of how active and engaged cities are in the Baltic Sea region!

The database was developed to answer to the need of local authorities to find practical examples complemented with suitable tools. The practices cover sustainable development in cities including all topics from transport to health and from social aspects to economic instruments, all dimensions of the Aalborg Commitments.

In the database, you find examples, experiences and inspiration of what other cities and municipalities have done. These examples tell how the cities succeeded, sometimes with small effort, but great creativity, to speed up the sustainable development in their area, e.g by involving the citizens in the decision-making or creating huge campaigns about how to travel to school safely and environmental friendly.

More about “Integrated Management System for Russian Cities – MATRUSCHKA” – project in Newsletter 2/2009, or [www.matruschka-project.net](http://www.matruschka-project.net)

## Commission on Environment offers possibilities

Integrated stakeholder involvement is a challenge for the cities with the decreased resources available. UBC Commission on Environment (EnvCom) enables the member cities to face up the challenge of moving from talk to action. It is up to the member cities to use the opportunities offered. Through the launched of the Good Practice Database and the new EnvCom website ([www.ubc-environment.net](http://www.ubc-environment.net)), the EnvCom is better equipped to answer to the needs of its members. Further motivation offers the Best Environmental Practice in the Baltic Cities Award 2009 that is now available for member cities to apply.

The UBC EnvCom had a meeting in St Petersburg in March 2009 with over 60 participants. The meeting was organized for the first time with simultaneous interpretation into Russian and this enabled a good participation of several Russian cities. The meeting focused on Stakeholder Involvement and in concretizing the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 - 2015. In the meeting, good examples of stakeholder involvement from cities of Malmö and Halmstad were introduced. These examples stressed the added value that stakeholder involvement brings to local authorities.

The discussion on the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 – 2015 focused on how to formulate ambitious goals and a clear direction for UBC cities in combating challenges like climate change, poor situation of the Baltic Sea and the current financial crises. The participants expressed that UBC action plan offers a good basis for the development of strategic actions in the Baltic Sea Region and therefore it should be challenging enough for UBC. The UBC Sustainability Action Programme is now commented and it will be approved in the X UBC General Conference in September 2009 in Kristiansand, Norway.

The EnvCom meeting was highly evaluated and we want to express gratitude towards the city of St Petersburg for hosting it. The next meeting of the EnvCom will take place in connection to the General Conference of UBC in Kristiansand Norway. More information at [www.ubc-environment.net](http://www.ubc-environment.net)

The new Sustainability Action Programme stresses the multi-stakeholder involvement in the different processes towards sustainability. It focuses on crosscutting issues of awareness, management and leadership, resources and quality of life. These will be addressed in the next actions carried out by the UBC Commission on Environment together with other commissions. The new Sustainability Action Programme continues the successful work of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 that is now being evaluated through Survey round to member cities. It is hoped that the member cities will actively give input for the evaluation as it is vital for the development of our next support measures.



# How 111 families learnt to live more eco-friendly

## Echo Action in Karlstad

Text: **Karin Svensson** Photos: **city of Karlstad**

How can an ordinary family in a fairly large city like Karlstad start to live a bit more environmentally friendly? Well, by joining a project like Echo Action for example!

In average the 100 participating families reduced their carbon dioxide emissions with 1,6 tonne only by changing some of their old habits. During the twelve months of the project the families took over 1 000 actions in order to have a greener lifestyle.

The Echo Action - project in Karlstad has been part of an EU project called "Echo Action, Energy Conscious Households in Action" (EA). EA has involved 2 000 families throughout Europe. During 2007-2008 nine cities in seven countries have encouraged their residents to live a greener lifestyle. The aim for the participating families has been to reduce their energy consumption and to travel more environmentally friendly. EA has been a pilot project and thus the results can be used in other European countries. - We can all do our share to improve the environment, said **Åke Petterson**, councillor in Karlstad and himself participant in the project, on the kick-off meeting.

### High level of activity in the families

The project has been highly successful, and in many ways succeeded in filling the families with enthusiasm and helping them to make eco-friendly actions as part of their daily lives. With a

combination of information and the right tools, mainly produced by the project, the families were helped to smoothly implement actions and thus take more responsibility towards the environment.

The families have carried out more than 1 000 different measures in order to change their habits. Most families saved electricity and water, drove their cars more economically and cycled to work. Others tested sorting of waste at source and eating ecologically produced food. In average, the families reduced their carbon dioxide emission with 1,6 ton per family per year by changing their habits.

### A positive mantra

One important mantra for the families in the project has been "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something". This also reflects the fact that the families participated in the project fully on their own terms. The aim from the project perspective was that the families would find it fun and stimulating to have a greener lifestyle.

- "We didn't want the families to feel that their participation in the project was to be difficult or boring. It hasn't been a competition between the families," says **Po Haster**, project leader of EA in Karlstad.

### Climate star to Echo Action

The municipality of Karlstad received the European environmental award Climate Star 2007 for its successful work on transport and energy issues and for the EA project. Karlstad won the award ahead of 50 other European cities.

- "We have worked on citizen awareness and strategic issues in the environmental field for a long time and this has brought great results", says **Mikael Schultz**, environment director in the municipality of Karlstad. "From an international perspective, we have achieved a lot".

On the right, Mikael Schultz, environment director of Karlstad municipality, and Åke Petterson, councillor in Karlstad, receive the Climate Star 2007.



The Strandberg family learned how to live a greener lifestyle in the Echo Action project.

**More information about EA:**  
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Look after your city so that its beauty never dies

# Słupsk among the ecology leaders in Poland

Text: **Jerzy Jakym** Photo: **Michał Słupczewski**



For many years, a programme for environmental protection has been carried out successfully by the City Council's Department for Municipal Services, Housing and Environment in Słupsk. Department's activities are supported by numerous companies working on protection of the environment, educational facilities and pro-ecology organisations.

**T**he municipal Public Utilities Company carries out a comprehensive programme of environmental protection. As part of the programme the municipal landfill site in Bierkowo, which is exemplary on a national scale, has been extended and modernised. A state-of-the art sorting plant for mixed waste (to be separated from the rest and prepared for further use or processing) has been erected there.

The city of Słupsk can boast with one of the most modern wastewater treatment plants in Poland, too. The plant's technological expansion is currently under the way. It corresponds with the huge EU-funded ecological investment project, having been carried out since 2005, called "Water and wastewater management programme in the Słupsk region". It is going to improve the condition of the natural environment and cleanness of water and soil and it helps to adjust water and wastewater management of the city of Słupsk, District of Słupsk and District of Kobylnica to meet Polish and EU standards.

Another investment that is significant to the natural environment is a ring road – currently under construction – which should improve the traffic system in the city and reduce the amount of exhaust fumes, noise and vibrations. Much is also being done in Słupsk to use renewable sources of energy. The best example might be the activity of the company "Energia Elektrownie Słupsk" that runs 16 water-power plants in the region, which are considered the eldest such plants still in operational in Europe.

## Active young generation

Municipal activities to protect the environment find strong support in the young generation of Słupsk citizens, to whom ecology is often something they feel passionate about and invest their leisure time in. Pupils and students take part in ecological school contests and actions both regional and national. Ecological and environmental education quite often goes beyond the school curriculum and is continued in clubs, groups and organisations, where nature and ecology make a center point. Education pro-

grammes in the field of environmental protection are strongly supported by local government's decisions and companies offering municipal services. It means in practice that special centres for ecological education are created, ecological contests, fairs and events are organised and seminars, lectures and trainings regarding protection of the environment are held.

Of the many initiatives aimed at developing pro-ecological attitudes and conducts in young people the following are worth mentioning: the artistic contest held annually for the last 10 years on the World's Earth Day, the competition called "Cleaning the World", the action "Clean up after your dog", the campaign under the slogan "Sorting waste is as natural as breathing", which propagates selective gathering of waste, actions "Do not burn your waste" and "We say NO to illegal landfills!" or the contest called "Look after your city so that its beauty never dies".

## Several environmental awards in Słupsk

This huge amount of work for protecting the environment in Słupsk and its region has been awarded with many ecological prizes and distinctions, including titles of "The environment-friendly district", "The Patron of Polish Ecology" and "The leader of Polish Ecology". In 2008, the city was also awarded in the international competition called "Green Apple Awards" for modernizing the municipal wastewater plant, renovating the system of water reservoirs, constructing a fish pass for sea trout on the Slupia River, closing down the inefficient boiler houses, finding use for biogas and expanding the municipal landfill site.

The commitment of Słupsk ecologists improves life standards of its citizens and creates advantageous conditions for companies so that they can run their business according to the rules of respecting nature.

### More information:

Przemysław Namysłowski or Anna Antonowicz, City Promotion and European Integration Office, City Hall in Słupsk  
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Regular mayor's meetings in the city districts, Local Agenda 21 Forums and different events are just some of the forms the city of Gdańsk offers for its citizens to participate in. All these forms have increased the awareness of citizens towards decision-making and ecological education.

## Gdansk offers different ways for citizens to be involved in municipal issues

Text: **Dagmara Nagórka - Kmiecik & Monika Piotrowska - Szypryt** Photos: **Department for Environment**

**M**ayor's meetings are organized once a month in different city districts. During those meetings citizens have the opportunity to discuss their problems with local authority representatives. They are also informed about city policy and about planned activities to be taken in their districts.

Regular meetings of Local Agenda 21 Forum have been organized since 1998. With involvement of representatives of politicians, business sector, NGOs, industry and citizens, the policy of the city is evaluated and the main priorities are defined or pointed out.

### Ecological bags for citizens

Ecological event called "Green Weekend" (organized since 2002) is an event aiming to involve the inhabitants in topics related to environmental issues and to increase their environmental awareness. The event is addressed to everyone from children, adults, pensioners to locals and tourists. During one appointed weekend in the year, people are invited to come to a special place, like at the seaside, where they can find a lot of interesting and valuable information. Having a rest, during discussions and looking at the presented materials in an easy way they learn about important things. Every year, the event concentrates on a certain topic. In 2008, it was related to waste, so most of the organizations and institutions invited to take part in the event, presented their work and

knowledge in relation to waste issues. We – as the local authority representatives decided to focus on explaining people the importance of using reusable ecological bags instead of the plastic ones. At our exposition place, the citizens were given ecological bags, which we hope are still in use :). Almost 1 000 bags were distributed during that event.

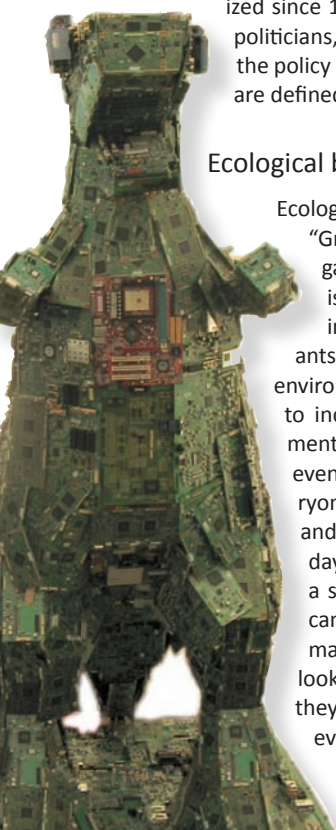
There were also very interesting demonstrations. For example, the company collecting electrical and electronic waste exposed "the dragon", which was made out of microchips taken out from the collected equipment. Representatives of Ecological Education and Information Centre presented in practice how to use waste paper to make handmade paper.

In our city, year by year, the concern on ecological and environmental issues increases. The number of participants in the events presented above and also in other forms of communication is growing. Considering this, as well as observing other activities undertaken by our inhabitants, we assume that our work gives results, involves different stake-

holders, and opens new fields of co-operation. But we are also aware that there is still much work to be done.

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# Jekabpils participates in energy efficiency project MODEL

Text: **Līga Klavina** Photo: **city of Jekabpils**

The project particularly aims at developing actions to encourage citizens, local decision makers and stakeholders in taking their own initiatives, thus preparing the ground for sustainable energy communities among other things. This is done through promoting the appointment of municipal energy managers, implementing multi-annual local action plans and energy information systems to improve energy performance of municipal properties and by taking communication initiatives – incl. the Display® Campaign, Municipal Intelligent Energy Days, etc. – towards civil society.

One of the main direct results of the MODEL project is to implement activities such as Municipal Energy Programmes and annual Action Plans. At least 34 pilot municipalities (practice) aim at saving minimum of 10% of the energy consumed in municipal properties, who will act as models and thus enhance other local authorities, to take dissemination actions.

Jekabpils city municipality pays great attention to the issues of energy saving and efficiency especially in the upcoming period of limited resources. Promotion of energy saving among the citizens becomes the priority of networking activities between all the partners involved, stimulating exchange of experience and supporting local initiatives.



Jekabpils city municipality together with five other cities from Latvia participates in energy efficiency project MODEL from 2007 till 2010. The leading partner from Latvia is Social Economy Fund. The aim is to help local authorities becoming models for citizens. The project also aims to improve the practical capacities of local authorities in 8 new member states & candidate countries to better deal with intelligent energy issues at both individual (municipalities) and collective (national networks or embryos of networks) levels.

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## Finnish Companies for the Cleaner Baltic Sea



CLEAN BALTIC SEA JOHN NURMINEN FOUNDATION

Text: **Miina Mäki** Photo: **John Nurminen Foundation**

The poor state of the Baltic Sea has worried Finnish people, decision-makers as well as companies for some time. In the recent years, some big Finnish companies have taken action to stop the drastic development of the Baltic Sea environment by supporting the Clean Baltic Project of the private John Nurminen Foundation of Finland.

The Project combats eutrophication of the Baltic Sea with the objective to reduce phosphorus discharges entering the sea in municipal wastewaters. Enhanced phosphorus removal can be achieved with generally low cost investments at the treatment plants.

During the spring 2009, the Clean Baltic Sea will have the largest pro bono based campaign seen in Finland. The campaign design, as well as all visibility in media, has been donated for the project.

Learn more about the project:  
[www.cleanbalticsea.fi](http://www.cleanbalticsea.fi)



# Companies focus on sustainability in Sundsvall

Text & photo: **Anna Hassani Nordqvist**

To offer help for companies to identify their activities and propose measures that can reduce energy consumption and stimulate climate-smart measures is the aim of a new project in Sundsvall. The initial aim is to create a Sustainability Network so that business representatives have a meeting place where the environmental work can be evaluated and developed.



**S**undsvall municipality has started a three year project where the company's support element is the most comprehensive. The work in the project has started with contacting 150 small enterprises. The goal is that at least 50 of them will decide to be part of the project. This work will be carried out in 2009.

The smaller companies usually have neither the time nor the money to work with environmental issues - they may not even have the knowledge. The project will supply companies with advice and support to improve their operations and to become more environmentally focused. Project management has selected the most environmentally sensitive companies: mechanical workshops, housepainters, transporters, clean-up firms, and tire companies.

The project idea is to do practical things together such as having breakfast meetings, seminars and workshops. Here, companies can meet and share their experiences and thus become better environmental performers. Workshops on energy and climate-efficient buildings and sustainable purchasing also turn to politicians and officials in the public sector so that experiences can be exchanged between different "worlds".

The companies can ask for an environmental coach for free advice and support as well as receive financial assistance to get started.

The project has four more tools:

*Map and Survey:* "What is not described in figures does not exist", is often seen as a truth. The business-driven environment is often described in general terms and has the lack of hard figures in terms of both money and environment. It provides a flawed decision-making. The aim is to produce figures that simply describe the business-driven environment of work spread over time.

*Sustainable purchasing:* The aim is to strengthen and develop regional work with environmental requirements in procurement and to make it known by all who may be affected. Two important issues should be addressed: What can be demanded? How can it be evaluated?

*Viable solutions and Awards:* Being first or best rewarded has a goodwill value. The aim is to strengthen and encourage those that go before and think new and thus get a virtuous cycle so that firms are encouraged to invest in sustainability.

*Sustainable building:* Construction firms can become climate smarter by sharing ideas and exchanging experiences among themselves. The aim is to create meeting places for this sector.

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## Lahti: The climate is changing – so should you

Text: **Ulla Kananen** Drawing: **Tuula Tuisku Honkanen**

Bicycle, recycle, reduce waste and save water. Years we have been talking about the ways of being climate friendly. Lahti region environmental service has published a guide for its citizens where all these climate acts are combined in one document.

**A**s the municipalities of Hollola, Lahti and Nastola are taking actions on the climate issues, they have called their citizens to share the responsibility for combating climate change at the local level. The *Climate is Changing - so should you, a guide for citizens* is part of the regional climate programme process which aims to create a common will to reduce greenhouse gas emissions amongst different administrative sectors. At the same time, the co-operation between the municipalities and their citizens will develop.

The guide encourages people to try familiar means like driving less, eating organic and mending things. But there are surely new

gimmicks for lots of citizens. Most of the suggestion will improve not only the environment, but also your health and economy. In the guide peoples own habits can be compared to the indicators that are used to evaluate the state of the local climate. The guide also introduces the carbon footprint of the city of Lahti for the first time.

The guide was released on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2009 in the local Earth Hour event. The city of Lahti wanted to take part on the international event to make true to the old saying "Think globally, act locally!" In the event major buildings; Lahti city hall, the church, radio masts and the Sibelius concert hall, switched their lights off and citizens could enjoy circus and snow lanterns in the candle light.

The guide is part of the Kelaa! (Think!) project which is funded by European regional fund during 2008-2011.

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Text: **Marija Stanikuniene**  
Photos: **Laima Griauslyte**

## Collective action as a key to successful involvement in Kaunas

Each year an increasing number of people take an interest in environmental issues and join environmental actions organized by Kaunas City Municipality. One of the most popular ones was a clean up campaign “Clean Up the World” that was organized in Kaunas in October 2008.

Volunteers were invited to focus on Lampėdžiai forest park and the lake – both are popular recreational areas for citizens and city visitors. This clean up campaign was exceptional because scuba divers cleaned the bottom of the lake for the first time removing plastic bottles, tires, cans and other debris. A great diversity of stakeholders was actively involved in this campaign: Lampėdžiai community center, public diving enterprise “Nardyk”, joint – stock waste company “Kauno švara”, school pupils and local residents. At the end of the clean up activities everyone were invited for a dinner hosted by Lampėdžiai community center. It was a great opportunity to sit down and discuss about the main environmental issues and problems which the Community is concerned about.

Kaunas Environmental Protection Division is thinking of ways to involve the community and other stakeholder groups in decision-making and environmental initiatives. This can be achieved through appropriate engagement to increase participation in decisions that affect citizens and their local community. No doubt that involving community members can lead to the initiation of positive environmental changes.

This successful campaign has become a good inspiring example for other communities in the city. Environmental Protection Division has received suggestions to organize similar clean up actions in other parts of the city of Kaunas. Such practices encourage dialogue between the municipality and communities, as well as other interest groups. This will increase the likelihood of achieving real and lasting changes in the city environment.

However, preventive involvement of interest groups in city development processes plays a high role. It is regulated under laws of Territory planning and Environmental impact assessment. Many people gather at public meetings where new documents of territory planning are presented. This way they can share suggestions, ideas, express their opinion and influence decision making. As practice shows, involving stakeholders in early stages of the planning process ensures much more positive outcomes than eliminating negative results.

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## Sail along the river in Tartu on a barge!

The idea of building a barge in 2004 was attractive and the time for implementing it most suitable. The people of the River Emajõgi Barge Society, the NGO founded for the implementation of the idea, were young and full of enthusiasm. They had never built a ship before. Nevertheless, it was the city of Tartu who had trust in the society and therefore decided to support the idea and allocated 51,300 EUR for the project so about two thirds of the total required self-financing sum was covered.

The construction process was open for everyone to watch and raised a lot of excitement all over Estonia. The media kept a close eye on the progress. Several hundred volunteers helped with their advice and contribution. However, the construction work, that had started in such good spirits also suffered from few setbacks. We regret to say it but the sailing barge was not, unfortunately, completed by the International Hanseatic Days 2005 in Tartu, but was launched a year later on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006 to the River Emajõgi and named the „Jõmmu“ under the patronage of the late famous Estonian writer Jaan Kross. Almost 3,000 people watched the festive occasion from the river banks, the event was broadcast by all the local TV channels.

In the spring of 2009, the „Jõmmu“ starts its fourth navigation season. The sailing barge, or lodi in Estonian, has won the hearts of many citizens and guests of Tartu. In 2006 the lodi was given the Deed of the Year award by the people of Tartu. The „Jõmmu“ also participates in numerous culture projects and makes frequent sailing trips to Lakes Peipsi and Võrtsjärv. The River Emajõgi Barge Society was declared the Innovator of Tourism 2008, which is also a tribute to the City of Tartu who had the courage to support the society's endeavours. In just a few years the sailing barge has become a part of the Tartu brand which draws attention not only to the gateway of the city of Tartu on the River Emajõgi but also to Estonia as the country of historic waterways and pristine nature.

Cooperation between the Barge Society and the City of Tartu has

lasted for five years. The Small Barge Hall, where all the sailing trips presently start is situated on the city's territory and the City of Tartu has been an important partner in all the bigger projects of the Barge Society. At the moment the City Government is supporting the construction of another historic vessel, a 12 meter Viking ship and is a partner in fulfilling another common dream – the Great Barge Hall: a historical ship center and museum. The center will be the organizer of regular culture events and festivals to meet the wide scope of interests of our guests.

Welcome to Tartu! Come and sail with us on board of our barge!

#### More information:

Liisa-Lota Kaivo, the Emajõgi River Barge Society  
[www.lodi.ee](http://www.lodi.ee)

In the spring of 2004, a group of enthusiasts in Tartu was willing to revive a historic sailing ship, the Emajõgi-Peipsi barge and with this effort bring back a small amount of the glory of the past to the River Emajõgi. The Estonian sailing barges are wooden trade vessels round of shape with huge square sails. They were used for the transport of cargo around Tartu and Pskov for over half a millenium. The vessels which began to be used in the early Hanseatic period were in their prime in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

# Gdynia decreases noise level with the help of Noise Map

Text: **Bartosz Frankowski** Photo: **city of Gdynia**

On basis of the map and the cases where permissible noise levels in the environment are exceeded, the "Programme of Environmental Protection against Noise for the City of Gdynia" was created and adopted by the Gdynia City Council in October 2008. Before the adoption of the programme, social consultations were organized, during which the inhabitants could present their remarks, suggestions and doubts.

The permissible noise levels are exceeded due to road and railway traffic as well as industrial activity. The Programme includes variant methods for limiting the nuisance of noise and identifies optimal solutions. Due to the fact that noise nuisance is caused by sources controlled by different entities, the Programme assigns the task of realizing its particular elements to different bodies such as Mayor of Gdynia, General Directorate of National Roads and Motorways, Polish State Railways, Fast Commuter Rail and police.

The total cost of the programme realisation in the years 2009-2015 is estimated at 88 million zlotys. The money will be spent, among other things, on building acoustic screens, replacement of window frames or modernization of railway tracks.

The adopted implementation schedule of particular programme elements allows for taking actions aimed at the improvement of the acoustic environment of Gdynia inhabitants in the time and scope indicated.

The noise map of Gdynia together with "The Programme of Environmental Protection against Noise" is available at <http://server.miasto.gdynia.pl/mapaakus>

EU member countries have been obliged to produce strategic noise maps (in accordance with the directive 2002/49/EC) as well as Programmes of Environmental Protection against Noise based on them.

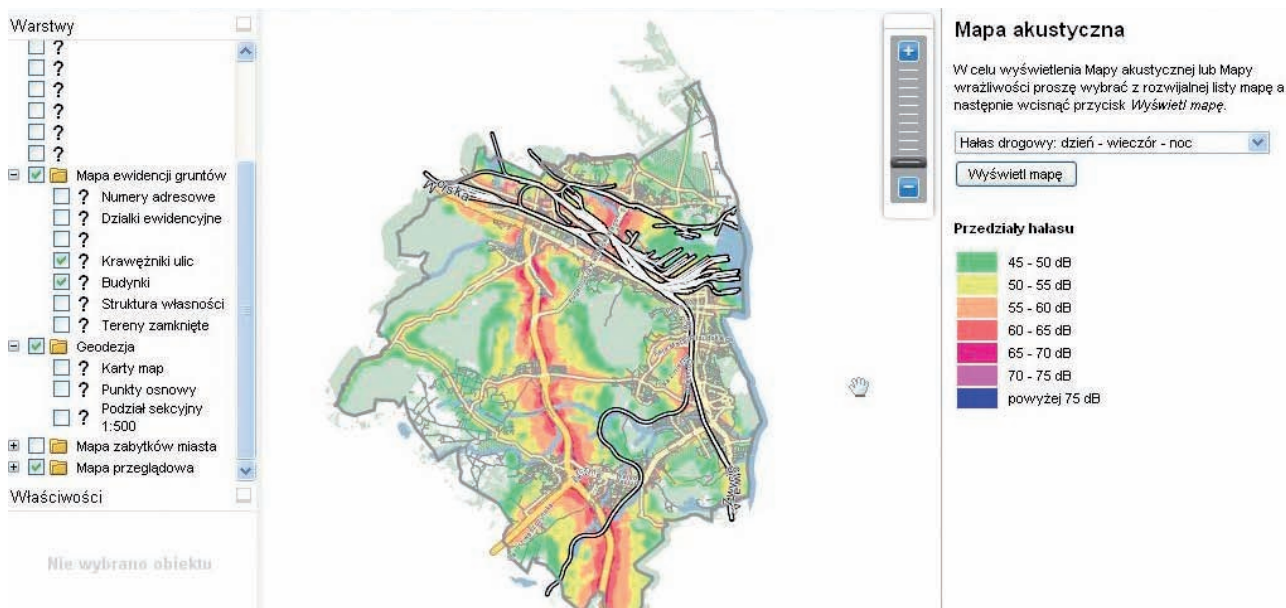
The Noise Map of city of Gdynia presents the current noise situation, identifies the main noise sources and areas exposed to noise as well the number of people exposed to excessive noise levels. Different maps show the distribution of long-term indicator  $L_{den}$  (describing the period of day, evening and night) as well as  $L_n$  indicator (describing the period of night) for road, railway and industrial noise. In addition, the map includes the so called vulnerability map, where different areas of the city are marked along with permissible noise levels ascribed to them.

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# Environmental issues raise interest in Kaliningrad

Text: **Boris Komovnikov** Photo: **Stella Aaltonen**

Currently measures in the sphere of environmental protection are considered to be among the priorities of the local authorities activities in Kaliningrad. The concrete work for the city is done by the Municipal Institution Environmental Centre "ECAT-Kaliningrad".

**E**cologists consider that elimination of oil spills in water area of Kaliningrad port and Kaliningrad bay, zoo reconstruction and optimization of traffic flows in the city are the most effective projects among the 26 ones implemented by the Environmental Centre ECAT- Kaliningrad. In total, these activities have cost 5 million dollars.

ECAT- Kaliningrad is struggling for the reduction of emission from the city landfill of solid household waste. 1.5 million Euro is planned to be spend for the reconstruction of the natural landscape. ECAT-Kaliningrad has developed a system "Informational System for Waste Management in Kaliningrad". This system ensures the complex monitoring of generation, transportation, disposal and treatment of waste in the regional centre. The system will also help to analyze the calculation of appropriate charges and payments for environmental negative impact.



By carrying out educational activities ECAT-Kaliningrad has significantly contributed to the increase of nature users' awareness, and profitability of the city budget. The Centre helps nature users in organizing and carrying out of the environmental issues by working under environmental projects design. ECAT offers environmental courses in the city. Thanks to the courses, 45 enterprises including "Municipal Enterprises "Kaliningradteploset" and "Vodocanal" have introduced the post of ecologist. Any stakeholder can get the environmental consultation at the ECAT office if needed.

Among ECAT's activities the implementation of international projects plays a significant role. Due to the specific geographical position, Kaliningrad Region being surrounded by European Countries, it is vital to take part in joint activities. The specialists working for ECAT have gained wide experience and are able to solve serious issues in the interests of the city.

More about activities of the ECAT-Kaliningrad can be found in MATRUSCHKA Newsletter 2/2009.

#### More information:

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# Stakeholder involvement in a multiple-aim process according to the Trelleborg Concept

Text: **Linda Wolski**

Trelleborg municipality is managing a project where coastal algae and vegetation from constructed wetlands will be collected and converted to biogas for use in local transportation and on international ferry lines. By using the effects of eutrophication-excessive biomass production- and convert it into a climate neutral option for combustion fuels, Trelleborg is intending to implement cost, resource and energy- efficient ways to mitigate the effects of eutrophication, climate change, biodiversity loss, air-pollution and other environmental threats.

**T**he Trelleborg Concept stands for an innovative and attractive project design with a holistic view throughout the planning process where resources management, efficiency, restoration and preservation are combined. Loss of income from tourism due to algal blooms has been an important motivation for politicians and land-owners to take action in the project. Air emissions with health complications and harvest losses in agriculture could be a motivation for future regulations/greening of the harbour and local traffic.

The project involves a large and diverse group of stakeholders which have all been connected to the project at an early stage of planning. Without the local governments clear vision of the project outcome, the process would have been impossible to carry out. Strong representatives from this group see the potential of creating a green and innovative image of the municipality and the possibility to offer new jobs from related Cleantech services, e.g. at a former, no longer profitable sugar beet industry where the new biogas reactor is to be located. The politicians also see the projects potential of promoting Trelleborg as a sustainability-oriented region at the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

EU-institutions and intergovernmental interest groups have given a strong financial support and the objectives of the project are highly linked to the HELCOM recommendations and the Baltic Sea Action plan where the largest potentials for local nutrient reductions have been taken into consideration in the planning process.

#### More information:

on the Trelleborg Concept in Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin 2/2008.

Text: Anna Koreneva Photo: city of Turku

# New approach to the management of urban-rural interactions

What is your vision of quality of life? How and where would you like to live and work?

These issues have a significant meaning for every citizen and they are also important for local and regional authorities, who aim to create attractive cities and regions and to improve the well-being of the people. But it has turned out to be a great challenge to meet the requirements of all the people whose opinions are so diverse and, at the same time, to comply with the plans and strategies of the regional and urban-rural development.

This becomes very evident when looking at the current development trends in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR): developments and challenges both in rural and urban areas are also resulting in negative impacts on environment, economics and on quality of life, decreasing the attractiveness of the regions for households and investors.

## Integrating stakeholders

A three-year NEW BRIDGES project (2009-2012) led by UBC Commission on Environment with 12 partners from eight BSR countries, aims to improve the management of the urban-rural interactions and to strengthen the quality of life within these interactions. This will be achieved by linking together the individual perspective and the planning and policymaking.

The project analyses (via interviews, questionnaires, workshops), the preferences of different population segments (families, entrepreneurs, retiring people) and stakeholder groups (resident associations, business associations) in urban-rural areas and compare them to the existing policies and practices. The involvement of the stakeholders plays a crucial role in the process of planning and implementation of the project as it enables to bring together the relevant people in the partner city-regions. The project will demonstrate how to include the views of the concerned individuals into the discussion among planners and to integrate their views into the planning and development of an attractive region.

## Improved quality of life

The current challenges and new potentials of the partner city-regions will be addressed from the perspective of three main elements of quality of life: residential preferences, mobility and accessibility and provision of services. These key elements play a central role not only in their impacts on people's every-day life, but also on better management of urban-rural interactions.

Each partner city-region will decide on and implement one pilot action interlinked to one of these three elements. For example, the Municipality of Kaunas District in Lithuania is interested to concentrate on the organization of urban-rural public transport within the project. For the Triangle region in Denmark, the overall aim is, as Development Adviser **Niels Græsbojll Olesen** states, "to gain more knowledge about what makes a region attractive and how best to manage policies that match with this knowledge". However, no matter what is the key challenge or even the size of the city-region in question, quality of life can be only strengthened by a comprehensive involvement of the people living and working in that city-region!

The project will evaluate the potentials for more sustainable urban-rural interactions through out the Baltic Sea Region. Based on this, NEW BRIDGES partners produce and implement new working methods and pilot actions to promote better management of quality of life that correspond to the needs of people living in the BSR. Further, the project builds up new urban-rural partnerships that will strengthen the city-regions' organizing capacities to become more sustainable and attractive places to live, invest and work in. Finally, based on the project experiences the partners will together write recommendations for the entire BSR on coherent planning, implementation and management of urban-rural interactions.

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# With stakeholders to local climate change response

Text: **Esther Kreutz** Photo: **Byline: Megapix Picture Agency**

Climate change response happens in different ways in cities and municipalities: Physical investments as in barriers against flooding are as important as addressing climate change at the planning stage for land use planning, construction, urban infrastructure and local government procurement. Climate change strategies are prepared on national level, but also the local level is increasingly engaged in setting up regional and local strategies for tackling climate change and here it is vital to have the stakeholders involved.

## CHAMP-Local Response to Climate Change

“CHAMP-Local Response to Climate Change” is a three-year project that is founded to support local and regional authorities in taking an integrated approach to develop climate change strategies. CHAMP is co-funded by the LIFE+ instrument of the European Commission and the project consortium consists of 7 partners from four countries, whereas UBC EnvCom acts as the lead partner.

CHAMP is based on the experiences from the project “Managing Urban Europe-25” which brings the content and the model for integrated management systems (IMS) to a concrete issue. National hubs will be established in Finland, Germany, Hungary and Italy to train and support local and subregional authorities in implementing IMS and respond to the local challenge of climate change effects.

The project itself will reduce its own carbon footprint through increased use of new technologies and ways of distant communication. This way we decreased travels and contribute to climate change mitigation.

## Stakeholder involvement for an integrated climate change strategy

The model for integrated management systems for local sustainability has been developed in the “Managing Urban Europe 25 project” and will be the basis for the training modules in CHAMP.

Managing a city or municipality only works with involving stakeholders, in each step of the management cycle: stakeholders will take part in writing the baseline review as well as in target settings for future actions and of course in the implementation. Valuable information and important concerns on climate change issues will come from NGOs, universities, citizens and other stakeholders that are essential for the city planning.

### More information:

[www.localmanagement.eu](http://www.localmanagement.eu)

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Climate change effects are experienced first-hand at the local level and cities and municipalities carry a huge responsibility to respond to these effects as well as to their stakeholder's needs and concerns. Local authorities play an important role in meeting climate targets both on national, European and global levels as well as preparing adaptation and mitigation measures on the local level.

A Managing Urban Europe Initiative

# CHAMP

Local Response to Climate Change





# A dialogue for climate change adaptation



Text & photos: **Elena Talockaite**

**K**laipeda region, which is situated in the Baltic Sea coastal area has to adapt to the climate change impacts, probably more than other regions, due to the rising sea level, higher frequency of extreme weather events and the caused impacts on different social, economical and environmental sectors. Awareness of local stakeholders and decision-makers on climate change issues, as well as their willingness to solve the problem, is essential.

ECAT has 12 years of experience in environmental awareness raising, capacity building activities, as well as building a dialogue between different groups of stakeholders in Lithuania. Activities carried out by ECAT in the Klaipeda region could be considered as one of successful examples.

## BaltCICA project continues stakeholder dialogue

First attempts to build a dialogue between researchers, local politicians, decision-makers and representatives of other local stakeholders in Klaipeda city took place in 2005-2007 in the frame of the ASTRA project ([www.as-tra-project.org](http://www.as-tra-project.org)), part financed by INTERREG IIIB NP. At that time more attention was put on the awareness raising of local stakeholders. Several seminars for local stakeholders were organized and articles in local newspapers were published in order to introduce climate change issue and show importance of climate change adaptation.

This work is now continued in the frame of BaltCICA project ([www.baltcica.org](http://www.baltcica.org)), part financed by the BSR Programme 2007-2013. Project activities are carried out in two Lithuanian case study areas - Klaipeda city and Klaipeda district municipalities. Surplus water in rainwater collectors and floods in the Southern part of Klaipeda city, climate change impacts on groundwater levels and quality, as well as introduction of climate change issues into the spatial planning process in Klaipeda district will be discussed.

Researchers involved in the project visited case study areas, where local stakeholders introduced the current situation on-site (see photo). On later stages researcher will make assessment of consequences of climate change in the area and will present several scenarios to the local stakeholders. Climate change adaptation options will be suggested, discussed with local stakeholders and appraised. Based on the research and appraisal results, local stakeholders and decision-makers will make a final decision which adaptation option will be implemented in their locality.

Visit of researchers to the case study area and discussion with representatives of local authorities and stakeholders is considered as a good starting point for the constructive dialogue, which will be continued in the frame of BaltCICA project and will lead to the increased adaptive capacities of Klaipeda region municipalities.

Nobody knows local problems better than local people. Nobody knows newest scientific data and sound solutions for different problems better than researchers. Nobody knows the need and practical possibility to solve local problems better than local decision makers. What these groups can do alone? They can just continue their everyday life, make everyday decisions and carry out everyday research activities. These activities will be implemented separately and without achieving a common result. What can these groups do together? They can build a dialogue and join forces for solving concrete local issues.



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*Photos up and below: On-site presentation of local problems to the employees of local authorities, researchers and other interested institutions by the representatives of local stakeholders in Klaipeda region.*



# Stockholm and Hamburg first Green Capitals of Europe

Text: **Mikko Jokinen & Tõnu Karu**

European commission has introduced a new tool for bigger European cities to demonstrate their actions in sustainable development. Stockholm and Hamburg were the first cities to be awarded the European Green Capital title for years 2010 and 2011 respectively. The Award was handed over to the cities by EU Science and Technology Commissioner **Janiez Potocnik** in Brussels on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February this year.

**G**reen Capital Award was formally introduced to the Commission by the city of Tallinn, and then-mayor Mr Jüri Ratas, in 2006. Commissioner **Stavros Dimas** adopted the idea and after the necessary preparation work the first call for the award was opened in spring 2008.

According to rules of the award, it will be admitted annually to one of the European cities with the population more than 200 000, to a city that manages to convince the jury of its sustainable achievements. From next year onwards the new Green Capital will be nominated always 2 years before the official year, so that the city has time to prepare itself for the actions of the celebration year.

## Good candidates from Baltic Sea Region

In the first call, 35 cities participated. Independent evaluation team and jury had a big challenge in evaluating the proposals.

Application format was planned to give much detailed information in comparable form of participating cities, but it was not totally functioning as planned. There is a need to further develop the criteria and application process during the coming calls. Eight cities were selected as finalists out of whom the jury selected the winners. Beside the winners, two other Baltic cities were among finalists, Oslo and Copenhagen.

Stockholm award was received by vice mayor **Ulla Hamilton**. She underlined in her thanking speech the commitments and efforts Stockholm had done for the environment and also in compiling the application, which seemed to be challenging for all the participants. Hamburg will be the Green Capital in 2011. The city characterises itself as “an average European city” - not especially good in any sector, but well performing in most of them”.

In the same event together with Green Capital award, the Mobility Week Award 2008 for the best performance on last year mobility week, was given to the city of Budapest. 66 cities out of more than 2000 cities participating in mobility week actions, applied for the award. For some reason none of the Baltic cities applied for this award, even though the Mobility week and especially the “Day without private car in the city”, are very popular in our region.

### More information:

Mikko Jokinen, co-chair of the Commission on Environment, Head of Environment, city of Turku  
Tõnu Karu, city of Tallinn



*Jüri Ratas, member of EU Parliament, Estonia, H.E. Karin Jaani, Ambassador of Estonia and Ulla Hamilton, Vice-mayor of city of Stockholm at the Green Capital Award ceremony in Brussels.*

# Awareness raising among youth with the help of UBC Environmental Award



Answers provided by **Henrik Johansson**, environmental controller from city of Växjö.

## Why did the city of Växjö participate in the UBC Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2007 competition?

Citizens do not always believe that something the city claims is good, since they can always find things that could be improved. It is still important, as it was in 2007, for the city of Växjö to find ways to show that the city's efforts towards the climate work is valued also elsewhere. This could for example be shown by statistical comparisons and different rankings, but also by participating – and winning – awards. Of course we also wanted to share our experiences with cities all around the Baltic Sea

## What did it mean for city of Växjö to win the Award?

Växjö was very happy to receive the Award. It was a recognition that made the politicians feel proud because someone else was saying that they have done a good job. Winning this Award has given us more energy to continue the work towards a Fossil Fuel Free city.



*in 2008, a group of Växjö students visited a factory producing PV systems. Photo: city of Växjö.*

## How have you used the prize money?

We have used the money to organize for instance study visits for the people involved in the work with Fossil Fuel Free Växjö. We also wanted to use the prize money to raise the awareness among the citizens, especially the young people.

## How have you succeeded to do that?

Well, we took all 17 year old youngsters living in Växjö to see the Leonardo diCaprio's climate movie "The 11<sup>th</sup> hour". As a result, one of the students started his own climate debate programme on local TV. In addition, we realized a study trip for class of students, 15 years of age, to a factory that produces photo-voltaic systems. This has been important since these youngsters have been very much involved in the PV system in their own school.

UBC Environmental Award 2009 is now launched, check the back cover.

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

# Panevezys wishes to improve storm water management system

Text: **Zita Tverkute**

Panevezys City Municipality in Lithuania has initiated an investment project and submitted an application to the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013.

The project aims to improve the stage of the Baltic Sea and to strengthen the living environment and competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region, using a stakeholder involvement. In the project, the Panevezys City Municipality plans to renew and modernize the municipality's storm water management system and to decrease the pollution of the river Nemunas basin and the Baltic Sea by undertaking the best practices from the stakeholders and transferring them to other municipalities.

City Municipality of Panevezys invited other countries and organizations to participate in the project as partners and associated partners – to share good experience or to get experience in storm water management. The main partners in this submitted project are: Lahti (Finland) –Lahti Region Environmental Service, Lublin (Poland) City Municipality - Water treatment and Water Supply Company, Allerød (Denmark) City Municipality, Nordregio - Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, Daugavpils (Latvia) City Municipality, Ministry of Environment of Lithuania have agreed to be the associated partners in the project.

## More information:

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# Small Tech - the key to success strategies for the Baltic Region

The present draft from the EU commission on a strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is indeed short when it comes to energy related issues as such. But intertwined in other sections of the draft you can read between the lines the importance of energy related issues for the strategy as a whole. Energy will be one of the defining issues of this century.

A new global revolution is needed in ways that energy is supplied and used. Energy demand is soaring like never before as populations grow and economies take off. Millions of citizens in the new democracies around the Baltic Sea Region are expecting to enjoy a lifestyle that requires more energy at the same time the world's oil and gas fields are maturing. Energy policies, and associated infrastructure, are also a national and regional security issue that concerns us all.

We need this energy revolution not only for stopping the greenhouse emissions that causes climate change, but also for generating jobs and new economic growth. A green New Deal is necessary for job creation in the aftermaths of the recent financial crisis and the global decline in economic activity.

## **Invest in Green Energy**

EU and the Baltic Sea Region need real economy investments as a new economic driver. Substantial research demonstrates that we can save and reduce energy consumption without slowing economic growth. What we need to invest in is a green energy infrastructure that can meet the climate challenge, the future energy demands and a responsible security policy in the region. The future and presumed integrated Baltic power grid makes it possible for every saved kWh to push back the market for high CO2 emission plants. Hydro and Nuclear power production from some parts of the Baltic region can then interact and balance the production of solar, wind, biomass and other forms of sustainable energy production.

The UBC Energy Commission is part of the Union of Baltic Cities, for more information please visit [www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net).

# in Energy

Text: **Stefan Windh** Photo: **UBC Energy Commission**

UBC representing over 100 cities and municipalities, base our strategy on the assumption that the Baltic Sea Region in the near future can and will constitute one integrated energy market with access to a PanBaltic electrical power distribution grid. This is the single most important “big tech” achievement and a prerogative for our strategy towards the creation of a new energy economy in the region. This involves and effects multinational power companies in its true meaning as well as national governments.

The UBC represents the voice from the local government level where all energy is both produced and consumed in one way or the other. The local level is the key player in the new energy economy, since it according to well documented studies by independent research institutions; the Cleantech sector can represent the single most significant impact on both climate change and the emerging new green energy economy. Municipalities and cities own street lamps, houses or public buildings and other infrastructure. We are a major energy consumer

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and we deliver and plan for our public utilities like heat and power. The importance of Small-tech initiatives on the local level is therefore the single most important factor in order to achieve our common climate goals. In this respect the energy issue is a major local challenge for our cities.

## Trainings on energy efficiency needed

We have to involve ourselves in a large scale educational projects to train the operating staff in charge of the energy systems in cities, municipalites, SME/industries and in large public buildings in energy efficiency metods. Main objective of the initiatives must be to strengthen the local level to lower cost and direct reinforcement of the economical development and growth in this new sector.

In order to achieve this we need systems for efficient Technology transfer. It is the major driving force for progress throughout history, in particular to help regional administrations and municipalities in the procurement process. In order to speed up the process of decreasing greenhouse gases and improve energy efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region, structured and validated information about different available technologies has to be well known throughout the region. This fulfills a Pan-Baltic need to get a system for exchange and transfer of technology and knowledge across regions, countries and municipalities. In addition to that there is a strong market listening in on the data that has a growing economy and interest to source new and relevant technologies for their rapid development.

## Waste energy and agriculture

In an energy perspective there are two areas that will play a major role in the future. The first one is the abundance of waste energy in form of heat that is not used today. Legislation must stop this madness where a papermill och a nuclear plant can dump billions of Euros worth of energy in to the Baltic Sea at no cost or repercussions.

The second sector is the agricultural sector. From an energy perspective we need to promote low energy intensity production methods in the agricultural sector from environmental reasons and from an energy perspective. Today we, in average, input 10 kJ of industrial energy in order to get 1 kJ of food energy. The agricultural sector must be one of the next sectors for energy savings in the Baltic Sea Region.

The new EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region must take this into consideration or order to be both successful and economic sustainable.



# Short News

## UBC Survey of Sustainable Development 2009

During May, all UBC member cities will receive an questionnaire for the UBC Sustainable Development 2009 Survey. This is the third, and therefore final, of the surveys where the implementation of actions of UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 - Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities in the UBC member cities, is monitored. Through the survey the sustainability of the cities is evaluated and compared to previous years in order to find good progress among the UBC cities. The survey is carried out jointly with Åbo Akademi University and Södertörn Högskola through a RISKGOV –project funded by the Baltic Sea Region BONUS programme. The results of the previous surveys have raised wide interest as this is a unique action for monitoring sustainable development in such a wide land area. All member cities are warmly encouraged to participate!

## UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010-2015

UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010-2015 will be approved in the next UBC General Conference in Kristiansand in September 2009. The Action Programme has been developed during 2008-2009 with active participation from UBC member cities. It will support the Sustainability processes in the member cities and guide the work of the UBC Commission on Environment for the coming years. More information at: [www.ubc-environment.net](http://www.ubc-environment.net)

## Project Applications

Are you facing a challenge that you would like to solve together in a project? UBC EnvCom is ready to assist you, please, contact us at: [environment@ubc.net](mailto:environment@ubc.net)

## Engage you stakeholders

You can obtain a hard copy of the Engage your stakeholders - Stakeholder involvement toolkit for local authorities (in English and Russian) from the UBC EnvCom Secretariat at: [environment@ubc.net](mailto:environment@ubc.net)



**TOOLS THAT BENEFIT ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- Engage your stakeholders** - Stakeholder involvement toolkit for local authorities
- Moving Sustainability** - Guide to Sustainable Urban Transport Plans
- Local management** - Integrated management system (IMS) that will help you plan and report to various stakeholders in an effective way, eventually leading to the sustainable development of the whole city or region.

## Tools that benefit all local authorities

UBC Commission on Environment has published a CD where different tools that local authorities can use to help to engage stakeholders, establish a sustainability management unit, or make a sustainable urban transport plan for the city, have been gathered together. The CD contains all the translated versions of the tools. The CD will be circulated in various events during 2009. All tools are also available through [www.ubc-environment.net](http://www.ubc-environment.net)

## Youth Monitoring – stakeholder involvement in HIV/AIDS prevention

Youth Monitoring was adapted in the We Choose a Life – Youth against HIV/AIDS project. It is a model from Rotterdam and has been carried out for several years in Holland. It has resulted in a database about health behaviour and understanding of health among young people. The data is frequently used in reports and in feedback discussion with young people themselves and their parents, but also at schools and with the decision makers in the municipalities.

In the project, Youth Monitor was constructed to the Russian circumstances and according the needs of the participating cities. Firstly a questionnaire with 35 multiple choice questions on health, friends and feelings of the youth was prepared. Secondly, the Russian teams interviewed totally around 3 000 young people between 16 and 18 years, and finally, the results were summarized in a report which will be used by the Russian teams for their local plans. The big amount of respondents ensured a wide involvement of young people. The results will remarkably support the cities to develop strategic local action plans on the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

We Choose a Life – Youth against HIV/AIDS project is an EU co-funded two-year project co-ordinated by Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association. During the first year there have been three trainings in three Russian cities. UBC EnvCom has been responsible for the training in stakeholder involvement and the process continues throughout the whole project. More information: [www.marebalticum.org/sexualhealthrussia](http://www.marebalticum.org/sexualhealthrussia)



## The Baltic Sea Challenge campaign

The Baltic Sea Challenge has now approached one hundred biggest Finnish companies to join the work for improving the state of the Baltic Sea and is eagerly awaiting for positive responses from them. The campaign is also preparing an international project to strengthen the co-operation with partners. By March 2009 over 140 actors have joined the work and about 60 have written and sent their action plans. The campaign is welcoming you to join! More information at: [www.balticseachallenge.net](http://www.balticseachallenge.net)



## Next UBC Commission on Environment meeting

The UBC EnvCom meeting will be held in connection with the X UBC General Conference in Kristiansand in 23-27 September 2009. In the meeting, a new co-chairman for the Environment Commission will be elected as the current co-chair Mr Gulbrand Skjönberg from Nacka, Sweden has retired.

UBC Commission on Environment would like to ask for candidates for the co-chair. Further information on the post of the co-chairman and also about hosting the Commission on Environment meetings can be received from Mr Björn Grönholm, Head of Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat, [bjorn.gronholm@ubc.net](mailto:bjorn.gronholm@ubc.net)

# UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of 106 cities from all ten Baltic Sea countries, with an overriding goal of contributing to the democratic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. UBC Commission on Environment (UBC EnvCom) is one of the 13 commissions of the UBC.

Practical work of the Commission is carried out by UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat. Its services for the cities include for example organising meetings and policy work, preparing documents and publications, initiating and running projects, and consulting and training. The Secretariat carries out Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Surveys biannually, publishes Baltic Cities Environmental bulletin, and offers Good Practice Database for local authorities at [www.ubcwheel.eu](http://www.ubcwheel.eu).

The current staff of Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat consists of 13 professionals working fulltime for the UBC.



EnvCom, Turku

Our aims

Baltic Sea



Projects



CHAMP - NEW BRIDGES - MATRUSCHKA - SUSTAINMENT - BUSTRIP - Managing Urban Europe-25 - NewHansa ... just to mention a few.

Contact us

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## **THE BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE IN BALTIC CITIES AWARD 2009**



# FROM LOCAL ACTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Union of the Baltic Cities has the honour to invite your city to present a good practice/s under the title of the **STATE OF THE BALTIC SEA**. The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award will be presented to one city with a grant of 5000 euros donated by Vesta.

Application form from  
[www.ubc-environment.net](http://www.ubc-environment.net)

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION  
IS 15<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2009!**