Baltic Cities
www.ubc-environment.net

ENVIRONMENTAL bulletin

No 2, 2012

GREEN GROWTH IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Cities for climate action

With Christmas nearing and temperatures below zero in many cities throughout the Baltic region, global warming may not come to mind as the most pressing issue. Some might even argue that it would be nice if the mercury would climb a couple of notches in the thermometer.

Unfortunately, chances are that it will, unless we take further action to address the climate challenge. And as numerous reports have documented recently, it is not going to be a pleasant ride. The World Bank used the term 'devastating' to describe the world with a four degrees temperature rise, which we are heading towards.

In the Baltic Sea Region, climate change spells more rain, more floods and more – and more extreme –storms. Last summer, In Copenhagen, we got a very pedagogic introduction to what we have in store. Months of rains fell within a few hours. The consequences were flooded streets and homes with extensive material damage. The bill for this one incident reached more than 800 million euros. And that is not counting all the lost time families have had to put in to cleaning up and getting rid of their damaged property.

We often hear the argument that we can't afford further climate action. And in the midst of the economic crisis where citizens and public authorities are cash-strapped, it is no wonder that people are reluctant to step up financial commitments for any purpose. But it is paradoxical how expenses such as the ones connected with the Copenhagen flooding are rarely discussed by finance ministers. They are just paid. And then we move on.

Tackling the climate challenge will require action at all levels – not least from cities and their citizens. Cities account for almost three quarters of emissions on global level. And I am glad that the Union of Baltic Cities is actively addressing issues such as energy consumption, energy dependence and adaptation in its Sustainable Action Programme. Much can be done by regional and local authorities in these areas and in the EU we are working to ensure that cohesion funds will be much more targeted to support for instance energy efficiency initiatives under the next multiannual budget.

But cities also play a crucial role when it comes to communicating the benefits of climate action to the citizens. Cities are in a much better position to provide their inhabitants with locally adapted, hands-on advice on what they can do to help. Because there IS a whole lot of things people can do – many of which will have benefits both for themselves and their city. Good examples and concrete actions are at the heart of the Commission's new communication campaign "A world you like. With a climate you like." And I am pleased that UBC has decided to join us as a partner in the campaign.

Connie Hedegaard,
European Commissioner for Climate Action.

UBC EnvCom

Photo: Shutterstock.com/ MarkMirror

Member cities

Q's corner

UBC Energy Commission

Photo: Jēkabpils City Municipality

Editorial information

Baltic Cities Environmental bulletin 2/2012 is published by the Union of the Baltic Cities Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat. **Chief-Editor**:Jeppe Mikel Jensen (firstname.surname@ubc.net) **Address**: Union of the Baltic Cities Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat, Baltic Sea House, Vanha Suurtori 7, FIN-20500 Turku, FINLAND, Tel: +358 2 262 3171, Fax: +358 2 262 3425
More information: www.ubc-environment.net ISSN 1455-0903
Cover photo: Bikeworldtravel / Shutterstock.com
Printing house: Newprint Oy, in December 2012 on 100 % recycled paper.
441 624
Painotuote

Economic reasons to go green

Text: **Jeppe MIkel Jensen** Photos: **Shutterstock.com/ Todd Klassy** and **Shutterstock.com/ Markus**

Climate change has become an increasingly important policy issue influencing both local and international level. During the current time of recession, the climate has wrongly been accused for being a hindrance in changing the negative economic results on the baseline for both public and private sectors.

Previously, the focus on the environment and sustainable development has been considered an increasing necessity that included extra expenditures to save the environment. For private companies, the green profile was something that was considered a part of the corporate social responsibility strategy that showed a philanthropic approach to environmental protection. The start of the global recession in 2008 was therefore expected to have a negative effect on sustainable development. However, the recession also triggered innovative thinking.

Along with the decrease in production that reduced emissions, green growth appeared with energy solution where less is more when sustaining our quality of life without compromising our environment.

The number of solutions to tackle both the climate and the economic challenges are increasing steadily catalyzed by clear incentives benefitting both citizens and the environment. The perception of a green profile has thus been changed from a former philanthropic approach and into economic strategies in both the public and the private sectors.

As shown in the predictions the greenhouse gas emission will increase if the current trajectory is continued. This will not only affect a general rise of the sea level, drowning islands growing desserts and loss of marine flora and fauna, but also cause effects locally in regard to air quality, food supplies, local floodings, etc.

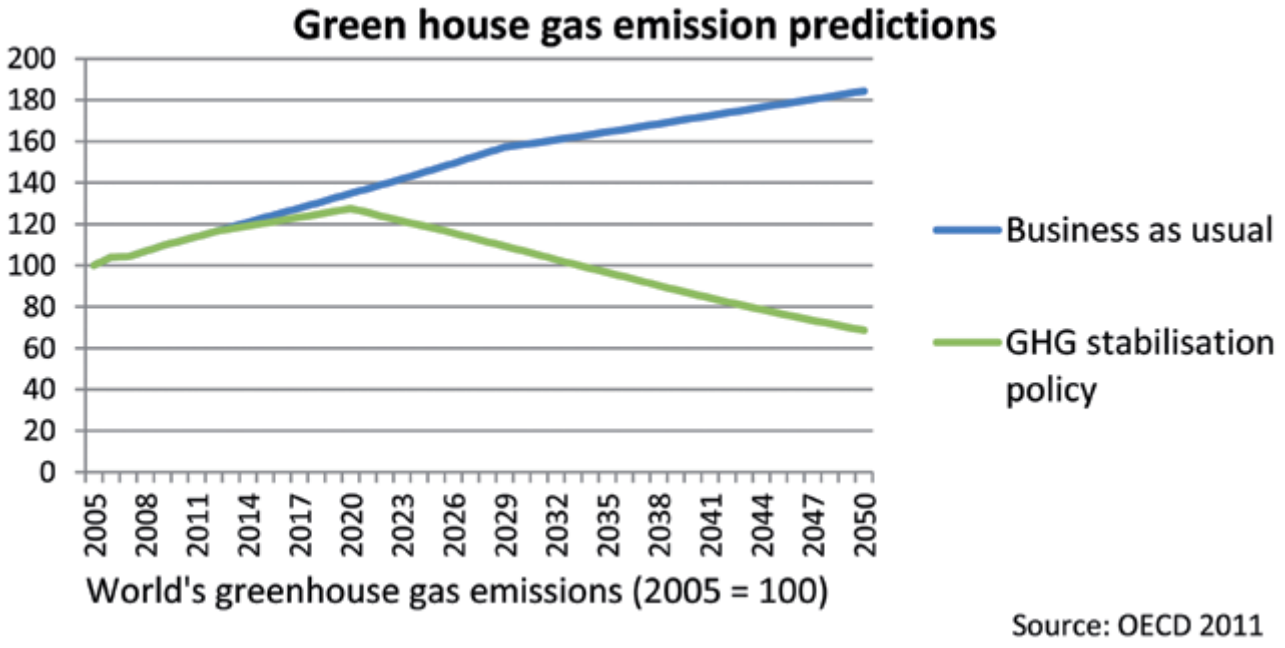
It is thus important to understand the broad scale of the climate change effects and include all levels from personal sustainable decisions up to international political decisions.

The latter was shown at the RIO+20 conference in June 2012. One of the main outcomes was the fact that the great challenges of fighting climate challenge on international level were even more difficult than previously expected. These challenges on the global level put a stronger emphasis on solutions on city level, and thus the importance of UBC, towards more sustainable cities. This has also been widely acknowledged by international organizations such as the UN and OECD.

Global challenges require co-operation on a global scale in order to deliver public goods (climate change mitigation, biodiversity) or protect the global commons (the environment, fisheries). International co-operation is necessary because:

- no single country can successfully address the problems alone;
- the costs and benefits of action may accrue to different countries, and individual countries may not be willing to bear the costs of addressing global challenges if they cannot appropriate the benefits;
- uncoordinated efforts of many countries to address global challenges are likely to be more costly and less successful than coordinated, co-operative efforts.

Source: OECD, 2011



Source: OECD 2011

Urban citizens experience the immediate effect CO2 emissions and cities are thus more prone to take immediate actions regardless of international negotiations.

Cities to guide nations

Cities only cover 2% of the surface of the earth but host 52% of the world's population and contribute to 70% of the CO_2 emissions. There are therefore clear incentives to tackle the climate issues on a city level, with smart and sustainable solutions. Cities experience the immediate effect of carbon emission. This naturally leads to rapid responses from city authorities by several upcoming bottom-up approaches. An example of a bottom-up approach from the cities is the Covenant of Mayors initiative that includes local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. The movement is an astonishing success, which transmits a clear message to all decision-makers about cities' capabilities and commitments to tackle climate change.

As early as in 1994, the role of cities in the fight against climate challenges had become evident and formulated in the Aalborg Charter. The Union of Baltic Cities, with its 107 member cities, is thus a key stakeholder with knowledge exchange, networking and seminar activities on this subject.

The Baltic Sea Region is considered a frontrunner in the development of macro-regions in the European Union. Our common Baltic Sea provides clear incentives to collaborate towards sustainable development in order to save the sea along with increasing wealth and quality of life in the region. As shown in this edition of Union of the Baltic Cities' Environmental Bulletin including both individual city projects and network initiatives that focus on social, environmental and economic sustainability.

It has proven a grand task to mitigate the climate change. The green growth examples on city level and the strength of city networks are important to show. It signals that cities understand the challenge and are ready to work together for joint solutions.

'We are convinced that sustainable human life on this globe cannot be achieved without sustainable local communities. Local government is close to where environmental problems are perceived and closest to the citizens and shares responsibility with governments at all levels for the well-being of humankind and nature.'

Source: Aalborg Charter 1994

More information:
Jeppe Mikel Jensen - Project Coordinator
jeppe.jensen@ubc.net
www.ubc-environment.net

Electric vehicles is one of several initiatives towards increased urban sustainability

Full speed on green growth in Arendal

Text: **Svein Tveitdal** Photo: **City of Arendal**

A growing network has sprung around the city of Arendal's efforts towards Green Growth. In 2009, Arendal established Climate Partners in co-operation with the County of Aust-Agder and the UN centre GRID-Arendal. In three years this initiative has grown into a regional network that now includes the UBC member city Kristiansand, the Agder University and a number of public institutions and private companies currently with 35 partners that employ a total of 17,000 people.

The network focuses on products and services needed to develop Agder into a low emission region. Examples on new innovations include a concept for green conferences, production line for climate neutral publications, new hybrid buses and green data storage. Arendal has been the first city in Norway with a climate neutral city administration. Another key focus is knowledge about threats and opportunities climate change is posing on the partners.

Reports prepared by the network include: How to measure a climate footprint, green IT, climate friendly transport, climate friendly land-use planning, green conferences, green buildings and green electricity. Along with the overall network activities, all employees in the Climate Partner network are offered an online environmental test, and those who pass receive a diploma.

Emissions and costs go down!

Partners also focus on sweeping their own doorsteps. All members of the network must prepare annual climate footprint status that is made public in a common report. The initial members of Climate Partners achieved an emission reduction of 33% in three years. Low hanging fruits are picked first, and in most cases the emission cuts are economically profitable. The most common, profitable and sustainable actions are the phasing of outdated oil boilers, increasing energy efficiency, transition towards renewable energy and the establishment of climate friendly car fleets.

After three years, Climate Partners has developed into Norway's largest private-public network with focus on reducing emissions and developing green products and services. The main success factor has been cooperation between the private and the public sectors also with respect to financing. The interest from other regions in Norway and abroad is increasing, which underline the value and the belief in expanding climate networks in Norway, the Baltic Sea Region and beyond.

More information:

By Svein Tveitdal, Environmental Ambassador
Arendal, Norway
svein.tveitdal@arendal.kommune.no
www.klimapartnere.no

Rakvere – Velocity 2012!

Text: **Kairi Maasik** Photo: **City of Rakvere**

Using a car for 1 km produces 0,2kg/CO_2, whereas using a bicycle for 5km can save up to 1kg of CO_2. The latter simple calculation have inspired Rakvere to act towards a greener urban environment through the initiative: “Rakvere Velocity 2012”.

Rakvere is a small city, which gives it good prerequisite to become a bicycle city. However, the situation so far has been challenging. The percentage of bicycle transport in the overall transport is low; using bicycles has been uncomfortable and unsafe. The number of bicycle paths is small and many of the paths lack of adequate marking and signing. Another major issue is the lack of safe bicycle parking. The current parking systems are considered uncomfortable without sufficient options to secure the bicycle properly.

Many kilometers of bicycle paths have been built and renovated over the past years in order to make the usage of bicycles more appealing to the general public. Bicycle roads belonging to the city were built to meet those of the bordering municipalities, making longer trips possible. To encourage the citizens, Rakvere also intends to provide free of charge electric bicycles that enables tourists and citizens to get to know the city in an alternative way and enjoy the obvious benefits of cycling in Rakvere.

Project “Rakvere – Velocity 2012” aims to tackle the aforementioned obstacles towards the goal of reducing CO_2 emissions with 20% in 2020. In the framework of the project, Rakvere will supply custom designed bicycle parking facilities for municipal use and also for the housing associations. In the spring of 2013, the first bicycle parking facility will be built in relation to the bus station to provide a smooth change between bicycle and bus. The first housing association to receive the new bicycle housing facility will be chosen in line energy efficiency plans.

As a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, Rakvere is considered a pioneering city in Estonia fully committed to the green lifestyle and determined to create a situation where using a car is not the main possibility to get access to services, shops etc. Along with improving the urban environment considerably by planning for bicycles, there is also a series of economic benefits, such as an overall improvement of public health, decrease in household’s daily transport costs and of pollution.

Rakvere is a city with a bicycle sculpture in the central square, depicting the famous composer Arvo Pärt on a bicycle. With “Rakvere – Velocity 2012” the city encourages its citizens to follow the famous composer and ride the bicycle towards a greener city.

More information:
Kairi Maasik, International relation Specialist
City Government of Rakvere, Estonia
kairi.maasik@rakvere.ee
www.rakvere.ee

Environmental and economic benefits in the winds of Örebro and Kumla

Text: **Petter Arneback** Photo: **Shutterstock.com/ Rafa Irusta**

The municipalities of Örebro and Kumla in the heart of Sweden have initiated a joint effort towards green growth and securing a stable energy supply to their citizens. The two municipalities have recently agreed on forming a joint power company with the intention of building at least 20 new wind turbines by 2020.

The pilot study, prepared as the foundation for the decision, showed significant profits for the municipalities to invest in and build wind turbines. The newly established energy company will also be open to other interested parties to buy shares. In order to engage both public and private sector, smaller individual wind power cooperation initiatives will be an important element in the new joint venture, where both individual investors and smaller companies can make green investments. It is a determining factor for Örebro and Kumla to involve all stakeholders from citizens to private enterprises in the municipalities' sustainable energy plans.

'This wind power investment is a major step towards the goal of our climate plan. We have the ambition to reduce carbon emissions by 40%, and wind power will represent more than half of this', says Petter Arneback, project manager for the wind power in Örebro municipality.

Both Örebro and Kumla municipalities have high ambitions for wind power. Örebro Municipality has in its climate plan set a target to reduce the climate impact of the organization by 50 percent per capita from 2000 to 2020. The new turbines will reduce the climate impact by 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year - 32,000 tonnes for Örebro and 8,000 tons for Kumla.

This represents as much as a car emits if it would run 5,000 times around the world. Moreover, the focus means that Örebro municipality organization will become self-sufficient in renewable electricity in 2020.

More information:
Petter Arneback
Örebro munipality, Sweden
Email: petter.arneback@orebro.se
www.orebro.se

City of Helsinki and local companies challenge global warming

Text: **Mia Malin** Photo: **Johanna Joutsiniemi**

A survey on the city's commitment to sustainability development paved the way for an ambitious public-private network initiative in Helsinki. In September 2012, already 36 companies and other organisations have joined the Climate Partners, which is a network bridging local companies and the City of Helsinki's efforts towards global warming.

The Climate Partner network aims to reduce emissions in the Helsinki metropolitan area by creating a platform for new ideas and cooperation. The network is also a way for companies to make them more competitive and increase the coverage of their environmental work. In the future, the network will pursue more concrete development projects with its partners.

"The aim of the Climate Partnership Network between the local entrepreneurs and the City of Helsinki is to gather innovative people and good practices around the same table in order to identify new operating models to address the challenges of global warming. At the same time, we can strengthen the competitiveness of our companies and find new business opportunities, for instance in the field of green tech and energy efficiency", describes Mayor of Helsinki Jussi Pajunen when talking about the new Climate Partner Network.

From energy savings to sustainable mobility

All companies of the Climate Partners have signed the Climate Commitment together with the Mayor of Helsinki. In the commitments, the companies define how they plan to mitigate climate change in their own operations. Partnering companies can focus on any topic they want to, e.g. energy savings, energy efficiency, low-energy logistics, environmentally friendly procurements, waste treatment or enhancing the commitment of its personnel.

The network also includes support members, such as universities and research institutes. These members will bring contribute with valuable expertise and opportunities to create concrete projects to reduce emissions for companies and the city of Helsinki.

The idea for the cooperation came from the fact that the city' organisation is responsible for only 15% of the total energy consumption in the Helsinki Region. "So if we want to cut our emissions, we need all the other operators, citizens and businesses to work with us", comments Mira Jarkko, Coordinator of the Climate Partner Network.

First companies signed the Climate Commitment together with the Mayor of Helsinki (in front) at a ceremony in April 2012.

Examples of Climate Partners commitments include:

- Nordea will reduce energy consumption by 15% by 2016
- Siemens will introduce eight electric cars into use over next three years
- The University of Helsinki will include information material on being environmentally friendly and controlling climate change when travelling, eating, using water and energy, as well as on recycling into the orientation period for every new student.

More information:
Mia Malin, Project Planner
City of Helsinki, Finland
Environment centre
mia.malin@hel.fi
www.ilmastokumppanit.fi

Vilnius nurtures the assets of sustainable urban development

Text: **Sandra Bložienė** Photo: **City of Vilnius**

Sustainable development cannot be implemented as a top down decision in modern cities. The city of Vilnius recognizes this fact and provides support for the green aspirations of public institutions.

Vilnius city municipality implements various projects related to monitoring air pollution, noise reduction in the city, effective waste management and managing polluting territories – contaminated soils. The aim is not only to restore a clean environment but also to apply effective preventive measures.

The Environment Protection Division of the Environment and Energy Department of Vilnius city municipality administration encourages sustainable city development, citizens' ecological thinking, healthy lifestyle, saving and fostering their daily environment.

A lot of attention is paid not only to project development and implementation but also to inform society with the help of a Programme for Ecological Education. Many events have been organized to support this aim, including exhibitions such as "Blossoms of Lithuania" and "Compositions of flower carpets", competitions, conferences, seminars and forums in which various problems of local importance, global problems and their solutions were discussed.

While implementing the Programme of Ecological Education, inventory of flora and fauna in Vilnius city and its neighbourhoods was also performed. Thus the changes in biodiversity were reviewed and future trends were forecasted. Common projects together with municipalities of other regions were carried out and institutions subordinate to the municipality were trained; they participated in competitions intended for receiving support from the European Union.

Every year many successful events are organized and supported; one of them is intended for pre-school children. During the event, kindergartens decorate Christmas trees with Christmas tree decorations made from secondary raw materials. Another example of an event intended for the citizens invited people to bring ten used plastic bags that were exchanged for one fabric reusable shopping bag.

This year, the 9th edition of the Environment Protection Division of Vilnius city municipality administration "Environment protection in Vilnius. Sustainable life in MY city" was issued. The publication includes useful advice which allows reducing both costs and the influence of human impact on the environment as well as city pollution.

More information:
Sandra Bložienė, Head of Division
Environmental Protection Division Vilnius, Lithuania
Sandra.Bloziene@vilnius.lt

"The aim is not only to restore a clean environment but also to apply effective preventive measures."

Heating with woodchip

- a local, green and economically viable solution

Text: **Krišjānis Dzalbe** Photo: **Jelgava City self-government**

Centralized heating plays an important role of keeping cities in the Baltic Sea Region warm during winter times. It is also a source of headaches for the municipalities of those cities. A biomass cogeneration plant now under construction in Jelgava aims to cure some of these headaches.

The problems that Jelgava faces in central heating today evolve around low security of heat supply and high fuel prices. Heat in Jelgava is produced solely with natural gas. This heavy reliance on one kind of fuel poses high risk, as natural gas is associated with unpredictable price fluctuations. This has an effect on the tariffs and instability in finance planning for the heating company, which then affects the stability and reliability of energy provision as well as the prices, and ultimately the customer satisfaction. The last five years have also seen a significant increase in the price of natural gas, which is linked to prices of CO_2 quotas.

Valuable experiences shared across the Baltic Sea

"Fortum Jelgava" - a subsidiary company of the Finnish "Fortum" that provides heat in Jelgava - has decided to solve these problems by building a cogeneration plant for woodchips and other biofuels. The plant will provide the base load of electricity for the whole city of 64,000 inhabitants and most of the heat energy needed.

Cogeneration is universally acknowledged as the most efficient way of producing energy because it provides higher efficiency for burning fuel than when producing heat end electricity separately. Although natural gas is convenient and cleaner than other fossil fuels there are important benefits for using biomass fuel. Woodchip used in the plant is locally produced and its supply is not dependent on suppliers of imported fossil fuel. It is also considerably cheaper because it uses up less of CO_2 emission quotas.

The switch to biomass fuel has benefits beyond the heating system. Where todays natural gas used for heating is imported, the fuel for a biomass cogeneration plant is produced locally, which generate new jobs in the local region in the production and supply of woodchip to the plant.

The switch to biomass fuel in Jelgava addresses and solves several problems and has a positive effect on the local economy. It is a sustainable and greener solution in a world where the prices of fossil fuel are increasing and unstable.

Facts:

64,000 inhabitants live in the city of Jelgava

2/3 of inhabitants live in housing with central heating

Most public buildings have central heating

More information:
Krišjānis Dzalbe, PR Officer
Jelgava City Council, Latvia
Krisjanis.Dzalbe@dome.jelgava.lv
www.jelgava.lv

From waste to mobility in Tartu

Text: **Raul Verde** Photos: **City of Tartu**

In recent years, Tartu has been working to find and apply environment-friendly, sustainable energy solutions to the local bus fleet. A particular focus on harvesting biogas from landfill and waste has shown profitable for both environment and municipal budgets.

In Aardlapalu nearby Tartu, the municipality has been working on closing an old landfill site since 2010. During this process, new benefits of the landfill have been discovered, as the landfill contains considerable amounts of biogas. Originally it was hoped that the gas could be used to fuel about 15 of the city's buses, but later research has shown it would need a difficult refining process. Still, gas from the landfill would be suitable for producing energy and heat. Up till now, biogas has only been collected and burned, while studies continue to determine how to proceed in optimizing the use of the newly discovered resource.

Despite the obstacles with refining biogas from the landfill to the bus fleet, Tartu has already started using compressed natural gas to diminish the pollution by city's public transport. Currently, five buses run on natural gas with the goal to have the complete fleet to run on biogas in 2017. Included in these goals, it is also the intentention to continue using locally produced biogas. Additionally, the use of electric cars is widely supported. City's social workers already use electric vehicles and the first electric taxi company has alredy started offering its green services to the wider public. City Government has procured four more electric cars for officials' business travel needs. Since October 2012, new all electric vehicles have been a central part of the car-fleet in the departments of IT, Communal Services and Misdemeanor Proceedings.

"Five buses run on natural gas with the goal to have the complete fleet to run on biogas in 2017"

The most recent project is producing biogas from the waste water produced in the city from a new modern biogas plant. This renewable source of energy will be used to produce heat and electricity for city's water treatment plant. The cornerstone of Tartu's new biogas plant was laid in August and will be ready to provide low-cost and green energy by January 2013. The plant is expected to process up to 15,000 tons of sewage sludge and produce 1,3 million cubic meters of biogas in a year. This would cover about ¼ of the city's water treatment plant's energy demand and provide all the necessary heat for its buildings.

However, the most direct, appreciated outcome of this project for Tartu's citizens will be that the waste water treatment system will not provide its traditional and unpopular smells.

More information:
Jaanus Tamm, Project Manager
City of Tartu, Estonia
Jaanus.tamm@raad.tartu.ee
www.tartu.ee

The Task Force on UBC Development

Text: **Mikko Lohikoski** Photos: **UBC EnvCom**

Task Force on UBC Development was established by the UBC Executive Board in Karlstad on 17 June 2011 upon initiative of Swedish member cities. The objective of the Task Force is to strengthen the UBC by evaluating all relevant dimensions of the organization. Member cities in each of the ten countries have nominated one city to represent themselves.

The Task Force includes one city representative from each of the ten countries, nominated by respective member cities themselves. The members are: Annely Veevo (Kärdla, Estonia), Stefan Windh (Oskarshamn, Sweden), Jørgen H. Kristiansen (Kristiansand, Norway), Søren Revsbæk (Næstved, Denmark), Audrone Jaugelaviciene (Šiauliai, Lithuania), Marketta Mäkinen (Jyväskylä, Finland), Piotr Grzelak (Gdansk, Poland), Vilnis Vitkovskis (Liepãja, Latvia), Karin Wohlgemuth (Rostock, Germany) and Igor Lonskij (St. Petersburg, Russia). Mikko Lohikoski, UBC Strategy Coordinator was invited by the Executive Board as the chairman of the Task Force and Ms Helinä Yli-Knuutila serves as its secretary.

So far the Task Force has met three times and the next meeting will be held in December 2012. The Task Force has discussed working methods and "internal culture" of the organization, priorities of action etc. There is a strong common understanding that through dialogue and joint initiatives it's possible to further strengthen the organization and its effectiveness so that it will meet the needs of the member cities in the future even better.

The Task Force has also started to go through all relevant UBC documents, e.g. UBC Statute and UBC Internal Regulations in order to propose improvements if needed.

The Task Force will present its conclusions and proposals to the UBC Executive Board in March 2013. It is not authorized to decide upon any new rules or instructions, but to make recommendations. The final decisions will be made by the Executive Board and, if needed, by the General Conference in Mariehamn in October 2013.

More information:
Mikko Lohikoski, Director of External Affairs, City of Turku
UBC Strategy Coordinator and Chairman of the UBC Task Force
www.mikko.lohikoski@turku.fi
www.ubc.net

Green Areas will increase in the City of Panevėžys

Text: **Rūta Taučikienė** Photo: **City of Panevėžys**

A problem was turned into an opportunity in Panevėžys, where a polluted filtration field within the city center has been transformed into a recreational area, benefitting both the environment and the citizens of Panevėžys.

The former filtration fields of Molainiai (62ha) are situated in the territory of Panevėžys City, where biological waste water treatment equipment has been operating from 1961 to 1978. Throughout this period biological waste water and other waste water was spread on the surface of land or under the ground above ground water of the fields of Molainiai. It was automatically infiltrated into the layers of ground, which have the features of natural treatment and filtering. According to the former city waste water infrastructure facts and data on waste water management and processing, the companies, which did not possess their own industrial waste water equipment, used to treat industrial waste water in the filtration fields of Molainiai.

Green benefits for the city

After an explicit eco-geological research of the soil and ground water of the polluted territory, it became clear that the sludge accumulated on the surface of this territory is strongly polluted by heavy metals: cadmium (over 160 times more than normal), copper (over 16 times more than normal), nickel, chromium and zinc. In order to reduce the pollution of ground and surface water, to protect the health of people from negative effect of heavily polluted territory, Panevėžys City Municipality have initiated the project 'Re-cultivation of former filtration fields of Molainiai'.

"Something that before solely was considered a problem to the city, is now regarded an asset for the citizens of Panevėžys"

During the project, the territory of former filtration fields of Molainiai will be cleaned, the heaps of brought ground flattened and the canals of irrigation and the Šermutas rivulet running via the territory of Molainiai filtration fields treated. Broad-leaved trees resistant to ground pollution are planted. Heavy metals will slowly be absorbed in the trunks of the trees and the pollution in the ground will naturally reduce.

With the help of this project, the green areas in Panevėžys City will increase by 62 hectares and something that before solely was considered a problem to the city, is now regarded an asset for the citizens of Panevėžys.

More information:
Rūta Taučikienė , Acting Head of Ecology Department
City of Panevėžys, Lithuania
r.taucikiene@panevezys.lt
www.panevezys.lt

The former filtration fields of Molainiai will be turned into 62 hectares of recreational green areas for the citizens of Panevėžys

Big Jump Challenge –
Happy splashing for better water quality!

Text: **Juliane Fritzsch, Nele Kapretz and Sabrina Schulz**
Photo: **Viva con Agua Greifswald**

Imagine that on one day of the year at the exact same time all over Europe, all over the world, people of all ages join forces and jump into their local river or lake to raise awareness for better water quality. Just an illusion or an encouraging vision?

It is the 17 June 2012. Seagulls are flying in the clear blue sky over the old harbour of Greifswald. But this Sunday, something is different. People with fishing nets draped around their shoulders are arriving. Others are setting a float with a washing machine in the port. Suddenly about thirty students get into their swimsuits, put on blue shirts stating "Big Jump 2012" and line up at the quay wall. They count down from ten to zero and – jump. And with them jump hundreds of young people all over Germany at that very moment.

More than 50 groups registered in spring 2012 on the online platform www.bigjump2012.net to jump into their rivers and lakes. This is the astonishing result of the 'Big Jump Challenge', an educational campaign that wants to create a sense of urgency for water protection among young people. It was initiated by the socio-ecological research group GETIDOS at the University of Greifswald, in cooperation with several environmental associations and a new-media think tank, and is inspired by the idea of the Big Jump. Founded in 2005 by Roberto Epple and the European Rivers Network, the Big Jump takes place every year on the European River Swimming Day with the aim to reconcile people with their rivers.

As a contribution to this movement, the Big Jump Challenge specifically tries to motivate young people aged 14 to 21 years for water conservation. They not only hopped and splashed into their lakes and rivers but also sent a friendly challenge to their local water authorities requesting information about the local implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. The directive demands all European rivers and lakes to be in good condition by 2015 – a goal that has so far only been met by a mere 10 % of waters in Germany. The best three teams of the Big Jump Challenge were elected by a jury and invited to Berlin to present their jumps and to discuss their insights and demands with politicians and water authorities.

'The Big Jump Challenge specifically tries to motivate young people aged 14 to 21 years for water conservation'

More information:
Sabrina Schulz, Project Manager
University of Griefswald, Germany
info@bigjump2012.net
www.getidos.net

Proximity to Green areas as an indicator for the quality of urban life

Text and Photo: **Beata Ochmańska**

The city of Gdansk has carried out a study on the allocation of green areas in the city. The result shows that there a plenty of beautiful gardens and green parks for the citizens to enjoy. However, the distribution of green areas to the citizens is uneven, which sparked new ideas in the municipality.

Although there is a significant rate of 118 m² of green areas per inhabitant in Gdansk, only slightly more than half of the inhabited areas are in pedestrian access to parks or forest. Pedestrian access means no further than 750 meters away and reachable in less than 15 minutes on foot.

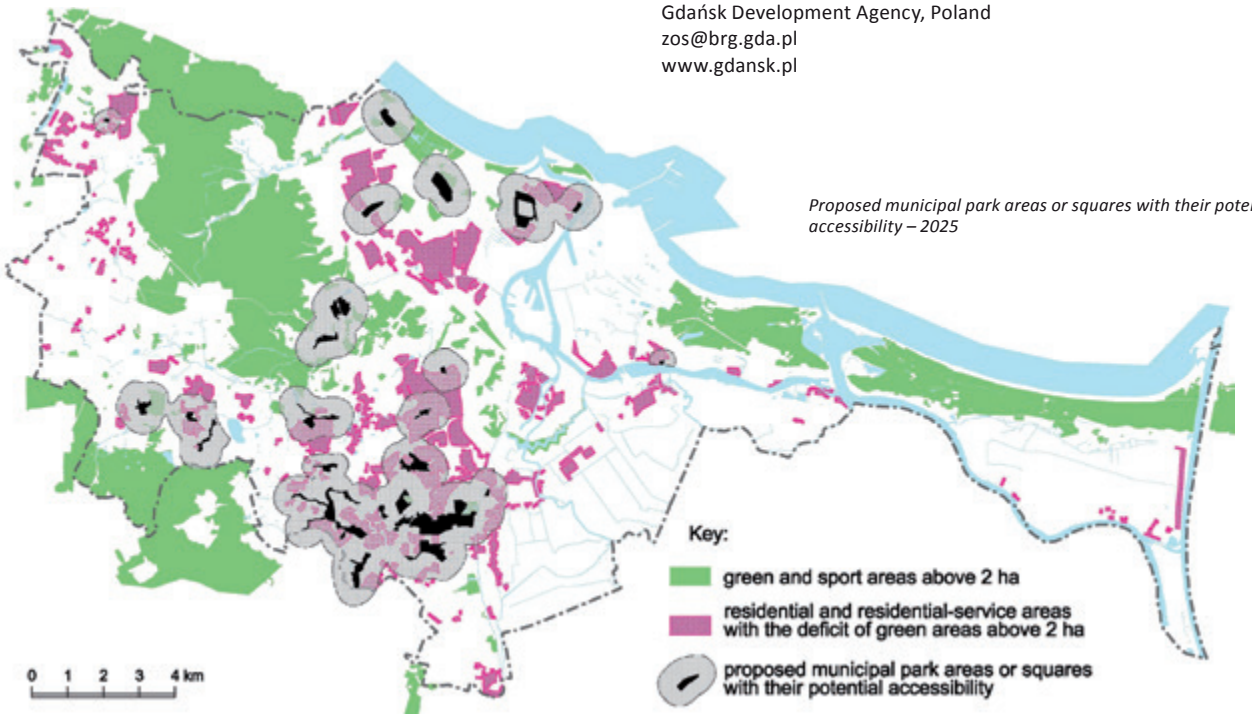
Proximity to green areas from housing areas is an extremely important indicator for the quality of life in the city and highly valued by the residents of Gdansk and a great asset in the inter-urban competition of investments and knowledge. In Gdansk, about 46% of all housing and housing-service areas are situated beyond walking distance to the urban greenery, such as parks or forest. In these areas there are lawns, squares and larger well organized community green spaces of significant importance that make up for the lack of green areas. Due to their existence the green deficit zone decreases, so the green deficit is only 27% in these areas.

There is therefore a need to put a special emphasis on planning new green and recreational areas for the citizens in Gdansk. The special focus will primarily concern establishing new green areas in Gdansk within the existing urban tissue.

Learning from Dublin

In order to provide green areas for its citizens, Gdansk focused on the greening of the city. The new focus was decided based on studies on the existing green areas in the city, including a comparative analysis of Gdansk and Dublin. The findings resulted in more than 20 new spots in the city earmarked for green areas. Dublin experiences show that the best results to assure residents their right to greenery is done with green squares - small, recreation and sport facilities of several hectares, shaped simultaneously with the implementation of new housing estates. To ensure the right number of green square meters per citizen, it is important to include these strategies in land-use planning for the future of Gdansk.

More information:
Beata Ochmańska
Enviroment Protection Team
Gdańsk Development Agency, Poland
zos@brg.gda.pl
www.gdansk.pl



Proposed municipal park areas or squares with their potential accessibility – 2025

Development of recreational area in Jēkabpils

Text: **Laura Afanasjeva**
Photo: **Jēkabpils City Municipality**

On the April 16, 2012, Zemgale Planning Region and eight project partners including Jēkabpils City Municipality signed an agreement to execute a project "Secure green area and water basins in Zemgale and Northern Lithuania - Urban Green"

The main goal of the project is to protect green areas and water basins in the cities of Zemgale region in Latvia and Northern Lithuania by making investments in reconstructions of parks and green. However, Urban Green also includes a public awareness campaign to increase care and cherish the green areas in the city.

When the project ends in October 2013, inhabitants and tourists of Jēkabpils will have been granted wider accessibility of nature resources and green areas. This project serves the interests of both people and nature.

This project will improve the infrastructure of Jēkabpils Forest Park – the most popular recreation and leisure area in Jēkabpils. The park was established in 1966 to protect the city from dust created in the dolomite quarry. In 1987, the quarry was flooded and a scenic water basin with small islets and clean water rose from the previous industrial site. In sharp contrast to the previous polluting activities, the basin has now been granted the blue flag for several years as a sign for the exquisite water quality.

With the support of Urban Green, the main road that leads to the blue flag beach will be paved and the bicycle and pedestrian route around the water basin will be designed to attract future investments. During the environmental campaigns, there have already been organized competitions to find the most beautiful gardens in the project partner cities, including Dobele, Jēkabpils, Jaunjelgava and Pļaviņas. The intention is to increase the awareness on the green areas in the city and underline their importance as the urban oasis and an important break from the bustling urban lifestyle.

'Our city is constantly spreading, and accessibility for green areas is decreasing. Therefore it is vital to improve green areas in the city by developing our parks and prevent negative impacts made by pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.'

Environmental campaigns also include a joint cleanup of the Forest Park and experience exchange workshops on green area and park management for specialists of the municipalities.

The project is financed by the Latvia–Lithuania Cross border Cooperation Programme 2007 – 2013.

More information:
Laura Afanasjeva
Laura.afanasjeva@jekabpils.lv
www.jekabpils.lv

SmartComp project- New opportunities for the Central Baltic maritime cluster

Text: **Kirsi-Marja Lonkila** Photo: **Shutterstock.com/ TranceDrumer**

The Baltic Sea, being one of the busiest seas in the world, has a huge impact on the Central Baltic Sea economy and society. Tightened competition and new legal requirements challenge the competitiveness of the Central Baltic marine cluster, which has always been sensitive to economic ups and downs. When simultaneously markets like Russia or Asia are eager to create a business-friendly environment, there is a strong need for new openings in the Central Baltic Sea Region.

Without a doubt, the competitiveness of the Central Baltic Region marine cluster, including Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Sweden, has to be improved. However, this must be done in parallel to a strong focus on taking care of our common Baltic Sea. Marine traffic is an environmentally friendly means of transport, but as the volumes increase, it could also mean increased effects on health and environment. These include e.g. the increased risk of accidents and oil spills, as well as growing greenhouse gas emissions. Solutions need to be found in smart and environmentally sustainable growth.

The main actors of a marine cluster include maritime industry, shipping related business and port operations. In all countries in the region, marine clusters are strategic actors with good, existing networks. What could be improved, though, is the cooperation between different actors across national borders, which would improve the competitiveness of the Central Baltic Sea marine cluster.

Smart competitiveness for the Central Baltic Region

Led by UBC Commission on Environment, **the SmartComp project aims to support smart, environmentally sustainable growth and cooperation of the Central Baltic Region marine cluster**. This will be done through triple helix cooperation, meaning that maritime cluster businesses, the public sector and universities are encouraged to cooperate across borders in Finland, Estonia and Latvia.

The project research team will work to provide an insight into the current state and future scenarios of the Central Baltic Region maritime cluster. Reports concerning sector and company levels in all three participating countries will be published, as well as a report comparing the region with other successful maritime clusters globally.

The research conducted will help to recognize the problematic areas and introduce best practices and smart business models, in order to help adopting new solutions in the Central Baltic region. The research results will also be the basis for all other triple helix activities in the project, including consulting days for business representatives and creating policy recommendations.

The project is co-financed by the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme, and it will culminate in a SmartComp Forum in November 2013 in Turku, where the results and achievements of the project shall be presented to a wide range of participants.

More information:
Kirsi-Marja Lonkila
kirsi-marja.lonkila(a)ubc.net
www.cb-smartcomp.eu

SMARTCOMP
SMART COMPETITIVENESS FOR THE CENTRAL BALTIC REGION

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

CENTRAL BALTIC INTERREG IV A PROGRAMME 2007–2013

Strategic Local Climate Work in Nordic Municipalities

Text: **Kirsi-Marja Lonkila** Photo: **Shutterstock.com/ MarkMirror**

Local actions are crucial for mitigating climate change and reaching national and EU level greenhouse gas emission targets. Especially in the Nordic countries, as internationally compared, the competencies and responsibilities of Nordic municipalities are quite broad in fields that are relevant for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The NordLead project that was launched in 2011 to find the success factors and support needs in local climate work in the Nordic countries.

Nordic municipalities have already been working with sustainable development for two decades and have in recent years compiled ambitious climate strategies. As part of the NordLead project, a survey among Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic municipalities was conducted. The study gathers valuable information about local climate change management.

The results show that Nordic municipalities are working for climate change mitigation and adaptation, whereas Norwegian and Swedish municipalities have been the most active in developing and adopting local climate strategies. This mainly comes down to differences in national-level support for municipalities. The support from the state has been weaker in Finland and Iceland. Commonalities in the success factors and challenges are found in the study. However, it shows there is no 'one size fits all' solution because the countries differ in many respects – the national framework conditions being the most crucial difference.

Municipalities still in need of support

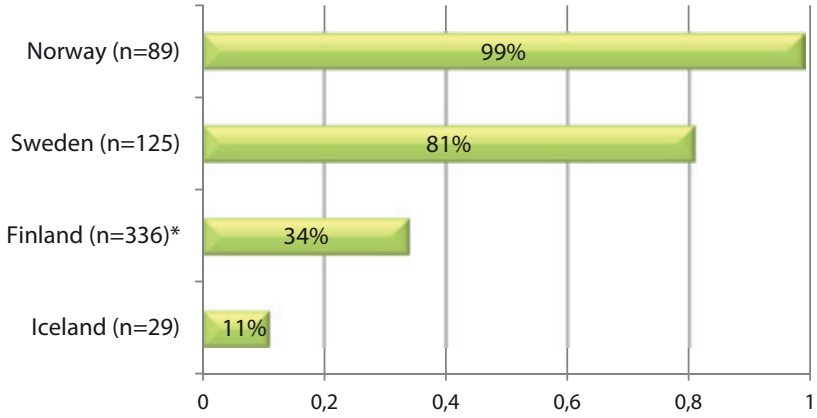
Norway is the only country requiring municipalities to develop a climate strategy. Based on the study, it clearly indicates that this kind of requirement is an effective way to start the work but should include additional resources to plan, implement and monitor climate work. In all cases, the most important factor to improve the local climate work in the Nordic municipalities is a state-level economic support to implement climate mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as for hiring climate coordinators or other staff.

Nordic municipalities are challenged by the need for cross-sectorial climate work, and capacity building to support local authorities in this task is crucial. The study shows that the Swedish combination of municipalities acting on their own initiative, being still supported by the state, and municipal central administration taking a strong role gives the best results in successful climate strategies.

The whole study report will be published online in late 2012 in the Nordic Council of Ministers TemaNord Series online, and can be downloaded free of charge. The Nordic Council of Ministers has partly funded the project.

Municipalities that have a climate strategy or are preparing one, by country

***) Finnish figure from an earlier mapping incl. all municipalities**



Municipalities that have a climate strategy or are preparing one, by country

More information:
Kirsi-Marja Lonkila, Project Coordniator
krsi-marja.lonkila@ubc.net
www.ubc-environment.net

norden
Nordic Council of Ministers

Clean Water and Energy Efficiency

Text and photos: Eva Hjälmered

This text is being written on a warm and sunny day in September. And this text will focus on our cold climate and its impact on the sewage treatment. The Baltic Sea is one of the most polluted waters in Europe. We need to explore new ways to increase the quality of our sea.

Biological wastewater treatment is probably the largest bio technological process, used all over Europe to treat municipal wastewater. Our climate complicates this process during the colder part of the year. The Baltic States and other nations with a cold winter climate have important problems to meet claims on Nitrogen from sewage treatment plants given in the Directive 98/15/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment. The main reason to the observed difficulty is that the temperature of the sewage water during the winter season is too cold and may be below 10°C as an average. Raising the temperature of the incoming sewage water will facilitate for many EU countries to comply with legislation and reduce the negative impact on the European lakes and seas.

ITEST

The project ITEST (Increased Technology and Efficiency in Sewage Treatment) demonstrates new methods to improve the treatment efficiency while at the same time saving electrical energy. ITEST aims at demonstrating improved municipal waste water treatment and improved power efficiency in waste water treatment by adding heat to the incoming water in the treatment process. Added heat from combined heat and power plants, will not only warm up the incoming water, but also stabilize the treatment temperature. This will improve the treatment efficiency, especially for Nitrogen, and possibly to use the excess heat for pre-warming sludge for anaerobic digestion, and possibly to increase the carbon dioxide content in the air for nitrification. The idea is to integrate several measures that can be used in new plants, but also implemented at existing plants, in order to achieve better treatment efficiency. The combination of different measures is the innovation of the suggested method.

Simulation – what would your results be

The technique has been tested in lab scale and is now running in test scale. Simulation software has been developed and the results from the first three months of demonstration have been added. This gives other cities and municipalities the possibility to add there information, for example the number

of inhabitants, the brown water temperature, the capacity and the buying and selling price of district heating. When adding this in the simulation the local results will show. The simulation software is located on www.itestlife.eu and contains:

- Overview of the plant process
- The plant process display of the simulation
- Schematic display of the simulation
- Energy simulation screen
- Statistics display
- Explanations of the underlying calculations

Results

Once a week a 24h sample was taken automatically and sent for analysis. Furthermore, during optimization periods samples were taken manually and analyzed via so called cuvette tests. Process parameters like temperatures and flow were generated automatically by the control system of the equipment. Tests are also being done externally to have the testing ensured and certified.

The demonstration site was deliberately shut down and there were no testing done during the summer, due to high temperature which would not be representative data. During the month of October 2012 the demonstration plant will start up again and the installation will be running within a month. Thereafter the testing will go on and proceed until a complete series of results from a cohesive period of six months is completed.

For more information visit

www.itestlife.eu

iTEST Clean Water & Energy Efficiency OSKARS HAMN

More information:
Eva Hjälmered
UBC Energy Commission
eva.hjelmered@ubcenergy.org
www.ubcenergy.org

UBC ENERGY COMMISSION

The UBC Energy Commission is part of the Union of Baltic Cities, for more information please visit: www.ubc.net.

Networking the Covenant of Mayors

Text: **Jeppe Mikel Jensen** Photo: **UBC EnvCom**

The Covenant of Mayors is the first bottom-up initiative brought into being by European local authorities and supported by the European Commission: the signatory cities commit to go beyond the EU's energy and climate goals and to reduce their CO_2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020 through energy efficiency and renewable energy actions, the so-called "3x20" objectives.

Networking Covenant of Mayors has the objective to share the experiences with the obligations related to the signing the Covenant of Mayors. In order to meet this objective, the Baltic Sea Region Covenant Club has been initiated. The Club is considered an open network with knowledge sharing, workshops and newsletters on topics relevant to the Covenant of mayors. It addresses mayors, environmental officers and specialists either active with the covenant of mayors or have a general interest in urban sustainable development.

Soil production facility as the latest achievement

The network will bring together local authorities and national actors. The aim is to create and share a powerful vision and to develop common priorities for action in terms of de-centralised energy and territorial cohesion. The new paradigm of greater energy autonomy and of a supply close to where consumption happens will be at the centre of attention. More and more cities and towns implement "sustainable energy" hand-in-hand with local, "territorial cohesion" policies. They are successful examples of how to achieve the "3x20" objectives by 2020. Through the exchange in the Covenant Club the cities can get inspired and propose new solutions to the national government and the EU.

The next Baltic Sea Region Covenant Club work shop is held at the International Winter Conference in Jokkmokk, Sweden 7-8 February 2013, with a specific focus on the land-use aspects when creating Sustainable Energy Action Plans.

The covenant club is open to all relevant stakeholders, either signatory cities or potential signatories. Sign up for newsletter on **www.networkingcovenantofmayors.eu**

More information:
Jeppe Mikel Jensen - Project Coordinator
jeppe.jensen@ubc.net
www.ubc-environment.net

NETCOM
NETworking the Covenant Of Mayors

INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE

National training event on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans gathered over 80 participants in Helsinki, Finland

Text and Photo: **Maija Rusanen**

The European Commission seeks to accelerate the large scale take up of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) by local and regional authorities in Europe by informing comprehensively about the scope, content and benefits of these plans.

During the European Mobility week, a training seminar on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans was held in Helsinki. Union of the Baltic Cities Commission on Environment organised the event in collaboration with the Finnish Ministry of Environment, Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communication and Motiva. The successful event gathered more than 80 participants from all over Finland. The participants included: local planners and implementers dealing with city, land use and transport planning, regional and national level authorities and other interested parties.

The main aim of the event was to present the concept of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans and to discuss how the different elements of the concept could be better integrated into the existing planning instruments and systems in Finland.

A Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan is a way of tackling urban transport-related problems in a more green and efficient way. A SUMP consists of a diverse range of initiatives including policy making, public participation and implementation of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable transport systems. To facilitate the planning and implementation of such plans in European cities, Guidelines – Developing and Implementing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan aimed local authorities and implementers have been prepared and can be found online.

Upcoming Baltic Sea region events on SUMP

During 2011-2013, more than 35 awareness raising and training events will be organised across Europe on developing and implementing Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans within the Eltisplus project. Previously national SUMP Awareness Raising events for the Baltic Sea region states have taken place in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. The next round of events is currently being planned and further Technical training seminars will be organised in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2012-2013.

More information:
Maija Rusanen, Project Coordinator
maija.rusanen@ubc.net
www.mobilityplans.eu.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY PLANS

Part of INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE

Comprehensive report displays legislation of sewage sludge handling in the Baltic Sea Region

Text **Olena Zinchuk** Photo: **Hannamaria Yliruusi**

Sewage sludge comprises an end product of the waste water treatment process with limited use and disposal options. A cornerstone of sludge management is therefore handling the restricting factors usually of technical, economical or legal nature. A new research publication from Project on Urban Reduction of eutrophication (PURE) provides a comprehensive and useful introduction to legislation on sewage sludge handling within the Baltic Sea region.

The report presents both the EU framework and national legislation that applies to sludge handling. It also provides a full set of the requirements influencing handling of sludge which is to be used for specific purposes e.g. agriculture, land re-cultivation, landscaping and forestry or disposal e.g. landfilling and incineration.

Sewage sludge is defined as waste under the EU's Waste Framework directive. After 1999, the Urban Waste Water Treatment directive has prohibited sludge disposal to surface waters, dumping from ships and discharge from pipelines, and called for the re-use of sludge whenever appropriate. The analysis of existing legislation shows that specific legal requirements focus principally on the use of sludge in agriculture, both at national and European level. Other uses or disposal routes for sludge broadly fall under general laws on waste management e.g. the Landfill directive prohibits the acceptance of liquid waste and aims at reducing the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfills; the Incineration directive applies to sludge incinerating plants.

The only specific Sewage Sludge directive, adopted in 1986, lists the acceptable treatment methods of sludge used in agriculture – as biological, chemical or heat treatment, long-term storage or any other appropriate process. It also define the limit values of heavy metals contained in sludge and in soil, the restriction on the choice of crops and surfaces where sludge is to be applied and control system of legislative compliance.

The research, conducted for the report has shown that when incorporating this directive into their national legal frameworks, all EU member states from the Baltic Sea Region have gone for stricter and more precisely defined laws. For example, the most stringent heavy metal limit values can be found in Scandinavian countries and Germany, whereas Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland established particularly detailed requirements on treatment procedures or surface restrictions. And even though Russia and Belarus do not have to comply with EU directives, in the Russian GOST and SanPiN state standards (also applied in Belarus), there are similar treatment and surface-bound requirements and regulations similar to the ones in the other Baltic States.

Find the report and more information on the PURE website: **www.purebalticsea.eu**

More information:
Hannamaria Yliruusi, Project Coordinator
hannamaria.yliruusi@ubc.net
www.ubc-environment.net

PURE
project on urban reduction of eutrophication

Implementing sustainability at local level

Text: **Maija Rusanen** Photo: **ECAT**

Q's corner

Answers provided by Audrone Alijosiute, Director of ECAT – Lithuania. audrone@ecat.lt

ECAT – Lithuania has experience of many decades on working with sustainability issues at local level. Audrone Alijositute, the director of ECAT, gives insights into green growth in the Baltic Sea region based on their experiences.

Could you describe the issues ECAT – Lithuania is working with?

Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology (ECAT – Lithuania) is a non-governmental and non profit organisation that was established in 1997. We are the leading organisation in Lithuania specialising in sustainable development policies at local level. We have a long experience in assisting and working with municipalities, companies and organisations who seek to advance their efforts towards sustainable development. This includes all stages of the processes - from generation of ideas and project planning to reporting and evaluation. Currently we are involved with projects dealing with climate change and energy efficiency, sustainable lifestyles and corporate responsibility.

In your opinion, what should be done to foster green growth in the Baltic Sea region?

Baltic Sea region is a unique region located at the crossroad between East and West Europe and has potential to show a leading example in smart development. However, green growth needs a strong support from the national governments and wider acknowledgement at the community level. More attention should be paid to capacity building in governance and creating the legal basis for green growth and at the same time reinforcing the green culture in the region.

What kind of actions should be taken at local level?

Sustainability issues and green growth should become mainstream policy at all levels. Municipalities should not work only with sustainability projects but embed sustainability principles in their daily activities and management, using appropriate indicators to follow the progress. Local projects often offer interesting insights but sometimes lacks of continuation when the innovative activities end with the last project report. Sustainment of the results should be planned from the beginning and should be seen as important as the project implementation itself. Local initiatives - through regulatory, economic and informative measures - have a strong potential to encourage green behaviour in our region.

Online guidance on the Integrated Management System available!

In order to enable European local governments to apply integrated management for sustainability and climate change response, an online Capacity Development Package (CDP) was developed. The online guidance has been developed together with municipalities and it can be used to organise climate work in a cross-sectorial and systematic way. The CDP is the main output of the CHAMP project.

The step-by-step guidance contains practical tools and many examples of climate work carried out by European local authorities.

A Managing Urban Europe Initiative
CHAMP
Local Response to Climate Change

Find the CDP online in six languages at

www.localmanagement.eu!

Short News

The Baltic Sea Needs Action

In August 2012 the Baltic Sea needs Actions (BSNA) was launched as an awareness raising project on the current environmental challenges the Baltic Sea faces. The project is coordinated by UBC Commission on Environment in cooperation with Committee for Nature Use, Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety of City of St. Petersburg and Valonia – South-West service center on sustainable development and energy.

Based on the experiences from Blue Pack and the NEAT projects, BSNA develops further interactive education/awareness raising materials on environmental issues of the Baltic Sea and prepares support materials for teachers, experts and other stakeholders carrying out environmental education. It also assists the basic ideas and principles of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan that focuses on active participation of all major stakeholder groups in the region. The outputs of the project are a series of learning material including: interactive computer games, information slides as well as stories to actively engage citizens in saving the Baltic Sea.

For more information:
Stella Aaltonen
Project Manager
stella.aaltonen@turku.fi

PURE Book "Good Practices in Sludge Management" now available!

We are happy to announce that one of the PURE project outcomes, book "Good Practices in Sludge Management" is out now in English and Russian!

First of its kind in the region, this comprehensive publication presents technical solutions used in sludge handling and disposal processes, compares the results achievable by application of different techniques, explores relevant emerging technologies and legal limitations for the further sewage sludge use. The book was created by the PURE project consortium. The book is to be translated to four more languages: German, Polish, Latvian and Estonian yearly 2013.

For a high resolution copy (EN or RU): Send a request to olena.zinchuk(ad)ubc.net including your physical address and a CD will be sent to you.

See also: **www.purebalticsea.eu**

BSR InnoShip to launch new information platform

BSR InnoShip - Baltic Sea cooperation for reducing ship and port emissions through knowledge- & innovation-based competitiveness has launched a new, interactive web platform. The 'Clean Shipping Currents' platform is developed to disseminate information on: airborne emissions from shipping, abatement techniques, cost efficiency estimations and other current issues related to clean shipping. The platform acts as a compendium of knowledge receiving the latest material from major scholarly institutions and the private sector. The information on the platform is thus both relevant and concise knowledge for all stakeholders involved in Baltic shipping.

Visit **www.cleanshippingcurrents.eu.**

UBC ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of 107 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.

The current staff of Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat consists of 16 professionals working fulltime for the UBC.

EnvCom, Turku

Our aims

UBCWheel

UBC Good Practice Database (UBC Wheel) is a database full of practices that cover sustainable development in Baltic Sea cities including all topics from transport to health and from social aspects to economic instruments; all dimensions of the Aalborg Commitments. At the moment, there are 500 cases inserted in the database.

www.ubcwheel.eu

Projects

PRESTO - PURE - CHAMP - NEW BRIDGES - BaltCICA - Eltis+ - QUEST - SUSTAINMENT - BUSTRIP... just to mention a few.

Contact us

Our address is:
UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat
Baltic Sea House
Vanha Suurtori 7
FIN -20500 Turku, Finland

Tel: +358 2 262 3172
Fax: +358 2 262 3425

www.ubc-environment.net

European Commission

Cut emissions, create jobs. Innovate.

www.world-you-like.europa.eu

Climate Action

a world you like
with a climate you like