

AALBORG•AARHUS•BALTIJSK•BERGEN•BÜTZOW•CESIS•CHOJNICE•COPENHAGEN•ELBLAG•ELVA•ESPOO•GDANSK•GDYNIA•GÖTEBORG•GREIFSWALD•HAAPSALU•HELSINKI
•HÖRSSENS•JEKABPILS•JELGAVA•JOHVI•JURMALA•KALININGRAD•KALMAR•KARLSHAMN•KARLSKRONA•KARLSTAD•KAUNAS•KEILA•KARDLA•KEMI•KIEL•KLAIPEDA•KØGE
•KOLDING•KOSZALIN•KOTKA•KRISTIANSTAD•KRONSHADT•KURESSAARE•KÄRDLA•LAHTI•LANDSKRONA•LIEPAJA•LINKÖPING•LOMONOSOV•LÜBECK•LEBA•MALBORK•MALMÖ•
MARIEHAMN•MARJAMPOLE•NACKA•NARVA•NAESTVED•NORRÖPING•NORRTÄLJE•NYKÖBING•NYKÖPING•OSKARSHAMN•OXELÖSUND•PALANGA•PANEVEZYS•PÄRNŮ•PETERHOF•PORI•PRUSZCZ
GDANSKI•REDA•REZEKNE•RIGA•ROSTOCK•SESTRORETSK•SIAULIAI•SILKEBORG•SILLAMÄE•SOPOT•STOCKHOLM•ST.PETERSBURG•SUNDSVALI•SZCZECIN•TALLINN
•TAMPERE•TARTU•TONSBERG•TUKUMS•TURKU•UMEÅ•UPPSALA•VAASA•VILJANDI•VILNIUS•VISBY•VÖRÖ•VÄSTERÅS•VAXJÖ•WISMAR•YSTAD

Baltic Cities

Environmental bulletin ● No 1, 2001

- Strong Support for New UBC Agenda 21
- Baltic Cities Environmental Award
- Colin Fudge welcomes UBC to the Campaign SteerCom



EDITOR

Risto Veivo

LAYOUT

Sari Bowie

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Sanna Salminen, Niko Remes,
Sarah Smith

EDITORIAL BOARD

Irja Alakivi, Tartu
Guldbrand Skjönberg, Nacka
Ralf Giercke, Lübeck
Mikko Jokinen, Turku
Carl Nielsen, Aarhus
Zita Tverkute, Panevezys
Pawel Zaboklicki, Gdansk

*

PUBLISHER

Union of the Baltic Cities
Commission on Environment

Linnankatu 61

FIN-20100 Turku

FINLAND

www.ubc.net

Tel. +358 2 230 2030

Fax. +358 2 253 8613

E-mail. risto.veivo@netti.fi

ISSN 1455-0903

*

PRINTING HOUSE

Newprint Ltd.

Finland

Cover Picture:

Environmental Protection Department,
Kaunas

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Baltic Cities

Environmental Bulletin



It is with great pleasure that I am able to write this editorial for the Union of the Baltic Cities' Environment Bulletin. In my wide and varied experiences over the years, it has been very clear to me that the countries and municipalities of the Nordic countries have led the way in many areas of environmental policy and protection, the same has been true with regards to sustainable development. The success of the UBC and its very effective environment committee reflects this strong commitment and the desire of Baltic State cities, from all countries, to both learn from and pass on their experiences within the context of the Baltic region.

The UBC has provided strong support to the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign over the years.

The Baltic Cities conference held in Turku in 1999 remains one of the clear practical ways in which the UBC actively supported the Campaign. The endorsement of the Campaign within the UBC's LA21 has also encouraged a large number of municipalities within the Baltic region to sign the Aalborg Charter and participate in the Campaign.

The Campaign has grown substantially over the years and now has over 1250 participants from 36 European countries. In recognition of its continuing growth and development, the Campaign's co-ordination committee in co-operation with a number of other local authority networks, including the UBC has recently decided to widen the participation of other networks within the Campaign's structure. The Campaign's new Steering Committee will include networks that exist in more than four European countries, represent primarily local authorities, have sustainable development as one of their foci and are committed to the implementation of the Aalborg Charter, Lisbon Action Plan and the Hannover Call. Within this new Steering Committee, the participation of the UBC will be eagerly awaited, further strengthening the support of the network to the Campaign.

The development of the Campaign should also be seen within the context of the EU's 'Community Framework for Co-operation to Promote Sustainable Urban Development'. The European Commission at the recent Barcelona conference entitled 'Sustainable Urban Development in the Urban Environment' provisionally launched the framework. This framework will provide support to networks, operating in more than four European countries with help in a variety of areas such as sustainable urban development, urban environment and local agenda 21. The framework will enable co-operation between actors, through the development and transfer of training, knowledge and good practice within cities and towns.

This new framework will provide the opportunity to further support the Campaign and the activities of networks, such as the UBC, in further developing and promoting the good work that has been started in recent years.

Prof. Colin Fudge

*Chair of the EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment
and of the Technical Co-ordination Committee of
the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign*

Contents

2	EDITORIAL by Mr Colin Fidge	12	The Baltic Institute of Finland
4	Strong support for new UBC Agenda 21 Agenda 21 pushed in Liepaja Sustainability Guidelines		Earth Day in Rāpinā The Botanic Garden
5	Results from SUFA project LA 21 Training in SUFA Project	13	The Healthy Adventure Agenda 21 and social problem Climate.now
6	Best City Practices	14	National Event for fostering LA21 action
7	European Common Indicators	15	Growth of Economy together with EMAS and ISO14000 Metals in the environment conference
8	UBC -lake Victoria Cities co-operation Tea Nõmman joins the Environment Secretariat UBC Award for your city?	16	Local action for global climate protection Applied environmental solution
9	Renewable energy for Europe Campaign for take off Blue Flag in Jurmala	17	International environmental film festival Green Vision
10	Electric carpool in Malmö Guidelines for Rostock Viljandi Agenda 21	18	NEWS IN BRIEF
11	Environmental twinning Surface Water Bodies Pollution Reduction Program for Kaunas	19	EVENT CALENDAR
	Back cover: Instructions for applying for the Environmental Award		

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)...

... is a network consisting of 99 cities from 10 different countries in the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC was founded in September 1991 to develop co-operation and exchange of experiences amongst its member cities. The main goal of the Union is to contribute to democratic, social, economic and environmentally friendly development in the Baltic Sea Region.

The UBC is open to all cities willing to join it. Today the member cities range from charming small towns to big cities such as St Petersburg, Stockholm and Copenhagen. In spite of the differences in size, language, location, economy, etc., the interest towards local level co-operation unites each of them.

The UBC initiates and co-ordinates projects involving its members and promotes the exchange of know-how and experiences amongst the cities by organizing courses, seminars and meetings, as well as publishing newsletters.

The UBC is led by an Executive Board and the Secretariat is located in Gdansk, Poland. The actual work is carried out by nine commissions in the following fields: business co-operation, culture, education, environment, social affairs, sport, tourism, transportation and urban planning.

Please contact us for further information!

Strong Support for New UBC Agenda 21

By Risto Veivo

The UBC is creating a new Agenda 21 Action program already for the coming two-year period, 2002-2003. The UBC Executive Board made a decision on starting preparations for the new program in its meeting in Cesis, Latvia, 16-17 March.

The board decision means that the new program will be proposed to the UBC General Conference already next Autumn in Rostock, 12-13 October. The main reason for the early program renewal is

the rapid success of the current program, which was originally planned to cover altogether three years, 2000-2002.

Nine projects of the current program will be fully implemented by the end of 2001. The total costs of these projects are approximately 1.2 MEURO. The goals of the current program with regard to political influence, contacts and networking have also been met, both in the Baltic Sea Region and on the European level.

Now the UBC is also becoming a member of the Steering Committee of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, and, furthermore, we will also be one of the approximately 10 European City networks that are eligible for the new four-year funding program of the European Union. This program is meant for city networks in co-operation for sustainable urban policy on European

level. The total budget of this EU funding program is 14 MEURO during 2001-2004. The priority themes of this new EU program fit very well for UBC's activities.

In addition to EU funding, the projects of the current UBC Agenda 21 program have also received considerable funding from the Nordic Minister Council and from several ministries of the environment in Baltic Sea Region countries. Co-operation with these partners is also planned to be continued in the implementation of the planned new program.

Technical preparations of the new program proposal are currently going on in the Commission on Environment Secretariat. More information on the preparation and drafts for comments are available from the UBC Environmental Co-ordinator. All UBC members are warmly welcomed to contribute.

Agenda 21 pushed in Liepaja

UBC Local Agenda 21 Working Group and Commission on Environment met in Liepaja, Latvia, 19-20 March 2001. The meeting gathered together 31 participants representing member cities and partner organisations in all Baltic Sea Region countries except Norway.

During the two days in Liepaja, basis was created for the preparations of new UBC Agenda 21 Program for the next two-year period 2002-2002. Before the meeting in Liepaja, the UBC Executive Board had already given its official support to the preparations just a few days earlier in its meeting in Cesis, Latvia, 16-17 March.

As the emphasis in UBC's Agenda 21 work is on concrete activities, new projects and project ideas were developed in three workshops. Topics discussed included e.g. MEA projects in Latvia, Harbour Agenda 21 project, and development of UBC's network activities and services.

The meeting also offered useful information of local environmental work in the City of Liepaja, e.g., with regard to Liepaja's Environmental Action Program with strong public participation aspects. Thanks to the splendid hospitality of the local organisers, everyone seemed to have a good time and many new contacts between participants were created.

Sustainability Guidelines

By Sarah Smith

The development of sustainability guidelines for UBC activities is part of the UBC Local Agenda 21 Action Program 2000 - 2002. The areas that the guidelines will cover are activities such as meetings, publications and the office environment.

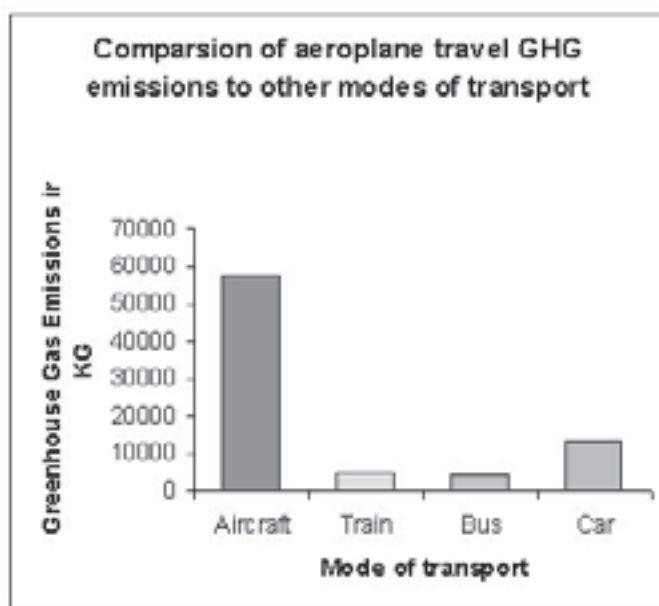
Travelling to meetings can cause a large negative environmental impact. For example, 25 people out of the 31 participants of the 27th UBC executive Board Meeting in Kemi, Finland travelled to the meeting by aircraft. The following

graph shows the amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) produced in comparison to if people had travelled by train, bus or car.

It is hoped that the ideas to make publications and the office environment more sustainable will be easy to implement and naturally become part of daily working life. They are not designed to cause an increase in workload, just to change the way we work and think about the products we use. It will not only help the environment but also the UBC in cost

savings through increased efficiency in energy use and waste minimisation.

A questionnaire was sent to all UBC commissions, the Women's Network, EU Co-ordinator and secretariat to obtain their thoughts and ideas. These ideas were crucial to the development of the guidelines to ensure that they are practical and meet the commissions' needs for becoming more sustainable.



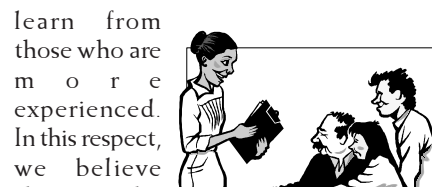
Results from SUFA Project

The SUFA Project on local environmental policy is proceeding well. Participants have been satisfied with the Agenda 21 training course, several good publications have been made, and research results are soon expected. The following three short articles introduce briefly some of the outcomes of the project.

Human Resources for Agenda 21

The UBC commission on Environment has recently published Human Resources Review for Local Agenda 21 in the Baltic States and Poland. The Review provides brief profiles of more than 50 experts and organisations.

How can a municipality, which is starting a Local Agenda 21 process, create basis for successful work? It is indeed useful to learn from those who are more experienced.



In this respect, we believe that the Human Resources Review can be most helpful. The intention is to provide some good experts and contacts for municipalities in each target country: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. In addition to experts located in these countries, a selection of international experts is included, as well as information on support organisations.

The next publication to come out in the SUFA Project, in August 2001, is Local Agenda 21 Good Practice Review. It will introduce several good Local Agenda 21 cases from the Baltic Sea Region. Points of view of municipalities will be combined for example with those of some major companies.

The review is available from the Commission on Environment Secretariat, and it will also be published in the Internet at <http://www.ubc.net/commissions/envi-success.html>. The contents of the e-publication will be regularly updated.
Tel: +358-2-230 2030
Fax: +358-2-253 8613
E-mail: sari.bowie@saunalhti.fi

The SUFA Project (2000-2001) is a common initiative of the UBC, ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), and Åbo Akademi University. The project is co-funded by the European Commission, Finnish Ministry of the Environment, and Nordic Minister Council.

Good Local Agendas?

By Björn Grönholm

One of the main topics of SUFA Project is to find and present good practice cases of LA21 activities. The intention is to present a number of agenda processes and analyse why and in what way they are strong and have succeeded with their topics and activities.

When analysing LA21 activities we have put the focus on the process as such. We are interested to see what kind of a process the LA21 activities are and how strong the process really is. When studying LA21 processes we have chosen a number of factors we find relevant or vital for a strong and efficient process. According to these factors the best practice cases have been selected. Altogether 12-16 cases will be included both from Nordic and Baltic states.

We hope that these examples will function as sources of inspiration for cities which are starting their own LA21 process. Our intention is to present these cases and the different success factors behind them in August 2001.



Training for My Agenda

By Galina Kapanen

One of the components of SUFA Project is the training course for Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinators and experts from the Baltic States and Poland. I am one of the participants of this course.

We altogether 16 participants met each other in the first training workshop in Kaunas, Lithuania, in November last year.

The second workshop was held in Sopot, Poland, this April and the last one will be in Haapsalu, Estonia, in September. The workshops are complemented by distance training with weekly tasks and e-communication. During the one-year course, all essential aspects of Local Agenda 21 will be covered.

Because we all have different backgrounds, we also have different priorities and interests. Discussions during workshops have helped to understand each other and the situation on LA21 process in the Baltic States and Poland. Between the first and second workshop we completed about 18 distance exercises and it was really busy and productive time for all of us.

I would like to say that the distance training really pushes you to contact with colleagues and interested parties on the LA21 and helps a lot in understanding your role and place in this process. I would like to thank our trainer Barbara Anton at ICLEI and the UBC Commission on Environment for the interesting training course and all participants for the great team!

Further information:
Mr. Björn Grönholm
Åbo Akademi University
Tel: +358-2-215 4586
E-mail: bjorn.gronholm@abo.fi

Ms. Galina Kapanen
Tel: +372-50 67 628
E-mail: galina.kapanen@neti.ee

Best City Practices

By Sanna Salminen

During this spring, the five city pairs included in the BCP project have undertaken study visits. All the "couples" include a guiding city with a good environmental practice and a learning city interested in learning and implementing this good practice.

Three learning cities visited their guiding city, to see how the practice has been carried out. Two guiding cities have visited their learning cities, to see the conditions where the practice should be implemented. The study visits will be reported in the second BCP workshop, which will be organised for city couples 7-10 June in Kaunas, Lithuania.

In the Best City Practices (BCP) project, the city pairs' task is to do feasibility study about the possibilities of implementing the good practice in the partner city. The study visits were one part of the feasibility studies, which will be completed during the summer. Results and feasibility reports will be introduced in the third workshop, autumn 2001.

Introduction of the City Pairs

The first workshop of BCP project was in Bützow, Germany in October 2000. Twelve good practices were introduced, and cities started to form couples for benchmarking of good practices. In November 2000, all interested city couples sent their application for the project. Five city couples were chosen for the project. The chosen city pairs were:

Sundsvall, Sweden – Sopot, Poland: Agenda 21 process

Sundsvall has many years' experience in working on Local Agenda 21 issues while Sopot has only done Agenda 21 work for a short time. Now it is Sopot's time to study, with the help of Sundsvall, the opportunities for the development of the LA 21 co-ordination. The level of environmental consciousness among average citizens and the evaluation of the possible ways to raise such a feeling among the people are essential subjects of study in Sopot.

Turku, Finland – Panevezys, Lithuania: Air Quality Monitoring

The need to improve the air quality monitoring in Panevezys has been noticed. Panevezys needs the reliability of data, which meets also the international

demands. City of Turku has good experience in air quality monitoring, and as a member of EU they have good knowledge about international demands on air quality monitoring.

Bützow, Germany – Sillamäe, Estonia: Agenda 21

Both of the cities have problems with weak participation of youth and out migration of young people. In Bützow they have started to solve the problem with Local Agenda 21, which in their case concentrates on citizen participation. The main question to solve is "How young people may participate in the future planning of a sustainable city?" In Sillamäe the Agenda 21 process is just about to begin, and from Bützow they are getting ideas how to proceed with their problems.

Gotland, Sweden – ECAT, Lithuania: Environmental Bus

Environmental bus is a project, which is easy to move from place to place. That's why the ECAT Lithuania, which represents a bunch of Lithuanian municipalities, is a good partner in this project. The idea is to spread environmental knowledge by educating pupils with 'moving laboratory' of the bus. The special advantage of this project is, that more than two municipalities get the benefit from the project.

Elblag, Poland – Siauliai, Lithuania: Environmental Education

Both cities have experience in environmental education, thus mutual learning and exchanging of experience is possible. The aims are to develop fresh ideas in how to spread awareness about the environmental issues in different levels of society; how to involve the public in environmental activities; how to raise environmental awareness of society and how to stimulate public participation in decision-making.

Further information:
Ms. Sanna Salminen/UBC EnvCom
Tel: +358 2 230 2202
Fax: +358 2 253 8613
E-mail: ubcenv@netti.fi



Rimante Zinkute from Panevezys studying and Markku Kivivirta from Turku showing how analysers used monitoring the air quality are calibrated.

European Common Indicators - Spreading Sustainability Across Europe

By Niko Remes

The Union of the Baltic Cities and European Commission DG Environment have started co-operation concerning European Common Indicators Initiative "Towards a Local Sustainability Profile"

The UBC and European Commission DG Environment have started to spread the common indicator idea by translating the material, Technical Report and Methodology Sheets, into twelve European languages. From July onwards the reports will be available in Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Czech, Bulgarian, Romanian, Croatian, Slovakian and Slovenian.

The translation work of the material will be done by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) and Environmental Centre for Administration & Technology (ECAT) offices in the countries mentioned above. The REC and ECAT offices have also agreed to support dissemination of the translated publications.

By now (mid-May), UBC's above mentioned co-operation partners have finished the translation work. In addition to this, Methodology Sheets will have been translated by the end June. After layout and printing, done by the UBC, dissemination will begin. It will perhaps include a larger international dissemination event in the Baltic Sea Region. The other REC offices have made a commitment to organise dissemination events locally.

What are the Indicators?

A need for environmental monitoring in Europe has been clarified. Comprehensive monitoring requires guidelines, such as common indicators, which will help to evaluate movement towards or away from sustainability. Integrated indicators reflect the interactions between environmental, economic and social aspects. Greater

emphasis has been placed on change over time and identification of trends and directions than on concrete measures.

European Common indicators are planned to be complementary to all existing indicators, defined both locally and nationally. These new indicators will not replace any active work in this field done by other actors - on the contrary they will complete the process towards sustainability. In addition to this, the initiative is not just a one-off-project it has been planned to be a long-term process that will develop during implementation.

What are the benefits?

The benefits of the indicators are the results of the basic idea to develop the surrounding environment of all people in a sustainable way. First and foremost the idea of the monitoring initiative is to support local authorities in their work towards sustainability. They are in the position where the initiative for concrete development may be started at the decision-making level. This can be done by providing objective and comparable information on progress towards sustainability across Europe. The aim is to create a smooth working monitoring tool to help local decision-making and local government in general. This tool should also assist in showing how urban areas contribute to sustainability in Europe.

Indicators are beneficial for other actors: citizens, NGOs and the business community, as partners they may create a very large base in sharing responsibility for monitoring and other actions that contribute in the process. As mentioned above, these indicators will be complementary tools working side-by-side, the common goal will be the same but greater achievements may be made.



The original initiative and future actions

The 5th Environmental Action Programme and Rio Agreement launched the process. A Working Group on the Urban Environment has developed the present initiative. Now it has reached a phase where wider dissemination can be

undertaken at a larger scale in co-operation with several environmental actors.

Practical experiences will be the guidelines for future activities concerning the development of European Common Indicators. There will be a better common methodology and a more comprehensive monitoring tool after the start of a testing period of the monitoring initiative.

The Indicators will also be an evaluation tool for European Sustainable City Award Scheme and Database on Good Practice in urban Management and Sustainability. This enables neutral identification of European good practice. In the future, local authorities will find greater benefit from these measures when they have comparable information of progress and trends that will help in the identification of different actions.

Further information:
Mr. Niko Remes or Mr. Risto Veivo
Tel: +358-2-262 3201/230 2030
E-mail: ubcenv@netti.fi
risto.veivo@netti.fi

Please note!
Indicators- research forthcoming:
UBC Commission on Environment will start a research work about the indicators this autumn. The research **European Common Indicators in monitoring Baltic 21 in cities** in the Baltic Sea Region will be made by Ms. Sanna Salminen from UBC. Funding for this work has been received from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

UBC - Lake Victoria Cities Co-operation

By Niko Remes

Representatives of Lake Victoria Cities visited the UBC Commission on Environment in the City of Turku on 18 May 2001. They also had a possibility to have an overview about the city and its environmental issues.

The overall aim of the study visit was to offer the representatives of Lake Victoria Cities an opportunity to learn about the working practices of the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat and also about the Turku City Administration.

The visitors heard presentations about environmental management system and the structure of the environmental administration in Turku, about practical management and running of the network services between UBC member cities in the fields of environmental and Local Agenda 21 co-operation, and of Best City Practice project which is based on exchange of good practice in city twinning. This project presentation as well as the other presentations raised a lot of feedback and discussion about applying some co-operation ideas between Lake Victoria Cities. Also the Turku City Council was visited.

History of LVRLAC

Lake Victoria Regional Local Authorities Co-operation (LVRLAC) was established in 1997. Its aim is to meet the challenges, which are to be faced in the Lake Shore

region. The LVRLAC was formed by three East-African countries, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, which share similar problems in that area.

The objectives of LVRLAC are outlined to reach sustainable and co-ordinated management of Lake Victoria resources for the benefit of its communities. Environmental protection, Urban Planning and Economic and Social development create the main basis for co-operation. An essential part of this work is to raise public participation and involve communities to act to solve common problems. One important aim is also to promote a certain spirit of international solidarity, peace and friendship. Publishing leaflets, newsletters and magazines is one way to spread awareness concerning problems of the area, and also spreading knowledge about the activities of LVRLAC.

Strong and Functional secretariat has been considered as the strength of LVRLAC. The Headquarter Secretariat is located in Entebbe, Uganda and the regional ones in Kisumu, Kenya and Mwanza, Tanzania. All three secretariats guarantee a strong network around this area. Also, they have had international co-operation in the field of sharing experiences for instance in water resource management with some Baltic cities. The Union of the Baltic Cities is also one of the LVRLAC co-operation partners.

Tea Nõmmann joins the Environment Secretariat

By Risto Veivo

The new Project Officer for the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat has been recruited. Tea Nõmmann joins the UBC team in the beginning of August.

Tea's work will concentrate for example on Municipal Environmental Auditing projects and on indicators for sustainable urban development as well as taking part in planning of new projects and running the commission's network services.

Tea was born 1971 in Tallinn. She has worked previously in Tallinn with the Center for Policy Studies PRAXIS as well as the Concordia University, and in

several consultant companies. Her international experience also includes internship with UNEP in Kenya 1994.

Tea has graduated from Columbia University, New York 1995 as Master of International Affairs, with a specialisation on environmental policy, and she also has degree from Tallinn Technical University.

Tea is not moving to Turku alone. Her dear husband and four children are all excited about the move to new surrounding. Tea says she is very much looking forward to her work with the Baltic Cities.

UBC Award for Your City?

By Risto Veivo

The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award is now organised for the second time. Special emphasis will this time be put on innovative combination of environmental and social goals.

The theme of the award is Combining environmental and social concerns on the occasion of the VI UBC General Conference *"Social Justice in Baltic Cities in the New Millennium"*, Rostock 12-13 October.

Taking care of the urban environment is not only a task for city administration but for all of us. By encouraging citizens to act and by acting together with the citizens, cities can improve their environmental performance. On the other hand, environmental activities can also be used for social purposes. For example, projects carried out with the youth or unemployed people can successfully combine environmental improvements with participation and social integration. It is obvious that there are plenty of good practices in UBC member cities, which could win the 2001 award. All UBC member cities are warmly welcomed to participate!

The award guidelines and brochure are available from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat. Deadline for applications is 10 September 2001 and the award ceremony will take place during the General Conference in Rostock, 12-13 October.

Further information:
Mr Risto Veivo
UBC Commission on Environment
Tel: +358-2-230 2030
Fax: +358-2-253 8613
E-mail: risto.veivo@netti.fi
<http://www.ubc.net>

Renewable Energy for Europe Campaign for Take Off

By Lennart Erfors

In February 2001, Kristianstad joined the Fossil Fuel Free Programme, as one of the Partners in the EU Campaign for Take-Off.

In 1999, the executive committee of Kristianstad municipality unanimously decided to declare its will to become a Fossil Fuel Free Municipality. The reduction of fossil fuels is to be achieved primarily by the use of bio-fuels, both biomass as fuel for heating and production of electricity and biogas as fuel for local buses and other vehicles. Other activities are being undertaken in the field of energy efficiency and changes in behaviour patterns.



The local publishing house is one of the companies who fill up their vehicles with biogas in Kristianstad.

Community planning is an important instrument for reducing the increase of traffic. The Municipality of Kristianstad, a home town for some 74.000 people, has made extensive changes in the city centre in order to encourage cyclists and pedestrians. The major part of the city centre is a pedestrian precinct. During the years 1998 -2000, investments of 9 MSEK were being made and planned for the expansion of the cycle path network. In 1999 the campaign "From accelerator to bike" was launched. The aim of the campaign was to reduce short car journeys by changes in behaviour patterns.

Kristianstad, as one out of two municipalities in Sweden, has three times received governmental investment grant from the *Swedish Ministry of Environment* which generates investments in a number of private and public organisations in order

to reduce the use of fossil fuels by 39 000 tonnes. This represents approximately 8% reduction of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels in Kristianstad.

Since the 1980's *Kristianstad Energy Ltd, (C4Energi)*, has worked towards replacing oil by bio-fuel and developing a combined power and heating plant in Kristianstad. Major parts of the city are served by district heating and new areas are continually added.

Bio-fuel slowly takes over as energy source

When the power plant Allöverket, fuelled by biomass, in 1994 began producing heat and electricity the result was the substantial reduction of emissions of fossil carbon dioxide from the heating system.

C4Energi is planning to build local heating plants in the communities of Åhus, Fjälkinge, Vä and Färlöv in the coming three years.

Since the summer of 1998, the Municipality of Kristianstad has had an advisor on energy, financially supported by the *Swedish National Energy Administration*. The energy advisor is working to implement the

conversion of heating systems from oil to bio-fuel in households outside the district heating area.

From 1st of November 1999 biogas produced at the sewage treatment plant was upgraded and used as fuel for buses and other vehicles. This is a joint venture with the private Sydgas as a partner and co-investor. The *Public Transport Company, Skånetrafiken*, has introduced 8 buses fuelled by biogas in the city-transportation.

Further information:
Mr. Lennart Erfors
Tel: +46-44-136160
Fax: +46-44-128449
E-mail: lennart.erfors@kristianstad.se

Blue Flag in Jurmala

By Inta Mizovska

Jurmala is located on the shore of the Gulf of Riga. The attractive 30 km long golden sandy beach underlines the special beauty of this spa resort. Last summer Jurmala was awarded the Blue Flag.



Since 1997, the City of Jurmala has been involved in the EU Blue Flag campaign. In 2000, The Blue Flag, was awarded to the Majori beach, as a sign of quality and credit to our city, gained by common effort of the local authorities and inhabitants.

The campaign has greatly contributed to new developments in the city. During this period the municipality has reconstructed the rescue station on the beach, Majori. Now, a modern toilet facilities can be found, as well as information displayed about bathing water quality as well as appropriate behaviour on the beach. The rescue team on the beach is well trained, well equipped and ready to respond to an emergency whenever necessary.

During the campaign, serious environmental educational activities have been facilitated by involving municipality authorities, non-governmental sector, school children and inhabitants. To raise awareness and responsibility of every single person in the Blue Flag movement has been put forward as the main aim of these activities.

The municipality of Jurmala is going to join the Blue Flag movement during the current season with the aim to put forward the beach of Bulduri in a bid for the Blue Flag award.

Welcome to Jurmala to enjoy the golden sand and fresh clean water of the Blue Flag beach this summer!

Further information:
Ms. Inta Mizovska
Tel. +371 7 093868
E-mail: inta@jpd.gov.lv
<http://www.jurmala.lv>

Electric carpool in Malmö

By Trevor Graham

It's really easy, says Johan Larsson, chairman of the electric carpool in Augustenborg, Malmö, Sweden

-You can book it for as long as you want, as long as you pay a small fee. Just apply for membership, pay a stake of 50 SEK and a one off fee of 250 SEK. When you go to your local supermarket (Konsum) to collect and return the car you use a magnetic card at the start and finish of the hire period. Every month you receive a bill saying how many hours you have used the car.



The advantages with electric car-pooling are many, it is economical, you just pay the fee for the hire of the car and driving an electric car you have lots of free parking-places in Malmö. You can also drive in lanes normally restricted for public transport and you don't have to pay for service and repairs.

To have a car of your own is expensive today, says Ernesto Pineros, secretary in the carpool. - You have to pay for petrol, insurance, service, repairs and many more things. It's cheaper to be a member of an electric carpool plus you are also doing something for the environment.

The carpool has about 20 members at present. They got a lot of help from the Ecocity of Augustenborg, the local supermarket (Konsum), the municipality of Malmö and from 'Electric cars in Scania'.

The electric carpool in Augustenborg is the first electric carpool in Malmö and in Sweden.

Further information:
Mr Trevor Graham
ekostaden@malmo.se
<http://www.elbilar.nu>

Guidelines for Rostock

By Hinrich Lembecke



The City Council of the Hanseatic City of Rostock decided on guidelines for city development last December. This long-term activity framework orientates the aims of local agenda 21 and is well supported by the inhabitants.

The common aim is to establish an economically successful municipality that takes responsibility for resources and the principles of social justice. It represents a consensus among different points of view of organizations, associations, companies, church, Unions, policy and administration.

Under leadership of the LA21 Office, a working group within the administration worked out the aims of a sustainable city development and put them up for public discussion. Many organizations, companies, institutions as well as inhabitants took part in the discussions and made proposals. Working groups and the council of Agenda 21 made valuable comments. Local government committees and representatives of 19 city district councils also had an intense look at the guidelines. All recommendations were carefully studied by the Agenda 21 Office.

During the on-going year objectives and measurements together with the inhabitants for the future development of the city districts will be worked out. The decision to produce guidelines for our city development in Rostock contributes to both sustainable development of the Baltic region and the implementation of BALTIC 21. The guidelines will soon be available as a brochure and on the internet website of Rostock.

Further information:
Local Agenda 21 Office
Dr. Hinrich Lembecke
Tel: +49-381 456 217
E-mail: agenda21@rostock.de

Viljandi Agenda 21

By Heli Luts

The process of sustainable development in Viljandi started in November 2000.

The political decision to encourage and support the idea was made already in 1998 by Viljandi Town Council, and by last year Viljandi had compiled the town development plan that lasts until 2007.

According to the development plan the most important environmental issue for the town is to have a complete sustainable development programme, Viljandi Agenda 21. The Agenda 21 should become a framework programme for different activities connected with sustainable development and could be a collective think-tank that could be relied on and that co-ordinates the activities of the implementers.

Agenda 21 is a continuous process and compiling the action plan is just one part of it. The second essential component is influencing the valued points of view among the people of Viljandi. For this reason as many people as possible should be involved in the compilation process and different projects in addition to educational activities and programmes. Special attention is given to children and youth.

Although the process of Viljandi Agenda 21 is only at the starting point, the team has figured out certain goals:

- Clean water (drinking water, a modern waste water cleaning system, protection of ground water, etc.)
- Modern waste management
- Network of biological diversities
- Clean air, a good traffic system for pedestrians and bicycles
- An economically and ecologically educated town.

Viljandi Agenda 21 work group is searching for partners to exchange experiences and carry out joint projects!

Further information:
Ms. Heli Luts
Tel: +372-4354 767
E-mail: helilu@lv.viljandimaa.ee
Ms. Mari Sobolev
Tel: +372-4345 732
E-mail: mari@lv.viljandimaa.ee

Environmental Twinning

By Zita Tverkute

Establishing of an environmental education centre and a safe society for people to live in are among the aims of three new international projects that are to begin in the City of Panevezys.

These projects are very much inline with the intention of the City of Panevezys to use Swedish knowledge about the participating countries environmental policy in order to facilitate the trade of environmental expertise and products. In the long term, the intention of the projects are to develop the exchange of knowledge in the areas of environment and energy, EU harmonisation requirements, EU subsidies and financing possibilities for trade and industry.

The Environmental twinning network has created links between municipalities of Nacka (Sweden), Liudvika, Panevezys, Jelgava (Latvia), Keila (Estonia) and Sestroreck in Saint Petersburg (Russia).

Young Naturalist School

In the City of Panevezys is located The Young Naturalist School where many children have the opportunity to take care of the animals (raccoons, donkeys, birds, and snakes) learn about waste separation and the use of alternative energy. By establishing the environmental educational centre we will have the possibility to involve many groups from society: homemakers, retirees, manufacturers etc....

Through co-operation with other municipalities (especially Nacka) involved in the project we are convinced that better prerequisites for bilateral and international co-operation within the field of LA21 will be achieved.

Further information:
LA21 co-ordinator
Ms. Zita Tverkute
Tel: +370-5-501217
E-mail: ekologija@panevezys.sav.lt

Ms. Regina Kliminskiene
Director of Young Naturalist Center
Tel: +370-5-461521

Surface Water Bodies Pollution Reduction Program for Kaunas

By Marija Stanikuniene

The two largest rivers of Lithuania - Nemunas and Neris flow through the City of Kaunas. There are a number of large and small tributaries within their basins located in city territory. Both local, national and international programs state that the city is responsible for the cleanness of these water bodies.

Recently Kaunas City Council approved a surface water bodies pollution reduction program, prepared by the Environmental Protection Department.

The quality of surface water has been a matter of concern for a long time. In order to reduce water pollution by household sewage, Kaunas city waste water treatment plant was opened in Marvele. A large amount of household sewage

to preserve naturally formed streams and their environment and to stop the functioning of natural streams only in case of inevitability. The program also aims to treat minimum 70 % of annual rain water and snow sewage which form in the built areas and get into open water bodies. Setting up rain water sewage treatment plants for every industrial company, or a group of companies, so that the sewage discharged into the open water bodies is treated is also on the list. The program also aims to prevent discharge of sewage into the open water bodies by disconnecting household sewage network from rain water one, to limit discharge of treated household sewage from separate objects into the open water bodies, and to manage the rivers and streams protective zones (eroding slopes, green plantations etc.). The intension is also to remove constructions which contradict the regulations of the protective rivers and streams zones, and to inform and educate public. The strategy implementation work has been prioritised according to the analysis of the condition of the rivers and streams.

The city surface water bodies pollution reduction program will be financed from the municipal nature protection fund, which is approved by the City Council.



Cleaving of the rivers and streams is part of the Water Pollution Reduction Program in Kaunas.

discharged into the general network is now being treated mechanically. However, polluted rain water and some household sewage discharged into small rivers and streams from unregistered networks still cause damage to water quality.

The program's goals

A strategy to improve the condition and protective zones management is proposed in the new program. The main goals are:

The institutions responsible for the implementation of the city surface water pollution reduction program are the State Environmental Protection Department, the Environmental Protection Department of the Municipality, Kaunas City Council, CJSC "Kaunas water", ecological monitoring group for the city of Kaunas, design organisations, construction organizations and the public health center.

Further information:
Ms Marija Stanikuniene
Tel: +370 7 422467
Fax: +370 7 423724
E-mail: marijas@kaunas.sav.lt

The Baltic Institute of Finland

By Anna Redel

The Baltic Institute of Finland (BIF) is an independent organization with the prime goal to promote and stimulate multinational cooperation in commercial, industrial, administrative, environmental and cultural fields and organise joint projects in the BSR.

The Institute organizes seminars, conferences and lectures dealing with topics and problems of the region. It also publishes, collects and distributes information about current issues in the BSR.

Also, BIF offers assistance in planning and implementation of environmental projects and provides partnership opportunities between administrative, business and research institutions in Finland. One initiative in this field was to create a Tampere Region's discussion group for organizations and institutions dealing with environmental issues in the Baltic Sea area.

Baltic co-operation

Currently, BIF coordinates a technical assistance project for a Lithuanian company. The purpose of this project is to improve standards of environmental conservation in Dirbtinis Pluostas, a large chemicals company based in Kaunas producing synthetic fibres. This will be achieved by helping the company to develop an environmental management system that corresponds to western standards.

BIF also promotes Finnish-Polish environmental co-operation on a project to increase environmental awareness and expertise in two Polish coastal provinces Pomerania and West-Pomerania by training 15-20 people to plan and implement practical projects for environmental protection in their respective municipalities. There are plans to train representatives from local and

regional environmental authorities on EU environmental legislation, environmental project planning and management as well as EU financing.

In another project Finnish companies will give training on Polish environmental sector and business culture. The project also includes a joint presentation of participating companies at POLEKO environmental trade fair in Poznan.

BIF is open to new initiatives and co-operation projects in the area of the Baltic Sea proposed by the UBC member cities.

Further information:
Mr. Esa Kokkonen
tel. +358 3 31 46 62 52
email: esa.kokkonen@tt.tampere.fi
<http://www.baltic.org>

Earth Day in R  pin  

By K  lvi Noor

Over 500 million environmentally conscious people participate in the Earth Day events every year.

The Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation subproject, the Tartu Center for Volunteers celebrated the international Earth Day in R  pina, Estonia, on the 20th of April. On this special day, the coast of the R  pina artificial lake was cleaned, rubbish removed and trees planted. The students from the R  pina Secondary School, Gardening School and the youth volunteers from Tartu and Narva also participated in the event.



After the cleaning work, a walk in the species-rich Sillap  a manor park, a relay competition and some games were held. In the evening, there was a party in the R  pina Youth Center where representatives from all three towns performed their entertainment programs.

Further information:
Ms K  lvi Noor / Ms Angelika Rehema
Tel. +372- 07 421 001
E-mail: kylvi.noor@ctc.ee
angelika.rehema@ctc.ee

The Botanic Garden

The Municipality of Gdynia and the University of Gdansk have signed a Letter of Intent aimed at strengthening forms of co-operation.

Particular focus will be on the maritime character of the City of Gdynia as well as the experience and research projects of the University of Gdansk.

The letter of intent proposes to establish a visitor attraction and research institution i.e. an easily accessible botanic garden in Gdynia Kolibki.

The seaside botanic garden in Kolibki would be one of the most beautifully located in Europe. The interesting and natural topographic profile combined with rich and diverse flora may constitute an extraordinarily picturesque element of Tri-City agglomeration.

The garden would be easily accessible for all inhabitants and tourists and preserve existing local flora. A separated area could be used for picnics, sculpture, painting and outdoor exhibitions.



The main objectives of the garden would be to promote botany and gardening as well as environmental protection based on garden displays, library and herbarium. The garden would also function as a scientific institution with laboratories located in the area. A University Botanical Institution maybe established. The realisation of these intentions is a question to be answered in the near future.

Further information:
Gdynia City Hall
Al. Pilsudskiego 52/54
POL-81-382 Gdynia
Tel: +48 58 620 83 12
E-mail:
umgdyfor@miasto.gdynia.pl

The Healthy Adventure

By Anna Hjalmdahl-Trygg & Wiltrud Neumann

The Healthy Adventure began almost a year ago as a co-operation project between Uppsala municipality and Uppsala county council as they are jointly responsible for sustainable health and environmental development.

This is a pilot project that gives information about health and environmental issues in an attractive and easily accessible way to the county's children and teenagers. Thereby creating a natural platform for the continuation of Local Agenda 21.



All schools in the county with 10 and 13 year old children have been invited to attend. There have been two programmes to choose from, one about tobacco (for 13-year old

children), one about the body, traffic and the environment (for 9-year old children). Over 1 500 pupils have attended the Healthy Adventure with their teachers during year 2000. The response from both pupils and teachers has been mainly positive, it is a fun and different way of learning!

What is the Healthy Adventure?

The main objective of the Healthy Adventure is to influence and support the children's future lifestyles with sustainability in mind. This is done by using different educational methods to create an understanding of the relationship between health and environment. This facilitates a deeper understanding of the effects caused by choices one makes concerning lifestyle. By using games, drama and active evaluation exercises the participants self-confidence is improved and – hopefully – their ability to make healthy and sustainable decisions.

Crucial aspects of the Healthy Adventure is to make a connection to the children's daily lives and to involve all the

participants. Since the pupils leave their usual surroundings when coming to the Healthy Adventure they are often able to see their regular life from a new perspective. Subjects are broached that are ordinarily difficult to talk about, such and how to act when seeing someone being harassed.

The future

Today demand is larger than supply. Discussions are ongoing about expanding the project and making it a permanent activity.

Further information:

Anna Hjalmdahl-Trygg

Tel: +46 (0)18-27 12 86

E-mail:

anna.hjalmdahl-trygg@mk.uppsala.se

Wiltrud Neumann

Tel: +46 (0)18-27 12 72

E-mail:

wiltrud.neumann@mk.uppsala.se

<http://www.uppsala.se/milotorget>

Injury Prevention in Tartu

By Taie Kaasik

Injuries are an extensive public health problem also in Tartu, Estonia. They are caused by external environmental factors: mechanical, thermal, chemical, electrical etc. while having a clear social and psychological background.

After the tremendous political and economic changes in former socialist countries in the late '80s and early '90s, alarming reports have identified a dramatically deteriorating health situation in these countries. From 1990 to 1994 injury mortality almost doubled in Estonia. The increase developed in parallel with development of socio-economic crisis after restitution of independence of Estonia in 1991. Injury was the most sensitive health outcome to reflect the changes in society.

Situation in Tartu

There are no significant differences between Estonia and Tartu in average indices of injury death rates. As a matter of fact, most cause-specific injury death rates are slightly lower than the average indices of whole Estonia. Growing trend of fatal alcohol intoxication among men is most worrying.

What has been done and what can local government do?

Local government of the City of Tartu has understood that injury is an important public health problem. It has supported morally and financially local activities aimed at injury prevention and safety promotion. Still, the problem is complicated and needs further development of co-ordinated actions between local administration and non-governmental groups and organisations and usage of know how of injury prevention specialists.

In the future, the city government should develop comprehensive detailed action plans for decreasing unemployment and social exclusion, improvement of living conditions and regulation and control of the alcohol market including indirect advertisement. Indicators for constant monitoring of changes should also be applied.

Injury prevention activities

The first international seminar on injury prevention and safety promotion in Estonia was organised in Tartu in 1997 by the Department of Public Health - University of Tartu and Department of Public Health Sciences - Karolinska Institute, Sweden.

Implementation of the intervention project "Tartu - a Safe Community" began in 1999. Activities were mainly aimed at children and concerned primarily with traffic safety. The greatest number of injuries occurs among the poor population and under the influence of alcohol.

"Neighbourhood watch" guided by the Police has worked successfully during its first year and will continue to expand step-by step into new parts of Tartu. The numerical results are not yet known but at least several attempts at crime have been avoided or stopped at an early stage.

Further information:

Prof. Taie Kaasik

Tel: +372 7 374 189

Fax: +372 7 374 192

E-mail: taie@ut.ee

Climate.now

By Ann-Marie Lidmark

Climate change is the greatest problem human beings have ever faced.

In Sweden, the government is worried as there is still only a low carbon dioxide tax but hardly any other restrictions to lower carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

Instead of restrictions and effective economic steering the government is trying to work with voluntary agreements and information. The Ministry of the Environment is going to propose a large amount of funding for information purposes in the coming climate bill.

Green knowledge lift

As a first step the government has given a contribution of a joint 10 million Swedish crowns for five organisations for a 'Green Knowledge Lift' which is a common information project about the environment and climate problems directed to the public.

The organisations' aim is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2% in 2 years, compared with the government's 2% in 10 years. It means a reduction of 1.1 million kg carbon dioxide or about 250 kg per working person. For example, you can reduce car journeys by 1200 km or buy a car that uses 1 dl less fuel than the old one per 10 km.

As a first step a home-page was made, www.klimat.nu (climate.now), which includes information about climate change and how to cut down carbon dioxide emissions. On on-line people can make their own climate-promises. The reduced amount of carbon dioxide is calculated automatically and you can see how many promises have been kept. The organisations hope for about 500 000 promises in 2 years.

Companies can make a policy statement to cut down carbon dioxide emissions. All working places that make a statement will be registered with their name and the amount of reduced carbon dioxide. There will also be a list of best practices.

The Bet at schools

The schools will be involved via The Bet, which is a European campaign driven by young people. The aim is to reduce emissions by 8% in 8 months. The European campaign bet the environmental EU commissioner Margot Wallström, and the youngsters from Fältbiologerna have bet the Swedish minister of environment, Kjell Larsson. If the campaign succeeds and the 19 schools involved can together reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 8% then Kjell Larsson has promised to



invite 10 pupils from every school for dinner. If not, Fältbiologerna has promised to invite the government for dinner.

Public participation in the campaign

There will be many activities around the country to give people more information about the climate change and how to reduce greenhouse gases. Everyone has the possibility to follow what is going on in parliament via the home-page. It is easy to give their opinion to the politicians via e-mail direct from the home-page. This is one way to lobby for a more powerful climate politics.

The aims of the campaign are to increase knowledge and awareness about climate change and what you can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Increased awareness among the public will force both methods and politics forward in a greater sustainable way.

Further information:

Ms. Jessica Cederberg Wodmar
Tel: +46-8-587 68643
E-mail: jessica@sv.se
<http://www.klimat.nu>
www.climate.now

National Event for Fostering LA 21 Activities

By Irja Alakivi

Over 100 high-ranking officials from Estonian Local Authorities, Ministry of Environment, Association of Estonian Cities, Institute of Sustainable Estonia and other institutions gathered into a round-table in Tartu.

The intention was to activate local level implementation of Baltic 21 and to generate new ideas for fostering Local Agenda 21 activities in Estonian municipalities.

The brainstorming session gave valuable suggestions for creating better links between motivated actors on different levels. Also, clear directions were given for establishing national, regional and local supporting institutions as well as financing schemes for Agenda 21 work on a local level. Good practices of Association of Municipalities of Finland, MoE of Finland and Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum were presented. The latest reports and reviews, provided by UBC Commission on Environment, MoE of Estonia and SEI-Tallinn and other institutions were disseminated.

Nature conservation problems and strategies in Estonia and disseminating the idea of the latest tool in integrating nature & cultural heritage protection – urban national parks, were also discussed. The legislative background in Finland, and the aspirations and experiences of the City of Lahti were presented as an example.

Further information:

Ms. Irja Alakivi / Ms. Ille Allsaar
E-Mail: irja.alakivi@raad.tartu.ee
ille@ell.ee
Mr. Kari Porra / BLA21F
E-mail: kari.porra@lahti.fi

Growth of Economy together with EMAS and ISO 14000

By Stanislav Babitch

An increasing number of enterprises in the North West of Russia are interested in the implementation of ecological management, control and audit systems used in the EU countries. In Saint Petersburg it's difficult to find a large enterprise that has never heard about ISO 14000 or the ecological audit system. However, information is scarce and very general.

Russian economy has grown since 1999. The North West of Russia is traditionally an industrial region and industrial growth significantly affects the whole regional economy. Like everything else, the increase in production causes both positive and negative results. On one hand it brings a better lifestyle, salary, employment etc which are positive indicators of sustainable development. On the other hand the pressure on the resource base, mainly on water, increases.

Seminars on EMAS & ISO

The Department of Regional Economy and Ecological Management (Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics) has conducted two short seminars to clear up the requirements of different economy subjects in the knowledge of ecological audit system and ISO 14000 certification. Representatives of industry and transport sectors of economy as well as auditing firms took part in the seminars. Some of these enterprises have already received ISO 9000 certification.

The most important questions for the enterprises are: how to develop an ecological policy, how to implement ecological management system, how to put into practice an ecological audit and how to establish collaboration among industry, local authorities and the public?

Positive sides of growth

It's necessary to note the increasing trend of setting a price for resources, collecting, transporting and utilizing of waste, especially industrial waste. There is a need to implement resource, energy and water saving technology as a result. Many enterprises have begun to recycle their own waste and even to buy it from other firms e.g. metal, wood wastes etc... Water recycling is also being implemented.

Financial control on air pollution is getting stronger and this frequently leads to positive results. Regional air pollution has decreased by 7.97% since 1998. The largest harmful air polluters are energy (25.4%), fuel (22.3%), metallurgical (8.4%), machine building and metal working (6.2%) industries.

There are also side effects

Enterprises in the Leningrad region increased water usage by 36.6% in 1999 while usage in production rose 34.5%. The general growth of sewage has amounted to a 25.1% increase per year including not purified elements. The problem of waste utilization is still high in the North West of Russia. The quantity of waste rose by 2.3% in Saint Petersburg and by 51% in the Leningrad region in 1999.

In the last few years the quantity of illegal dumps has grown rapidly, even near by lakes and rivers. This is the case especially in agricultural and recreational areas of Gatchina, Lomonosov, Kirovsk, Vsevolozhsk and Vyborg districts (Leningrad region).

There are many reasons for this: Saint Petersburg's recycling plants capacity is deficient. There is an absence of sufficient control, and connection between the districts. The factors also include incorrect system of gathering unselected waste, the government's reluctance to face the problem and lack of public responsibility.

Further information:
Prof. Stanislav V. Babitch
Ms. Irina A. Pivovarova
Department of Regional Economy
and Ecological Management
Saint Petersburg State University of
Economics

Metals in the Environment Conference

By Rimante Zinkute

The second international conference 'Metals in the Environment' will take place in September 23-26 2001, Vilnius. The main topics are 1. Geochemistry of Metals 2. Bioaccumulation, Toxicity and Remediation of Metals, 3. Accumulation and Migration of Radionuclides, 4. Metals and Health 5. Pollution Limits and Legal Deeds, and 6. Education, Training and Information. The conference is being organised by Lithuanian Metalecology Society and the Institute of Geology.

Though modern society cannot exist without extensive use of metals, high concentrations resulting from industry, urban development, intensification of agriculture and other anthropogenic activities threaten the human population. For sustainable development, people living in various countries of the world must understand the processes related to metal pollution and its migration through the environment as they predetermine the quality of life. The complexity of the problems requires an integrated approach of interdisciplinary teams of scientists. In 1996, the Lithuanian Metalecology Society was founded to achieve this aim.

The first Metals in Environment conference was held in 1997 with participants from the UK, Finland, Poland, Netherlands, Russia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania. A publication* has been made from the information presented.

The organising committee for the conference consists of scientists from Lithuania, and Prof. Reijo Salminen from Finland and Hab. Dr A. Golovin from Russia.

Further information on the conference:
Kestutis Jokas (Secretariat)
Tel: 370 2 72 92 91
Fax: 370 2 72 92 45
E-Mail: kestutis.jokas@geo.lt
Rimantė Zinkutė
Tel: 370 2 23 54 09
Fax: 370 2 23 67 10
E-Mail: zinkute@geologin.lt

*Heavy Metals in the Environment (1999) p. 349 Ed. D.A. Lovejoy Institute of Geology Metalecology Society Vilnius, Lithuania
ISBN – 9986-615-17-8

All statistic data in this article has been obtained from The State Report: About Environment Situation in Saint Petersburg and Leningrad Region in 1999.

Local Action for Global Climate Protection

By Sarah Nilsson

Is climate protection a question of finances ethics or both? This was asked from the 240 people from 15 countries gathered at a two day conference in Växjö, Sweden to discuss bioenergy and energy efficiency. A call was made for more action on both national and international levels.

Uncertainties about which part of society is really responsible, or best suited, to act is no excuse for not acting but an opportunity to contribute. Prospects of great leaps in technology in the future are not an excuse for not rapidly taking many small steps today.

The overwhelming agreement of all participants is a call to internalise the external environmental costs by environmental taxes.



Some participants from the Växjö conference.

Win-win situation

Today, technological development is going in the right direction opening up new opportunities for economically improved energy efficiency. Technologies for utilising renewable energy are becoming less costly as experience is gained. During periods of such rapid development, old traditions must be challenged repeatedly in a search of better ways of doing things.

New opportunities are not only based on new technology however, identifying

multiple benefits of desirable actions are also important in bringing about change e.g. well insulated windows may not only reduce heating costs but also reduce indoor noise and reduce draughts.

Radical Change

Climate change seriously threatens the quality of life for millions of people. To stop global warming is an ethical obligation, sustainable development means that future generations will have the opportunity to live a good life just as we have had.

Polluter Pays Principle

Throughout the world there are actors at very different stages of sustainable development. A call to government to introduce environmental taxes may come from those who have done nothing or alternatively those who have done everything economically possible in preparation for the introduction of an environmental tax – make fossil fuels pay for their environmental damage.

Governments failing to introduce environmental taxes are causing economic losses to those who have acted skillfully and responsibly, causing economic welfare losses to society and unfortunately supporting industries causing unnecessary environmental damages. An even more justifiable government measure is to remove subsidies supporting unsustainable energy systems.

Conclusion

To sum up, the local level can contribute substantially to reach the

national goals of greenhouse gas reduction if the governments create an economical framework with taxes, investment grants, legislation and other incentives that makes fossil fuels pay for their environmental damage.

Further information:
Ms Sarah Nilsson
Tel: +46-470 41593
E-mail:
sarah.nilsson@kommun.vaxjo.se

Applied Environment Solutions

By Sirpa Halonen and Anne-Marie Salonen

Applied Environment Solutions – European Cities in Focus aimed at strengthening the dialogue between European policy makers and stakeholders through an exhibition of best environmental practice in European cities.

In the exhibition there were stands representing each country, capital and individual cities. Finland was represented by its nature in waste posters of white trunk birches and Eco Community project of the Viikki Eco Neighbourhood Blocks 2000.

The architecture section in Brussels town planning dept. presented Imperatrice Charlotte Day Nursery Reconstruction Project where two angles of reflection guided the ecological approach of the project. There is a need for a global solution that includes consideration of the physical relationship of the building with its environment such as recovery of rainwater, green roofing and solar energy. On the other hand, there is the integration of ecological criteria in the process of programming, construction, and installation like demolition, masonry, timber, insulation vapour barrier and roof finishing.

City cases

The City Medical Office and Miljökontrollen of Copenhagen were concerned with contaminated soil, which calls for special consideration for children. Children, especially very young ones, are particularly sensitive to contamination. Therefore adults have a special duty to protect children. This applies to everything which children are exposed to on a daily basis: food they eat, air they breath, things they play with and the soil on which they play. The representatives emphasised Hand washing – as that cannot be done too often, Wiping of the shoes – and changing to slippers, and covering the contaminated soil in playgrounds.

The Oresund Region, joint Danish/Swedish has for many years been among

the most environmentally advanced areas in Europe. Their solutions have been copied in many countries. With regard to areas such as renewable energy, waste and other environmental technologies, there is no doubt that the Oresund Region is among the European elite.



Huge wind turbine was erected for the event and for the people of Brussels.

Message from host

The message of *Jens Kramer Mikkelsen*, the Lord Mayor of the City of Copenhagen, was to realise and acknowledge problems in order to be able to solve them and set up action plan for a sustainable future. Environmental Mayor presented how working for a sound environment in Europe requires environmental honesty from the cities. Representative of the industry introduced a wide range of services and products in the fields of electronics and electrotechnology forming the basis of many environment-friendly solutions.

The authors work for Turku Polytechnic. The event was held in November 2000 in Brussels

Sustainable Development at Turku Polytechnic needs partners and co-operation for students to have a possibility for international work placements during their studies.

The first students will graduate this spring and after that they will work as environmental planners in both the public and the private sector.

Further information:

Ms. Sirpa Halonen

Email: sirpa.halonen@turkuamk.fi

Ms. Anne-Marie Salonen

Fax +358 10 5535 423

Email:

anne-marie.salonen@turkuamk.fi

http://www.turkuamk.fi/plytechnic/sustainable_development.htm

International Environmental Film Festival "Green Vision"

The Film Festival meets its general aim of attracting the attention of multipliers and environmental specialists to the role environmental films and television productions can play in raising environmental awareness and the level of information.

The program is composed of high quality environmental film and television productions not older than four years, usually originated from 15 -17 countries from all over the world. During each festival from a total of more than 1 200 participants join the event, many of them participate in the discussions.

Up to thirty film-makers and environmental experts mainly from Western Europe and the CIS countries travel to St. Petersburg in order to take part in the festival. Numerous well known film makers and experts from St. Petersburg attend the event. An internationally composed jury of five members awarded six prizes to the best films of different categories.

The City Council of St. Petersburg allocates money for The International Environmental Film Festival in St. Petersburg. Western European partners also try to support the event.

Program

The conference has a special focus each year. "Preservation of Water", "Sustainable Development", "Saving resources" etc. are the main issues for the City at the moment. It was decided to keep a balanced number of films from each involved country in the program and to select a number of films addressing children and young people.

Participant

Guests from out of town are invited based on the film selection and more than 2 000 invitations to participate in the festival are distributed through all involved partner organisations in St. Petersburg (universities, research institutes, institutions of out-of-school and in-school

environmental education, environmental NGOs' public administrations such as district administrations, TV and film studios and others).

Jury's responsibility

Three Western European and two local experts usually are invited to work at the international jury of the festival. As the Festival aims not only to promote new films but also to raise public awareness the jury members are represented not only by film-makers or journalists but also by environmental experts and educators.

Awards

Six prizes are defined: Grand-Prix of the Festival, Most Original Approach to Environmental Issues, Most Courageous Film, Best Film for Children and Youth, For Beauty and Humanism, and a Prize of the Audience.

What is the outcome?

In numerous discussions environmental experts and film-makers point out differences and similarities of environmental problems and solutions as pictured in eastern and western productions. Film makers and experts from eastern and western countries meet, most of them for the first time, and new contacts develop which could be of help for future work.

All the participants from CIS countries remark that such festivals help them in their work. Local authorities realize the importance of environmental films in raising public awareness and start to order new films by local film-makers. The Festival receives media coverage in Russia and St. Petersburg.

The International Environmental Film Festival in St. Petersburg "Green Vision" is organized by the Department for Environmental Protection of the City Administration of St. Petersburg with the support of Western European partners.

Further information:

Ms Marina Korobeinikova/

Ms Elena Titova

Tel: +7-812 233 8301

Fax: +7-812 8501492

E-mail: ecatp@spb.cityline.ru

Noise Abatement Planning

In 1998 the Parliament of Rostock released a noise reduction program. Municipal authorities often have no solutions to noise problems that have increased significantly in the recent years. The burden of e.g. traffic noise is one of the most important local environmental problems in Europe, demanding new integrated solutions for planning strategies.

Despite the introduction of a number of regulations for environmental initiatives for individual environmental projects, initiatives for traffic pollution, e.g., have not been successful. The average vehicle produces considerably less noise in comparison to those built some years ago but the level of emissions have remained almost unchanged due to other developments. The technical advances made to reduce noise pollution from vehicles have been outweighed by the increase in time and space required for traffic, coupled with an increase in leisure activities which have caused an overall expansion in traffic.

The City of Rostock is interested in co-operation with other cities and discussing the different methods of analysis and problem solving.

Further information:
Mr. Holger Matthäus
Tel.: 049 381 4562 769
Fax.: 049 381 4562 765
E-mail: R73UM009@Rostock.de

Note from the editor: correction to the last bulletin!

The article "Preparing Lithuanian Municipalities for EU Accession" was written by Mr Romas Lenkaitis and not by Ms Ruta Bubniene as was mentioned in the Environmental bulletin 2/00. We apologise for the mistake.

Fire Brigade and Environmental Management System

The employees of the Fire Brigade in Malmö are having a celebration, as they are the first department in Malmö to receive the ISO 14001 certificate and an EMAS registration. Furthermore, they are the first fire brigade in the world to achieve this certificate.



Their role is to save life, property and the environment. To work with the environment in mind, to minimize the cost and to be a good role model are issues that the environmental management system deals with. The contract for driving ambulances and giving initial medical treatment is under competition from other companies. The environmental management system certificate can be an advantage.

The work of the fire brigade includes rescue service, preventive fire protection, medical treatment in ambulances, transport of the sick and elderly, security, education and consulting.

Their indirect aspects are the preventive work, the methods and technique used to minimize the environmental consequences when an accident happens.

Further information:
Fire Department in Malmö
E-mail: brandkaren@malmo.se

The Same Sea in All of Us

Memorable exhibition of the sealife of the Baltic Sea 'The Same Sea in All of Us' on island of Harakka, Helsinki 5 May until 30 September 2001.

Further information:
Ms Mira Jarkko
Tel: +358-9-7312 2686
E-mail: mira.jarkko@hel.fi

BOING – Baltic On-line Interactive Geographical and Environmental Information Service

BOING is a 2-year project (duration 2000-2001) funded by the European Commission as a part of a programme to enable better use of public sector information for the benefit of European citizens. Public sector information may be defined as data, databases and information, which is collected and maintained predominantly by public funding sources. In case of eutrophication this concerns national and international databases based on public-funded monitoring.

Eutrophication in the Baltic Sea is the focus of BOING. The goal is to create an extensive Internet-based information service on eutrophication in the Baltic Sea. An eutrophication encyclopaedia, articles and interactive services – such as maps, charts or databases – are some of the features to be included.

The BOING partners consist of UNEP/GRID-Arendal (Norway), the Finnish Institute for Marine Research and the Department of Systems Ecology at Stockholm University. The project has been developed in co-operation with the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and Swedish Marine Research on Eutrophication (MARE). Direct input from user-consultation groups representing educational, scientific and decision-making communities have also been incorporated.

Further information:
Ms. Angie Woo
UNEP/GRID - Arendal
www.grida.no/boing
Longum Park, Service Box 706
N-4808 Arendal, Norway
Fax: +47 37 03 57 50

MEA: Latvian cities in pipeline

Funding for MEA in the cities of Liepaja, Jelgava and Jekapbils is still under investigation and planning. These cities have made very good preliminary work and are committed to start the process. Discussions have been started recently to include their MEAs as well as that of some more Lithuanian and Polish cities into a new MEA-EMAS Project. It would be a co-operation project of the UBC and Eurocities.

This project is currently being planned and preparations for funding application to the new Community Framework are going on. The intention in addition to carrying out MEA in the participating cities is to further develop the UBC MEA Model and to integrate also Western EMAS experiences.

One important success factor in MEAs is also involvement of partner cities which can offer external experts for evaluation. All cities interested in such a role are most warmly welcomed to contact the UBC EnvCom.

The intention with MEA is to offer a feasible tool for city management and environmental experts to analyse the current state of local environment and the environmental performance of the city, as well as evaluate the environmental management. MEA reports define the strengths and weaknesses of the city with regard to the above mentioned issues, and propose improvements. Running of MEA for the first time usually takes up to 12-18 months. Further information on MEA can be obtained from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat.



Experts evaluated the ground water situation in the Lake Peipsi basin

Water experts from Estonia, Russia and Sweden, evaluated the ground water situation in the Lake Peipsi and Narva River basin and worked out joint proposals for the management of ground waters in the region. The analysis of the situation and recommendations will be presented to the Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission.

The seminar "Ground water management in the Peipsi/Narva basin" took place 18 - 19 April in Tartu. The seminar was organized by the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, with support from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Further information:
Geological Survey of Estonia
Rein Perens
+372- 51 88439

Coming Events

European Common Indicators

Dissemination event (26 September) for experts and decision-makers from Leningrad Region, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will be organised as part of the Sustainable Information Society - values and everyday life International Conference 26.-28. September, in Kouvola, Finland.

More information can be obtained from: Mr Risto Veivo or Mr. Arto Hovi. Tel: +358-2-230 2030 or +358-5-7400 130.

E-mail: risto.veivo@netti.fi or arto.hovia@kouvola-region.fi.

3rd SUFA Workshop

will be organised for project participants in September in Haapsalu, Estonia.

For more information, please contact: Mr Risto Veivo, Tel: +358-2-230 2030, E-mail: risto.veivo@netti.fi.

UBC Environmental Award 2001

will combine environmental and social concerns. Deadline for applications is 10 September. For more information see back cover of this bulletin as well as UBC website at www.ubc.net. Full guidelines for applications are available from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat.

Best City Practices Workshop

The 3rd and last BCP workshop is planned to be held 8-10 November in Turku. All cities interested in good practice co-operation with others are welcome to participate.

More information: Mr. Risto Veivo, Tel: +358-2-230 2030, E-mail: risto.veivo@netti.fi or Ms. Sanna Salminen, Tel: +358-2-230 2202, E-mail: ubcenv@netti.fi.

VI UBC General Conference

"Social Justice in the Baltic Cities in the New Millennium" will be organised 12-13 October in Rostock, Germany.

The Best Environmental Practice Award Ceremony will take place on the occasion of the Conference' on 12 Oct.

All UBC Commissions will also have their annual meetings as part of the conference.

For more information, please, contact Ms Petra Hamann or Ms Karin Wolgemuth. Tel: +49-381 381 1136/-1452, E-mail: ubc@ristock.de. More information can also be found on www.ubc.net.



The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award



Combining environmental and social concerns

on the occasion

of the VI UBC General Conference

“Social Justice in Baltic Cities in the New Millennium”

Baltic Challenge

The Union of the Baltic Cities is calling for innovative practices, which have been developed and/or implemented by city administrations to meet local needs. The intention is not to look for best overall management schemes, but to look for good *innovative practices, which support local sustainable development*. This approach should mean that each UBC member city has a similar chance of winning the award - not depending on the location or size of the city, but on its performance.

Coinciding with the topic of the VI UBC General Conference, the special theme of the 2001 award is innovative combination of environmental and social concerns.



The Award

The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2001 will be given as honorary award (diploma and a grant) to one of the UBC member cities.

The Award Ceremony

...will take place on the occasion of the VI UBC General Conference “Social Justice in the Baltic Cities in the New Millennium”, Rostock 12-13 October 2001.

Guidelines for applications, evaluation criteria and further information

are available from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat and in the UBC Website at www.ubc.net.

**All UBC member cities are encouraged and Warmly Welcomed to participate.
Deadline for applications is 10 September 2001.**