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Baltic Cities

Environmental bulletin • No 1, 2004

- Mediterranean cities passing by Baltic ones? - Editorial by Mr. Emilio D'Alessio
- New strategies for sustainable cities

WASTE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- special theme edition



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ISSN 1455-0903

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Cover Picture:

Town of Elva, Estonia

By Malev Toom

PRINTING HOUSE

Painoprisma Oy



*441 325
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Printed on 100% recycled paper

Baltic Cities

Environmental Bulletin

Mediterranean cities passing by Baltic ones?



Last June the City of Aalborg held the 4th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns. During the final plenary session about 110 European Local Authorities signed the Aalborg Commitments, a document that moves forward from the original Aalborg Charter. The commitments' signatories agree to define their own targets within

two years and to review periodically the progresses made on achieving them.

The largest national group of subscribers came from Italy (37), followed by Spain. The two countries together sum up to almost two thirds of the signatories. On the contrary, the total number of Baltic local authorities in the list is a mere ten.

What is happening? Is the Mediterranean the new cradle of European sustainability? Not quite. Nevertheless, undeniably, southern cities show an enthusiasm about the issue of sustainable development that in Northern Europe has been lost long time ago. The reasons for this are quite complex and not completely rational. It is true that Northern European cities have been dealing with Agenda 21 and other sustainability tools for many years, while in the south these topics have a fresh charm. Still, only a portion of northern cities have completed their A21 processes, so it does not seem proper to call this a saturation crisis.

Probably most Southern European Cities still have to face the difficulties to implement the A21 plans of action and are currently sailing with the winds of enthusiasm.

The expectations of these newcomers must find satisfaction, while the desires of the disenchanted northern cities should be revamped. This is one of the main missions that the Sustainable Cities and Town Campaign faces in the future.

The city networks play a fundamental role in this process. The Union of Baltic Cities already has a partnership with the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities, a network of cities from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece and Italy. These contacts must be fostered and strengthened, creating an ideal bridge between the two basins. Baltic and Adriatic share many priorities, like tourism, fishing, east-west relationships, freight transport and pollution. The future and the new frontier of Europe lies here.

Emilio D'Alessio
Vice Mayor, City of Ancona

Mr. Emilio D'Alessio is a member of executive committees in the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, ICLEI, Italian Association of Local Agenda 21 and Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities

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New European Commitments for Sustainable

Cities

By Risto Veivo

A new era was started in the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign at its 4th Pan-European Conference in Aalborg 9-11 June. The conference climaxed on 11 June 2004 when representatives of 110 local governments signed the new Aalborg Commitments, devised to help cities and towns achieve sustainability. Another fifty to sixty municipalities have announced that they will be signing in the near future. Over 1000 delegates from altogether 46 countries participated at the conference.

Mr. Gino van Begin, European Director of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, stressed the fact that cities of Europe are now for the first time establishing a European framework for taking very practical steps towards achieving sustainable development. This framework also provides a unique chance for advanced cities to share their knowledge and experience. "With the accession of the ten new Member States to the EU, this is more relevant now than ever," said Gino van Begin.

The New Commitments build on the Aalborg Charter

In the first Pan-European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference 1994, participants adopted the Charter of European Cities and Towns towards Sustainability, known as the Aalborg Charter. So far some 2,300 European local governments have signed the Aalborg Charter. UBC members have been among the most active cities of Europe in creating their own local sustainable development programmes, based on the Aalborg Charter. The new Aalborg Commitments build on the "old" charter and by signing them, the

signatories simultaneously commit themselves also to the "old" Charter from 1994.

"The ten Aalborg Commitments must be viewed as a tool to help local governments set clear qualitative and quantitative targets for practical work to implement the urban sustainability principles of the Aalborg Charter," said Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions Mr. Jeremy Smith. "I am thrilled that so many municipalities have committed themselves to take measures to become more sustainable. We expect many more to add their signatures in the future."

European Campaign carries on

"We have to build a bridge between the Aalborg Commitments, the European Commission decisions on an Urban Thematic Strategy, and possible ways of continuing the Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. To do so the City of Aalborg is willing to continue and administer the Aalborg Commitments process for the next year," said Mayor of Aalborg Mr. Henning G. Jensen. The members of the board of the European Campaign also

informed the conference in a letter of commitment of their intention to carry on the Campaign and investigate possibilities of creating a new legal entity for running it. Conclusions of this process are expected in October 2004.

The Fourth Pan-European Sustainable Cities and Towns conference was organised by the City of Aalborg, Coalition of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and ICLEI in co-operation with all the other members of the board of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. The UBC thereby had an active role as one of these co-organisers and many UBC member cities also presented their good practices at the conference. The UBC team from EnvCom Secretariat also contributed with several presentations and facilitation responsibilities.

The atmosphere at the conference was very positive. Participants were enthusiastic and the whole event was excellently organised. Largest delegations came from municipalities in Italy and Spain, where the local Agenda 21 activities are very strong at the moment, even if generally a bit younger than in the Baltic Sea Region.

Topics of the ten Aalborg commitments:

1. Governance - Local governments pledge to increase citizens' participation and co-operation with all spheres of governance in their efforts to become more sustainable.
2. Urban management - Local governments pledge to formulate, implement and evaluate management schemes aimed at improving urban sustainability.
3. Natural common goods - Local governments pledge to preserve natural common goods.
4. Responsible consumption - promoting sustainable consumer habits.
5. Planning and design - Urban planning is vital in addressing environmental, social, economic and health issues.
6. Better mobility - promoting sustainable transport.
7. Local action for health - Local governments have a duty to protect the health of their citizens.
8. Sustainable local economy - Signatories are committed to creating a vibrant local economy that promotes employment without damaging the environment.
9. Social equity and justice - securing inclusive and supportive communities.
10. Local to global - Signatories pledge to act to improve sustainability beyond the European Union.

Please, see the conference web-site at www.aalborgplus10.dk for the full text of the commitments' document.

Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment

- New European Policies for Improving City Environments

By Elina Rantanen

The Thematic Urban Strategy (TUS) is part of the Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Union. It is the first explicit overall strategy adopted by the Community to improve urban environments in Europe. The Union of the Baltic Cities is involved in the preparation process.

The Sixth Environment Action Programme adopted by the European Parliament and Council in 2002, sets out the EU's environmental policy agenda. Seven thematic strategies are identified as a new way of tackling environmental issues – one of them on the Urban Environment. In February 2004 the Commission adopted the Communication "Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment" which sets out the Commission's ideas on improvements.

The urban life improvement is important, as 80 % of EU citizens live in towns and cities. In many cities for instance poor air quality, noise and traffic have led to lower quality of life and health problems. Cities produce large volumes of greenhouse gases and waste having a considerable impact on the environment as well.

Environmental issues are often tackled separately, while more could be achieved with an integrated approach. In the Communi-

cation such approach is specified as a need for horizontal integration – considering urban environment in different community policies and developing urban focus in key sectors within those policies – and for vertical integration between the different levels of administration.

Proposed activities

The Thematic Urban Strategy concentrates on four priority themes: *Urban Environmental Management*, *Urban Transport*, *Sustainable Construction* and *Urban Design*. For each theme, the Commission Communication addresses the challenges, what action has been taken so far and ideas for what further action should be undertaken.



Sustainable Urban Transport is one of the four priority themes that the Thematic Urban Strategy concentrates on. Photo: City of Turku.

An approach proposed by the Commission is that the towns and cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants would prepare environmental management plans for their urban area and establish an environmental management system to deliver its implementation. Cities would also need to implement a sustainable urban transport plan. They are also encouraged to ensure that their land use planning systems achieve sustainable urban settlement patterns.

To develop the ideas of TUS, expert working groups have been established. They will consider the technical issues associated with the idea for an obligation for the large cities in EU to implement environmental man-

agement plans and systems. The final thematic strategy will be proposed to the Parliament and Council by mid-2005.

Contradictory receiving

The Thematic Urban Strategy is developed to help cities meet environmental requirements. Obligatory plans and systems would establish targets to be met, and integrated approach could help local authorities meet these. The choice of actions is left to local decision-makers since they know the local situation.

The receiving of the proposed strategy has been contradictory. Some member states and cities have pointed out that legal obli-

gations may not deliver significant added value, as cities in many cases already have their local environmental management systems.

TUS has also received acknowledgement. It is expected to have an extensive effect on the urban environments in Europe. Similar systems would make comparison between cities easier and improve dissemination of good practices. By introducing them, added value could be achieved for cities on European level. Baltic Cities can contribute to the development for instance through the Union of the Baltic Cities

that participates in the consultation process of TUS.

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UBC Agenda 21 Conference in Sundsvall

- City development and sustainability in focus

By Risto Veivo

Dedicated to sustainable development, 22-24 May, the City of Sundsvall hosted the gathering of 55 city leaders and sustainability experts from Baltic Cities. The event consisted of a specific Directors' Forum, on-site excursions plus plenaries and workshops. During three active days, we learnt a lot of the good implemented practices in Sundsvall and other cities, as well as brainstormed and analysed new ideas for joint projects within the UBC network.

The extensive sessions in Sundsvall, inspired among other things by the excellent programmes and practices of the host city, created good ways forward towards the implementation of UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009. Trends and needs in cities were widely discussed and ideas for new projects created. Among alarming trends in many cities were included for example the increasing use of energy for transport and heating, the ageing of population, and still the lack of integration of environmental challenges and sustainable development into overall city and regional strategies. The meeting concluded that the UBC could address such trends for example through capacity-building projects, lobbying and benchmarking of cities' strategies and strategy processes.

Also many other important trends and needs were discussed. The UBC EnvCom Secretariat (i.e. management agency of the Agenda 21 programme) has been carefully going through the results of all workshops and is already now putting ideas into practice in new project plans and applications. Member cities that are interested to join new projects are warmly welcome to contact the Secretariat.

Success story of Sundsvall

An important part of the event were the on-site excursions, demonstrations and presentations of the good practices of the host city. Sundsvall has undergone a very thorough, holistic and committed process of improving its environment and making the city more sustainable. This process started already at the beginning



In the UBC Commission on Environment & Agenda 21 participants learned results of several good practices implemented locally. The meeting which was held in Sundsvall, in 22-25 April, gathered over 50 participants.

of 1990's and has thus a track of over a decade of successes and lessons learnt. What is striking about their work is the strong commitment and endurance for the process. As a result, most severe environmental problems have been largely solved and striking sustainable development activities are going on in many sectors, stakeholders, living areas, work-places, etc. Large parts of this work have even been made in times of economic trouble. Sundsvall certainly would be a recommended destination for anyone looking for inspiration to any local Agenda 21 process. There seems to be no end to what can be done, and in Sundsvall this can be experienced through practical examples of things already done!

Participants learnt for example on the environmental management of the large

SCA Pulp Factory and their co-operation with the municipality and county, visited a living area where social integration had been tackled through combination of city planning, social projects and enhanced prevention of youth crimes, took a ride on an environmentally-friendly bus, and learnt how snow can be used for cooling to save energy during summer-time.

One important key to Sundsvall's success has probably been good commitment of the city leadership and all central actors as well as excellent co-ordination. The city has for example used the environmental balance sheet for annual reporting for more than ten years. Local Agenda 21 co-ordination is part of the city's strategic leadership under the Mayor.

Good practices from St. Petersburg to Portland

However, it is of course not only Sundsvall that is doing such good work. Among the presentations was for example a comprehensive overview of the environmental policy of St. Petersburg. This presentation by *Mr. Dimitri Golubev, Chairman of Environment Committee*, acquainted the participants with the large environmental challenges as well as the magnitude of different activities planned and taken. Among other interesting presentations was also for example the presentation from Portland, Oregon, USA, on sustainable storm water management by *Director Mr. Tom Liptan*. His participation at the event was made possible by the U.S. Regional Environmental Office for Baltic Sea Region.

Furthermore, transport challenges of Tallinn were presented by *Director Mr. Tarmo Pauklin*, environmental policies of Kaliningrad were explained by *Director Mr. Boris Komovnikov*, EU's Water Framework Directive by *EnvCom Co-chair Mr. Mikko Jokinen*, and many more good presentations and interventions followed during the three days.

European policies

One acute and important topic discussed at the meeting was the Thematic Urban Strategy (TUS) of the the 6th Environmental Action Programme (6EAP) of the European Union. The 6EAP was adopted by the Union in 2002 and its seven thematic strategies will be finalised during 2005. The Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment is currently in consultation process, where the UBC is strongly involved.

The planned actions of this strategy include for example mandatory environmental managements plans and systems, and transport plans for all larger cities in Europe. The whole draft strategy is currently under debate and the proposals on mandatory measures have received both criticism and support. It seems that cities in new member states would appreciate them more than cities in the old member states.

All member cities that wish to get up-to-date information on the consultation process and UBC's positions in it, are welcomed to contact the EnvCom Secretariat.

Good conferences are made by good hosts

It takes a lot of input from many people and a considerable amount of resources to make a good meeting. Once again, it was shown that UBC cities are excellent hosts. The City of Sundsvall provided wonderful expertise for the preparations and practical organising as well as for content presentations and excursions. The *Mayor Ms. Ewa Back* offered wonderful hospitality and a wonderful reception, Directors *Mr. Peter Gavelin*, *Mr. Stig Johansson*, Vice Director *Ms. Carina Sandgren*, and *Agenda 21 Co-ordinator Ms. Marie-Louise Henriksson* gave wonderful presentations and involved also plenty of experts from their stakeholders and partners, and *Liaison Director Ms. Elisabeth Enqvist* held all the strings together in an admirable way.

Thank you Sundsvall!

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Transferring of good practices works in TBestC

By Anna Granberg

The ten cities participating in the TBestC project have now conducted their study visits. Next phase is the implementation of the good practices learnt from others in one's own cities.

The original good practices focus on Air Quality (Turku), Environment and Education (Kristiansand and Kaliningrad) and Bio-diversity and Water management (Malmö). The target cities for transfer, Liepaja, Riga, Kaliningrad, Sopot, Sil-lamäe, Jelgava and Cesis have now visited the origins of the good practices and prepare to implement them. The way for this is being paved by specific feasibility studies which are based on the information received from the study visits.

These feasibility studies were discussed



Engeniya I'lina from ECAT-Kaliningrad, Magdalena Leszczynska-Czeczotka from Sopot and Elisabeth Helle from Kristiansand during the TBestC workshop in Sundsvall.

at the second interim workshop of the project in Sundsvall 22 April. The findings clearly indicate that it makes sense to transfer and adapt the good practices from one city to the other. Most of the target cities have actually already taken the first practical steps towards the implementation.

The final conclusions and experiences of the whole "transfer exercise" will be presented at the final seminar of the project in Turku 27 October. This seminar will be organised back-to-back with the UBC

EnvCom Annual meeting and the Waste-free Lifestyle conference. The lessons learnt will thereby be made available also for a wider audience of cities outside the project.

Before the final meeting, in September, there is still one very interesting activity left for the project cities. They will all go on a study visit to Portland in the U.S. to learn from activities on the project topics in Oregon. This has been made possible by the project partnership with the U.S. Baltic Sea Regional Environmental Office.

The whole project will close by the end of 2004. The final report covering all activities and especially lessons learnt will be disseminated to all UBC member cities and all interested can get it also by contacting the EnvCom Secretariat.

The TBestC project has received co-funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers and Finnish Ministry of the Environment.

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Good Progress in UBC Agenda 21

By Risto Veivo

The implementation of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Program 2004-2009 – Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities – has made a strong start. Many good projects are running and the financing has proceeded well too. Good services for cities are on offer – including possibilities to join new projects.

At the moment, altogether ten projects are running within the programme and the mobilised budget already exceeds three million euros. The total budget of the programme is 10 million euros. The largest on-going projects are the New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities, the EMAS Peer Review for Cities and the Baltic University Urban Forum (BUUF). One project with wide outreach is also the ABC (Alliance of Baltic Cities), aiming at exchange of good town planning practices and cases, and run by the Commission on Urban Planning. Other projects include for example good practice exchange and also partnerships beyond the Baltic Sea Region, with Lake Victorian as well as Adriatic and Ionian municipalities.

New projects are currently under planning and interested cities are welcomed to contact the programme management agency (UBC EnvCom Secretariat). The new project ideas address for example regional sustainable development strategies and improved information services for implementation of good practices.

Programme of the whole Union

The interests and needs of the member cities were the most important factor in the design of the new program. Contributions of members are even more crucial now in the implementation. Many cities are currently contributing as partners in the projects, hosts of meetings, and by active promotion of their good practices to others to learn from. Such contributions are at the heart of the whole undertaking.

The implementation of the program is a joint effort of all UBC bodies, commissions and networks. The program themes address issues of several UBC commissions, and several commissions are now contributing to the implementation. Especially strong roles are at the moment assumed by the commissions on environment, urban planning, social and health affairs and transport. Hopefully still more

commissions will find ways to contribute in the future.

Also all member cities and partner organisations that are interested in assuming an active role in the implementation of the programme are warmly welcomed to contact the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat.

Thematic approach

Sustainable development is a common cause for different municipal sectors and stakeholders. The UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme is built around five focus themes, providing a holistic approach and strong sustainability impact, and creating possibilities for different sectors and actors to contribute. The focus themes are:

1. Good governance and sustainable urban management
2. Sustainable use of energy and resources
3. Good living environment and nature protection
4. Sustainable economy and transport
5. Social integration and health.

All of these five themes are crucial for sustainable development in cities, and the cities also have powers and means to address them.

The UBC programme also has a very strong commitment towards open governance. In practice this means, that we welcome all partner organisations, other co-operation partners and stakeholders to shape the activities and implement the program together with us. The UBC and its member cities are not alone with their interest and need for sustainable development of Baltic Cities. Everybody with such interest, "a stake on the matter", must be welcomed to work together with us.

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News on Baltic University Urban Forum

By Anna Granberg

In June, the cities of the Baltic University Urban Forum (BUUF) project gathered in Hamburg to study how a city can grow without getting more dispersed or exploiting green areas.

This Hamburg conference was ninth best practice conference of altogether 20 to be held during the project duration. Several good presentations of good practices were presented.

The City of Hamburg demonstrated its Grey and Brown field remediation and development work, especially its huge HafenCity project. City of Stockholm presented a waterfront Hammarby Sjöstad, while the City of Lodz described how old industrial buildings were beautifully renovated to house new activities, for example the university. City of Uppsala contributed with its urban healing strategies, where not only industrial areas were put to new uses, but also power grid areas, too large trafficscapes and poorly used spots in the city, were converted to new residential areas.

In the BUUF project, 20 cities and 15 universities in 9 countries co-operate to develop sustainability strategies and exchange good practices.

In the autumn, three more project workshops will be held. In September, there will be a Transport one in Örebro, and Sustainable Communities one in Håga-by. In October, a workshop on Waste is held in Turku following the Waste-Free Lifestyle conference.

The purpose of the good practice workshops is for participating cities to get input to their own sustainable development work. The good practices collected and articles from scholars in the actual field will be put together to 10 good practice guidebooks. The guidebooks on greenery and water management are under production.

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Heading for Common Environmental Practices in Baltic Ports



By Elina Rantanen

Over 50 Baltic Sea port and port city stakeholders gathered in the Hanseatic City of Lübeck, Germany, in June for the *New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities* project seminar. The project was launched in autumn 2003, and the project partners are now introducing their environmental improvements.



The New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities project is a Baltic Sea Regional co-operation process of 18 ports, cities and other partners. It aims at creating common environmental practices for Baltic Ports by the end of the year 2005. This has become ever more important as the Baltic Sea has become almost an inland sea of the European Union.

Port cities are facing similar problems of balancing between different interests. None of them can, however, solve the problems alone. The New Hansa project responds to the need for international co-operation. A good network for the project already exists, as ports and cities have co-operated for years within the Union of the Baltic Cities that backs the project politically. The project is included in the UBC Agenda 21 Programme 2004-2009.

During the project, common practices for prevention of ships' emissions to the air and handling of waste and sewage water from the ships are discussed. As the result of the dialogue, a Baltic Memorandum of Understanding on Sustainable Ports will be created. It will consist of the environmental practices agreed upon. Wide commitment to the policy paper will be sought. It will be presented for endorsement at the VIII General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities in October 2005.



Need for the project was acknowledged

The first Baltic port and port city stakeholder seminar of the New Hansa project was arranged in Lübeck on 22 June. More than 50 participants from cities, ports, organisations, companies and decision-making discussed the role of the New Hansa project and acknowledged the urgent need for such international co-operation.

The president of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck, Peter Sünnewold, opened the seminar emphasising the economic role of shipping in the Baltic Sea. "The importance of shipping will only increase along the enlargement of the European Union", he stated.

Volker Brenk from the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Germany reminded that in the Baltic Sea shipping has the highest density in the whole world. "This highlights the importance of the project", Brenk argued.

The significance of the New Hansa project was emphasised also by other participants. It was considered essential that cities are co-operating within the issue. "This work was first started as a part of the local Agenda 21 work in Lübeck, but soon it was noticed that more partners are needed in order to progress", stated Ralf Giercke from the leading project part-



ner Stadtwerke Lübeck. Especially the participation of Finnliness was thanked, since the involvement of the shipping companies is vital for the success of the project.

Partners discussed the practice

The New Hansa project partners held a meeting in Lübeck a day before the stakeholder seminar. Representatives of ports, cities, shipping line and steering group organisations discussed the present situation and directed the project towards its next stages.

The partner ports and cities from Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Poland presented their implemented actions on preventing ships' emissions and handling of waste and waste waters. For example in Sweden there had already been reached some improvements in emission prevention, as the ships with reduced emission had been rewarded with the reduced port fees.

The research carried out among the cities and ports and the implemented project website www.newhansa.net, as well as other pr work were also discussed. These steps forward set a good basis for further actions on the way to the common understanding.

More information:
www.newhansa.net

The Progress of the EMAS Peer Review for Cities Project

By Tea Nömmann

The EMAS Peer Review for Cities project has entered to its last six-month period. All cities have been progressing in implementing EMAS. Their status and steps forward have been assessed during peer reviews, which took place during spring. By the time this article is out, all cities have had their peer review.

The toolkit of the project, workbook, is being tested by the cities. All cities have given feedback on developed workbooks to guide the EMAS implementation and EMAS peer reviews. Valuable comments and suggestions will be integrated into the final workbook during the summer.

Desktop study on EMAS and 6EAP linkages has been concluded and first pilot studies in project cities took place. The wider survey questionnaire prepared based on pilots and desktop study was finalised. This survey is looking at how local administrations in Europe are mak-



In Rostock the peer review was done by Mr Allen Creed (left) from Newcastle. Ms Zita Tverkute (second left) from Panevezys listened what experiences the City of Rostock has on EMAS.

ing use of "Environmental Management Plans and Systems" and how relevant the aims of 6EAP are considered by different European cities. The survey was disseminated to Eurocities, UBC, ICLEI and the Campaign members in early June. The feedback of the survey will be analysed during the summer.

The final event of the project will take place 3-5 November 2004 in Gdansk, Poland. The main aim of the final event is to share project partner cities' further plans and commitments concerning environmental management systems in their city and further collaboration between other cities. We want to share our achievements

and lessons from the project. The project main outputs - Peer Review Workbook and EMAS-6EAP Research – will be introduced and disseminated. Quick and important developments at the European level concerning Thematic Urban Strategy will be shared and participants have an opportunity to contribute to this process as well.

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Climate for change — Gender equality and climate policy

By Anna Granberg

Women's representation in the decision-making in energy, transport and construction fields are studied in Climate for Change - Gender Equality & Climate Policy project which is carried out in co-operation between Climate Alliance and UBC EnvCom.

The vision of the project is to achieve a well-balanced participation of women and men in decision-making processes relevant to climate protection. Ten cities from Germany, Italy, Finland and Sweden carry out a local survey to get a good view of the representation of women in climate change decision-making. The results are complemented with national studies including facts and figures about gender equality in the climate change area and framework conditions.

The project will deliver a toolkit that other cities can use to raise awareness on this issue. A database of female experts working in the Climate area and a Best Practice database will be put together and

open to public on the project web-site in the autumn.

At the second international meeting 21-22 June in Lahti, Finland, the cities met to exchange their experiences and to compare the studies that had been carried out. Surprisingly for the cities, the differences were not as big as was expected.

In the autumn, national meetings will be organised to promote the project and the outcomes of it to a broader public.

The project started in December 2003 and will be finalised in February 2005.

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Culture and Nature meet the Built Environment

Baltic 21 presents reviews on progress made

— ABC project seminar in Viljandi

The ABC (Alliance of the Baltic Cities) project will have its' fourth seminar in 22-26 September in Viljandi, Estonia, with a theme Culture and Nature meet the Built Environment.

The seminar will be run by the WP 1 - Work Package 1 - which concentrates on local overall perspectives. The participants will learn about the challenges, possibilities and problems of Town of Viljandi in the changing Estonia and EU-Europe.

The strategic focus of the workshop is on developed urban planning – city renewal towards sustainability. This includes housing, trade and industry, culture, commerce, transport, new methods and public private partnership. The focus is of course put on Viljandi, but the participating cities will also have possibilities to give presentations in order to exchange experiences.

The seminar program also includes excursions in Tallinn and Tartu. Several interesting presentations will be held by experts from Estonia, Finland and Sweden. Also the project cities will have a chance to present their own best practise examples.

The seminar workshops have the following themes:

1. Connecting the historical town with the town centre
2. Wooden ecological housing
3. Restoring and constructing laws
4. Lake of Viljandi, lakeside development and green areas and their connection to town.

The ABC co-operation is a project of 27 cities in seven countries. It is co-ordinated by the UBC Commission on Urban Planning. The project duration is 2003 - 2005.

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UBC TransCom Bicycle Workshop in Örebro

6-7 September 2004

The UBC Commission on Transportation and the City of Örebro will organise a **Bicycle workshop in Örebro 6 - 7 September 2004**. During the workshop, participants will have a possibility to learn how does a cityplan come together and also to take part in making a plan themselves. In addition, a cycling tour will be organised. A good practise on local project *Bicycle friendly city* will be also presented.

Participants will work in a workshop with a practical planning example. Örebro will build a new dwelling area only 2 km south of the city centre. How to plan this area, so it will fit the idea of a good bicycle planning?



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Deadline for registration is 25 August.

Baltic 21 presents reviews on progress made

Baltic 21 contributed to the 5th Baltic States Summit of the Heads of Government in Laulasmaa, Estonia on 21 June, where they presented the results of the review report on sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region.

Baltic 21 has identified lessons learnt during its first five years of action. The Baltic Sea Region has made significant progress towards sustainable development, but there are still challenges to be addressed. Future focus points are the Baltic marine ecosystem, energy use, agricultural practice and the gaps in economic and social conditions.

Baltic 21 proposes that the Baltic Sea Region would become an *Eco-Region* where Eco stands for both economy and ecology. The experience addresses the need to focus now on fewer and larger projects. Therefore one action area for Baltic 21 is to act as an umbrella for so-called Lighthouse Projects that demonstrate sustainable development in action. One of the three initial Lighthouse Projects is the New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities presented by the Union of the Baltic Cities.

Source: www.baltic21.org

Press Release on 21 June 2004

HELCOM - 30 Years of protecting the Baltic Sea

The Helsinki Convention celebrated its 30th anniversary in March. The past years were looked back on and the future role of HELCOM was discussed in the light of the EU enlargement.

The Helsinki Commission, HELCOM, works to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through intergovernmental co-operation. It is the governing body of the *Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area* - more usually known as the Helsinki Convention.

New and revised recommendations on measures to prevent pollution around the BS were adopted. New measures have been designed to combat pollution from fish farming and by PCBs, as well as to improve winter navigation.

Source: www.helcom.fi

Press release on 4 March 2004

WASTE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- special theme edition

Dear Reader,

Waste management is both an important responsibility and an environmental concern for the Baltic Cities. On the following pages you will find articles on waste management and waste related projects. These articles present good practices implemented in Baltic Cities and describe how challenges in waste management have been solved. They will hopefully inspire and encourage you, as many of them report innovative approaches and considerable improvements. By giving good examples, these articles will hopefully pave the way for more projects and better waste handling.

One explicit and important aim of the Union of the Baltic Cities is to disseminate such good practices for inspiration and learning. We believe that this will help our cities in their efforts to improve the environment.

We warmly thank all cities and other authors that contributed to this special theme edition of the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin. We are especially happy that there are contributions from cities in all Baltic Sea Region countries on these pages.

Hopefully you will have interesting and informative moments with this theme edition!

Editorial Team

Citizens are getting More Active in Sorting of Waste in Tallinn

By Enn Puskar

During the recent years, the waste management in Tallinn has undergone a remarkable development. While in the 1990's waste was not one of the most popular topics discussed, today it is in the focus of public attention. The growing interest in waste issues was greatly affected by the establishment of the new waste management rules in 2002. For the first time in Estonia, they obligate apartment associations in Tallinn to collect separately paper and cardboard waste at the dwelling houses.

Strongly negative attitude towards waste sorting was anticipated on the basis of past experiences. However, the number of containers for paper started to rise quickly in the city. Today, more than 1000 apartment houses have joined the paper collection and the number is growing rapidly. This has remarkably increased the opportunities to manage separately collected waste.

The launching of a new European Union requirements meeting landfill and a waste separation plant in early 2003 has helped to promote the issues related to waste management in Tallinn. In the waste separation plant up to 27% of waste is separated for recycling. Hazardous waste from the households is received at the petrol stations in special containers.

Campaign to raise citizens' interest

In 2003, an extensive waste campaign "Prügihunt" ("Refuse Wolf") was launched. In co-operation with the Helsinki Environmental Centre, a mobile waste



information tent was built. The tent is moved around the city during the summer, stopping at public places, schools and enterprises. For children waste-related issues are performed by a puppet show. In addition to the tent, a waste recovery centre will soon be opened.

A public opinion poll conducted during March and April 2004 showed an increase in resident satisfaction with the arrangement of waste management in the city. 24 % of citizens considered the new waste management good compared to the old poll results from 2002, when only 9% of the citizens thought it was good. People are now more environmentally conscious, and

knowledge on the legal acts related to waste management has improved.

Actions have also increased

The citizens of Tallinn are getting more active in recycling. Already 63% of people recycle their waste in one way or another. The separation of paper and cardboard waste has increased significantly. The rise can be traced back to a waste paper collection campaign. Besides paper, also separation of glass packaging and composting biodegradable waste has also increased. The situation with plastic packaging and hazardous waste is less positive and still needs to be worked on.

All in all it can be said that environmental consciousness and interest in waste management and sorting has rapidly increased among the citizens of Tallinn. More and more attention is paid to the separation of waste. There are also fewer complications with-in waste separation and transferring when comparing the situation now and two years ago.

Citizens can ask about better waste management ways in a special waste information tent that moves around the city.

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New technology in collection trucks makes refuse collection cleaner and quieter in Gothenburg

By Nils-Arne Holmlid

City of Gothenburg has currently 14 electric/hybrid refuse collection trucks in operation. The trucks' design is based on a new technology, where the engines run on natural gas or biogas. The engine also turns itself off automatically after stopping to do the collecting.

The trucks' new design makes them extremely environmentally friendly. The actual lifting, emptying and compression of refuse is done by electric motors, whereas the vehicle engine runs on natural gas or biogas. This means that the local environment in residential areas is spared from noise and exhaust pollution, and the refuse collection operatives gain a better working environment. When the vehicles stop to collect refuse, the gas engine automatically stops after 30 seconds, and all that can be heard is the quiet-running electric loading system.

The vehicles have been developed in collaboration between the City of Gothenburg Ecocycle Board and one of the waste processing and recycling companies in the region, Renova AB. The technical development is result of a collaboration between Volvo Truck Corporation, one of the Eu-



- This has been an unusually exciting and environmentally compatible project, which we are proud of in Gothenburg, says Ms Kia Andreasson, who is the Councillor for the Environment and chairwoman of Gothenburg City Ecocycle Board.

-My goal is that all refuse collection trucks in Gothenburg will eventually be true environmental refuse collection trucks.

rope's leading manufacturers of equipment for the handling of refuse and recycling materials, Norba and ETP. Norba has been responsible for the refuse collection body and hydraulics, whereas ETP Transmission AB developed the technology for energy storage and engine control. The gross value of the purchase amounts to approx. 2.8 million Euro.

-The new refuse collection trucks are both quieter and more environmentally compatible than the solutions previously used, says Christian Baarlid, managing director of Renova.

-They comply with the expected Euro-4 standard for exhaust gas discharge. I am convinced that electric/hybrid technology will become the model for other heavy vehicles which are operated in urban centres for other industries.

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Technical facts

The batteries are mainly charged by mains electricity at night, and to a certain extent when the vehicles are driven.

The Volvo trucks are equipped with a catalyst that works at higher temperatures than usual. This facilitates oxidation of greenhouse gases. 80% of the methane is eliminated in this way. A company called Enklaven AB supplies the catalysts.

The hydraulics for lifting and compression are driven by a 96 Volt electric motor, which takes its power from the batteries. A five-hour shift uses up 50% of the capacity of the batteries. Simultaneously, 25% is recharged during driving. Another five hours uses and generates the same amount of electricity, which means that there is still 50% capacity left in the batteries.



The almost silent refuse collection trucks have become a prominent feature in Gothenburg's streets, with this message on their sides: "PSST! We do not want to disturb you or the environment. That's why we use gas power and electric loading."

New Modern Solid Waste Management to Liepaja

By Ritma Dubrovskā

Liepaja Region Solid Waste Management Project is a unique waste-handling project in Latvia. It aims to reduce greenhouse gases and to utilize collected landfill gas for electricity generation. The project covers the biggest administrative district comprising the City of Liepaja and 27 regional towns and parishes, being the first regional project in the waste management sector.

The Solid Waste Management project was initiated in 1997. It was planned to establish an environmentally and economically sustainable solid waste management system in the City of Liepaja and the region that would comply with the current national requirements and meet the European Commission regulations.

The project aims to reduce greenhouse gases. Some of the resulting emission reduction units will be sold to the Prototype Carbon Fund (PCF). This arrangement is in accordance with the Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The solution will be technically and environmentally sound and financially self-sustaining for the municipalities of Liepaja district.

The collected landfill gas will be utilized for electricity generation. The National Energy Strategy of Latvia states that the use of indigenous energy resources and the diversification of energy sources are of high priority due to the few natural resources of

the country and the need to import half of its electricity.

Local level objectives

Apart from the demonstration of self-sustaining, modern management of municipal solid waste and utilization of landfill gas, there are also other objectives. It aims to strengthen institutional capacity at the local and regional levels on municipal solid waste management related issues. Arresting the on-going contamination of groundwater, reducing environmental disadvantages for neighbours of existing disposal sites, and facilitating the separation of recyclable material are also aims of the project.

With the contribution of the Prototype Carbon Fund, it will be possible to install a system, which allows the maximum collection of generated methane that would not be otherwise affordable. This system will help to lower greenhouse gas emissions in two ways. First, by mitigating the methane emitted by decaying waste, and second, by substituting landfill gas for fossil fuels in generating electricity.

Responding to environmental needs

The project covers an area of over 3 600 km² with more than 145 000 inhabitants. It is in accordance with the national "Municipal Waste Management Programme 500 -" of Latvia, which foresees the construction of 12 new sanitary landfills in Latvia in the next years.

City of Liepaja and the region had no sanitary landfills before, and the existing dump sites operated without environmental protection measures. Proper waste management techniques and equipment for waste management were not utilised, and groundwater contamination was a problem.



In April 2004, installation works started on gas pumping station and flare in the current landfill 'Skede'.



Construction works start in spring 2004 with the main pipe-lying at the Grobina Poligons which is the new regional sanitary landfill with energy cell technology for biodegradable waste.

Grobina sanitary landfill

The main investment of the project is the building of Grobina Poligons, which is the new regional sanitary landfill to be constructed on a former military training area 7 km east of Liepaja. In Grobina Poligons, the mixed waste is first sorted into inorganic waste, hazardous waste and recyclable waste. The organic waste will be dumped in small energy cells that will regularly be covered. Only a small area will be exposed at the time and nuisance for surrounding area will be limited. Hazardous waste will be separated and put to wait further treatment. The leachate will be collected and taken to the municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant in tank cars.

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28-29 October in Turku, Finland

Towards Waste-Free Lifestyles

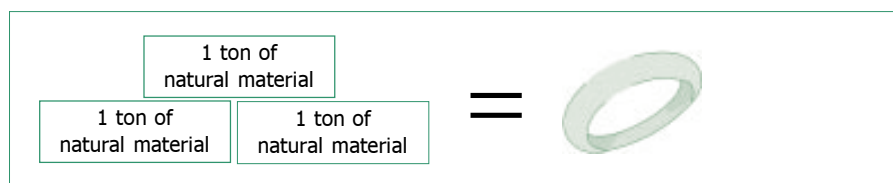
The European conference concentrates on local authorities' actions

By Maria Ekblad

The international conference *Towards Waste-Free Lifestyles* will gather waste management actors from all over European Union and Russia in Turku, Finland on 28-29 October. Topics concentrate on the actions the local authorities take in order to tackle the problem of growing waste production and resource consumption.

The production of waste is constantly growing. While Europeans produce around 3.000 M tons of waste annually, the Wuppertal Institute in Germany estimates that the total material used by Europeans each year can get up to 19.000 M tons. These 19.000 M tons of material extracted, used and wasted represent the Total Material Requirement (TMR). This means that the average European consumes 50,000 kg of resources every year. About 80 % of these resources never enter the economic circuit nor end up in saleable products.

It is important not only to concentrate on the end of the lifecycle of waste but also to look at the products and resources behind it. Only few people are aware that for example manufacturing a 5 gram gold ring re-



quires the extraction and processing of more than 3 tons of natural material or that manufacturing a computer with a 15 inch monitor requires 1,500 kg of abiotic raw materials and 60,000 liters of water. Tackling this reality implies the involvement of all actors of the production and the consumption chain and a call for intensive efforts on awareness raising and education.

The attitudes and demands of consumers play an important role in developing products and services into a more environmentally friendly direction. It is therefore important to provide consumers with information on how concrete changes in the consumption of natural resources and the production of waste can be implemented by changing behavior and attitudes.

Public and corporate procurement officers also need this information. It will encourage business to respond with appropriate innovations and management initiatives. It will also enable consumers to adopt greener lifestyles.

Local authorities are in a key role

The information on sustainable consumption is best provided by local and regional authorities. They are the closest public actors to citizens and are found to be a reliable source of information. They also have influence on the legal, economic and vol-

untary instruments of waste management, which makes them the central drivers of resource management as well as the development of a local sustainable culture.

The international conference *Towards Waste-Free Lifestyles* will gather waste management actors from European Union and Russia to discuss the actions of local authorities to tackle the above-mentioned issues. There is a particular aim to facilitate the exchange of experiences between new and older European Union Members and Russian Cities. Local decision-makers and experts will present practical examples on their work to reduce waste at each stage of the consumption chain. Participants will have the possibility to exchange experience and to network and cities and regions will be provided with new ideas and tools to implement actions in their communities.

The conference will be held in Turku, Finland on October 28-29, 2004. It is organized by the City of Turku and Turku Regional Waste Company in partnership with the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling (ACRR), the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), the Resource Recovery Forum (RRF) and the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC). The conference is part of the ELISEE project (*Encouraging Local Initiatives for Sustainable Lifestyles in Enlarged Europe*) that receives financial support from the European Commission.

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abiotic raw material
1,500 kg

water
60,000 liters

ACRR Encourages Local Authorities in Sustainable Waste Management

By Sophie Margulieu

The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling (ACRR) links over 70 European local and regional authorities in order to promote sustainable waste management. It encourages them in prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste.

The ACRR is widely recognised as one of the key actors in sustainable municipal waste management in Europe. It aims at implementing practical action and change in waste management policies.

The association is open to political decision-makers and technical managers who wish to make use of their expertise and play a proactive role in development of policies and techniques of waste management.

As an interface between local and regional authorities and other public and private waste management actors in Europe, the ACRR is active in sharing information and experiences. It co-ordinates and provides expertise and partnership in international projects and in consultative committees set up by the European Commission. It is also involved in moderating national and international conferences and in consulting for various organisations.

For over a decade (it was founded in 1994), the ACRR has been developing experience and expertise in all aspects of municipal waste management. That includes e.g. promoting eco-consumption and prevention, reuse, selective collection, recycling and composting of waste. Integrated waste man-



The ACRR touring exhibition "The Earth, a user's guide" illustrating the impact of our lifestyles on the environment.

agement system, packaging waste, organic waste, electrical and electronic equipment and hazardous waste are also issues to work with.

Events and actions

During the years 2002 - 2003, the ACRR co-ordinated and realised a European project *Sustainable Consumption in Cities – European campaign on products without waste and recycled products*. Its objective was to raise local and regional authorities' and citizens' awareness on the impact of our lifestyles on the consumption of natural resources and on the production of waste.

Currently, the ACRR is carrying out the ELISEE project *Encouraging Local Initiatives for Sustainable Lifestyles in Enlarged Europe*, in partnership with the Union of the Baltic Cities, the Resource Recovery Forum and the Institute for Sustainable Development

from Warsaw and the City of Turku. In 28-29 October, these partners will organise a European conference on local authorities' actions *Towards Waste-Free Lifestyles* in Turku, Finland.

Last autumn, the ACRR published a guide called *The management of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) – a guide for local and regional authorities*. It provides readers with practical insights in experiences across Europe and guidelines for selective collection and management of WEEE. It is a valuable tool for waste policy-makers and practitioners alike. It can be downloaded at the ACRR website.

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Electrical and electronic waste Sweden - soon the case throughout the

By Jan Johansson

Since 2001, Sweden has had a statutory producer responsibility and requirement for most types of waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) to be separated at source. Practical efforts are being made in accordance with a new co-operation model, whereby enterprises in the relevant industries work together with the country's municipalities. The collection system is currently functioning extremely well; taking the population as a whole, 9 kg of WEEE per person were collected during 2003.

By the end of 2004, all EU member states must adopt laws to the same effect. The regulations shall come into force no later than August 2005 in Sweden and most of the other old member states, whilst the EU's collection and recovery targets will begin to apply at the beginning of 2007. The new member states in the Baltic Sea Region, that have inferior markets and have yet to build up the necessary infrastructure for recovery, can be granted 2 years' respite from the targets giving them the opportunity to learn from the experiences of the other pioneering countries.

In today's high-tech world, consumer products powered by batteries or by mains electricity are becoming increasingly common. Furthermore, the development of electronics in such products is causing them to age very quickly; resulting in a plethora of a

new waste comprising complicated compound material. This can consist of everything from large washing machines to discarded mobile phones.

New material recovery enterprises

The Swedish producer responsibility, i.e. a law enjoining manufacturing and sales companies to meet the costs of a system to collect their end-of-life products, has evolved to enable electrical and electronic waste to be separated from normal household and bulky waste. Separation is seen important for two reasons:

1. Electrical and electronic equipment can contain small amounts of substances that constitute a direct threat to the environment and human health. They must be isolated so that they can be treated as hazardous waste. Mercury, in e.g. bulbs, and PCB in washing machine condensers are two good examples.
2. WEEE often contains material that can be used as valuable raw material in new products - on condition that it is dismantled in such a way as to be able to keep the material fractions separate. Examples of this include gold and copper from circuit boards or aluminium from computer chassis and kitchen appliances.

The increase in the amount of waste being separated at

source has concurrently led to growth in the specialist waste recovery market. The electrical/electronics industry's jointly owned recovery service company, El-Kretsen, has in recent years procured disassembly and recovery services for e.g. large white goods, mobile phones, computers and fluorescent light tubes. These disposal activities are mostly run on quite a wide scale - only 22 recovery enterprises and 19 waste hauliers have been procured for the whole country. One requirement from El-Kretsen is for all enterprises involved in disposal activities to be environmentally certified.

The municipalities collect the waste

Requirements placed on producers quickly lead in practice to requirements being placed on consumers. It is mostly the ordinary citizen who buys and uses 'ready-to-scrap' electrical products.

Municipalities rather than enterprises have been considered the general public's more natural partner when it comes to recovering such waste. All households have an agreement with their municipality to collect ordinary household waste. The municipalities are also more likely to have larger collection/recycling stations for more special types of waste and are used to planning and coordinating the work done by different contractors in the field.

When the producer responsibility for WEEE was introduced, the industry along with the country's municipalities chose a cooperation model that utilised the municipalities' strong organisational structure and close contact with the citizens. A sim-



The inhabitants of Nacka have become regular visitors to the Östervik recycling station, where they deposit both electrical waste and many other types of waste. Photo: Nacka municipality.

being returned in EU



*The MIREC recovery company separates tubes, plastic casings, glass and other components when dismantling TV/computer monitors.
Photo: Peter Knutsson/El-Kretsen.*

ple principle was established by way of agreements: the municipality would be responsible for collection from households and El-Kretsen would manage the subsequent steps in the recovery process.

Östervik recovery station

In the UBC-affiliated municipality of Nacka, the Östervik recovery station, opened at the end of 2001, has become a centre for collection and separation.

- Inhabitants of the municipality made a total of 45,000 visits to the centre in 2003 to deposit waste, says Reine Lindqvist from the Municipality of Nacka. This was a 50 % increase on the previous year.

WEEE is separated in containers and cages for e.g. refrigerators and freezers, computers, TV sets etc., fluorescent light tubes and small-scale electronic". Most of the visitors to Östervik brought both WEEE and ordinary types of waste, including garden waste. In some areas the rubbish is put outside and El-Kretsen hauliers come round to collect the waste and transport it to the material recovery enterprises.

It is obviously not easy for citizens to always do the right thing, but it seems most of them are making an effort. After the introduction of the producer responsibility, the municipalities and waste enterprises in the Stockholm region also ran a joint campaign to make citizens more aware of the fact that they must also separate their electrical waste. The campaign took the form of advertisements in newspapers and on buses, exhibitions and a joint website. The website still exists, with information on environmental aspects, current statistics and a database where you can find out how WEEE is collected in each of the region's 26 municipalities.

EU regulations just around the corner

Common EU regulations in the area are about to be introduced. The European WEEE Directive (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) will mean the extension of producer responsibility to cover end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment in all EU member states, and the introduction of collection and recovery targets. Considering Sweden's track record in this area, the changes are likely to be relatively minor. Reine Lindqvist in Nacka is nevertheless looking forward to next August when the requirements in the directive will come into force. The changes should benefit the municipality financially, since producers will have a more comprehensive obligation to finance recovery operations.

The producer responsibility requirements and recovery targets laid down in the EU directive are to be introduced in all member states, but a few 'old' and all the 'new' states are entitled to a period of respite when it comes to achieving the targets. Experience from countries that have already introduced such requirements and targets could well provide others with inspiration as they begin their own work.

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Kurortny District near St.Petersburg

By Irina Avdeeva

Located on the coastline of the Gulf of Finland, Kurortny District is Russia's only northern seaside resort with real beaches left in Russia after the Soviet Union collapsed. It was originally designated as a resort free from factories and has thus kept its' nature suitable for holidays and taking care of health.

The district covers towns of Sestroretsk and Zelenogorsk, and nine villages. The district hosts local, national, and international tournaments and festivals, for example biking and golf and folk and rock music festivals. There are two government-protected regional parks in the district to conserve biological diversity and natural ecosystems.

Dealing with environmental problems

The massive influx of vacationers in summer and on weekends generates an enormous amount of waste that has to be disposed of; upwards of 500,000 people visit the resort in summer. Waste treatment remains a problem, and pollution of waterways continues. To address these and other problems, district authorities rally locals every year to take part in the Clean Coast and Clean Resort initiatives; new waste treatment programs are in the works or in the process of being implemented.

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Gdansk wants to increase waste segregation

By Izabela Borkowska and Monika Piotrowska-Szypryt

The City of Gdansk has been carrying out segregation of domestic waste fractions since 1993. The aim of the municipality is now to increase waste segregation at source into a maximum level, and to decrease the amount of waste deposited at the landfill into minimum.

In Gdansk, there are almost 500 collection points for secondary materials. They consist of special containers for separate collection of paper, glass and plastics. Such network of collection points is part of a system that includes waste segregation, collection and transportation.

Also organic waste and hazardous domestic waste are collected separately, however only in some city districts. Overdue medicines are collected in special containers distributed among medical stores, and mercury lamps and batteries have their own collection fractions.

Collected waste is utilized by the companies specialized in waste processing. Unclassified domestic waste is stored at the landfill and further utilized as biogas. Organic waste is composted, and the same companies take care of the management of segregated waste.

At present, the city of Gdansk has tendered a local waste utilization company for elaboration of feasibility study for the project called *Modernisation of waste management*. The project consists of two main areas of consideration, which are implementation of waste segregation system for the entire city, and modernization of waste utilization company by investing in construction of sorting plant, composting plant, and RDF production plant.



Lifelong habits often start at childhood. For example, once you learn to recycle it becomes a natural way of thinking and living.

The intention of the local authorities is to encourage the inhabitants to waste segregation and to use of environmentally friendly packages. In order to facilitate this process, the citizens are provided with information material, and workshops and lectures at schools and kindergartens are organized. The main goal of the activities taken by the municipality is to fully comply with the European Union environmental standards.

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Dumpsters as a work of art in Klaipeda

By Daiva Berankiene

In May 2004, students of the city school and charges of foster homes painted dumpsters and turned them into a work of art in Klaipeda.



The aim was and is to draw attention of society, especially children, to the protection of environment, to develop their imagination, ingenuity, and to root new methods and forms of educational system.

During the event, 30 dumpsters were painted. These dumpsters will stay and be used in a usual way. It is hoped that the young painters will respect their own and others' work, creation, and environment.

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Citizens share responsibilities for the recycling stations in Kolding

By Ellen Hinz-Berg

In Kolding Municipality, citizens are active participants in the maintenance of the recycling stations, and thus the responsibility is shared between the households and the municipality.

Kolding Municipality has about 1200 recycling stations around the municipality, and about 65 % of households have joined the recyclable waste collection system. The recycling stations typically consist of containers for newspapers and magazines and bottles and glass respectively.

Most of the recycling stations serve ten to twenty households. The stations are placed in strategic locations near to the buildings considering the access to the containers for both citizens and garbage collectors. The recycling stations are generally located to common public areas. If this is not possi-

ble, they are placed to private land. It is a municipal requirement that the positioning of recycling stations and waste islands, if applicable, is incorporated in local planning and new housing development.

The establishment and maintenance of the recycling stations is largely in the citizens' responsibility. Housing associations plan the implementation together with the inspector and the municipality. The responsibility of maintenance means that the citizens must keep the recycling station and surroundings clean all year round and call

the municipality if the containers are full before the normal collection time

The municipality takes larger share of the responsibility in case a recycling station is located in public areas, e.g. in the town centre. The affiliated households nevertheless play a part in the supervision of the recycling station.

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Kristiansand makes an effort on solid waste management

By Elisabeth Helle

Solid waste management is a good example on City of Kristiansand's environmental achievements.

The citizens quickly adopted the recycling system, which was introduced in the 1990's. Compared to other similar cities in Norway, the recycling figures have been considerably good ever since.

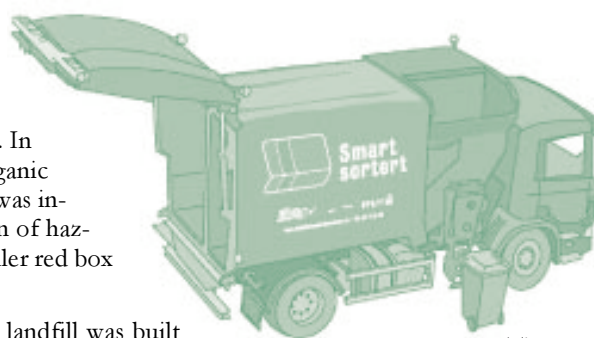
Recycling in Kristiansand started in 1992. Households were advised to sort ordinary waste in the grey bin and mixed paper and

cartons in the green one. In 1995 separation of organic waste in the brown bin was introduced, and separation of hazardous waste in the smaller red box was to follow.

At the same time a new landfill was built and located next to an organic waste composting plant. Two recycling plants and several recycling points were also established.

A pilot system *Smart sorted* started in 1998 for 3500 citizens, and in 2003 the rest of the city's households were involved. This system gave a possibility for households to choose when the organic and the ordinary waste bins would be emptied. Earlier the bins were emptied every fortnight, but now they could be emptied once a week or even less frequently.

As emptied, the bins are electronically registered and weighed, and customers' bill is calculated after the registrations.



The new contractor also introduced a two-chambered, side loading trucks at the same time as the electronic registration started.

Citizens in Kristiansand are nowadays generally satisfied with the waste management system. They feel that they can influence on their waste bill more than before. Many of them want to reduce the number of emptyings, which has substantially increased the amount of waste brought to recycling plants and recycling stations.

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New Waste Solutions for European local governments

By Stefanie Lay

The Waste Solutions – European Urban Waste Management Cluster (EUWMC) Project unites six projects funded by the European Commission Directorate-General Research as a “research cluster”. The purpose is to contribute to policy and technology development on waste issues.

The aim of the Waste Solutions project is to implement the potential of the new tools for better waste management in the European local governments. Synergies between the projects are sought, dissemination of project results is enhanced, further information is provided, and exchange between researchers and practitioners is facilitated.

Project topics include a new, standardised method for Solid Waste Analysis, software-supported integrated waste management systems, and policy-guidance for waste avoidance and green procurement. The six lead partners of the projects carry out the Waste Solutions project. ICLEI is one of these six partners.

Meeting in Italy

At the end of March 2004, 30 researchers and representatives of local governments and local government networks met in Dogliani, Italy, for a workshop to discuss and review new approaches to urban waste management in Europe. Also local governments had a chance to present their experiences. Among the cities was the UBC member city Kaunas from Lithuania.

A particular focus was set on the situation of municipalities in the ten new European Union member states. The concluding session analysed further challenges and information needs of European local governments.

Project website

The project website offers resources for sustainable waste management as well as for waste avoidance, targeted mainly at urban waste management officers. One can find information on innovative projects and tools, local good practices, publications and further online information, including info on the six Waste Solutions projects. One will also have an opportunity to present projects, good practices, favourite publications and online information.

More information:

www.wastesolutions.org

E-mail wastesolutions@iclei-europe.org

Be prepared – recycle! as is done in Turku

By Anna Meronen

The Finnish guides and scouts implemented a cardboard recycling project in the Turku Region from autumn 2003 to spring 2004. The project was a great success. It was also awarded for creditable work for sustainable development and environmental education among children and youth.

The successful recycling project was called *Paffi*, which means cardboard in the local dialect. The aim of the project was to in-

crease cardboard recycling, raise people's awareness on it and to promote environmental education among the guides and scouts. The project was carried out by The Guides and Scouts of Finland, The Guides and Scouts of Southwest Finland and by several companies and associations related to cardboard recycling.

Nearly 5600 households out of over 7300 finished the project. Altogether 34 guide and scout troops were involved in the project.

A big success was gained

At times it seemed that the households were even a bit too eager to recycle, as many of the containers filled up very fast. Because of the positive publicity of the project, many people who did not take part in the project started to recycle cardboard as well.



The project reached its goals over all expectations as the cardboard recycling increased over 40 %. Similar project had earlier been carried out in some other regions of Finland, but in the Turku region the recycling grew most. According to the feedback from the guides and scouts, the environmental education among themselves had increased as well.

Especially the practicality of the project was considered positive.

The project was implemented in close cooperation with the local environmental authorities. During the local Recycling Week it received an environmental award which was granted for creditable work for sustainable development and environmental education among children and youth.

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Environmental education on Hazardous Household Waste

By Vaiva Ramanauskiene

Most of the Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) is not separated from the household waste flow in Lithuania. This spring, an Environmental Bus has visited schools and told the children about the HHW management.

Many ordinary products such as paint and aerosol cans, cleaning chemicals, batteries, and medicines, can pose a health and environmental hazard if not disposed properly. For a long time in Lithuania these materials have been thrown into ordinary waste. When reaching the landfills they can leach into the soil, polluting water and threatening all living things. To inform people on the matter, ECAT-Lithuania organized a project *Hazardous Household Waste – the threat we live with*.

- There is an urgent need to raise citizens' awareness, to educate them on HHW management and to change old habits into new ones in order to fulfill requirements of the European environmental legislation. One of the most effectual ways to do this is to educate schoolchildren, as they are the most open and receptive group, says Vaiva Ramanauskiene from ECAT-Lithuania.

Environmental Bus reached schoolchildren

During the HHW project, information material on hazardous household waste was prepared. Interactive lectures took place in various schools, mainly in the countryside, where information on hazardous waste as well as on waste management in general is not sufficiently accessible to people. For the lecture visits, ECAT-Lithuania used their Environmental Bus. During March and April, the bus visited 15 schools with 1000 schoolchildren taking part of the lectures.

The idea of an Environmental Bus was obtained from the UBC Best City Practices project (2001-2002). In this project ECAT-



*Lithuanian schoolchildren learned about hazardous household waste in spring 2004.
Photo: ECAT-Lithuania.*

Lithuania had a chance to learn how the Municipality of Gotland had used the Environmental Bus as a tool for environmental education. The experience in Lithuania showed that the Environmental Bus is an attractive and comprehensive tool for environmental education directed to schoolchildren. The bus easily reaches citizens around the country, and the method could be successfully used in other countries as well.

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Shops go green in Kolding

By Signe Sparring

So far, 130 shops have adapted environmentally friendly thinking in their everyday work in Kolding. The shops have also done educational work among their own staff and the customers.



This work is due to a project *A Greener Kolding*, which started in February 2000. The participating shops are mainly small with 1-10 employees, but also large supermarkets have taken part. The shops fulfil 15 activities on so-called *The Green List* with 59 activities that are divided into *Operation* (focusing on the actual running of the shop, first year), *Purchase and customer-related waste* (focusing on the purchases for the shop and the waste the customer carries home, second year), and *Products and product information* (focusing on environmentally labelled products and the information that the customer receives, third year).

Achieved results

All 130 shops have received results in energy saving, cleaning and waste separation. All of them have introduced environmentally labelled cleaning agents. In a butcher's department a preliminary examination was carried out concerning the possibility of disinfecting with O₂-tabs instead of chlorine.

The Kolding Shopping Centre has a joint waste disposal system for cardboard, glass and bottles, deep-frying grease and residue waste. Hazardous waste and transparent PE plastic were added to the system. Thus, the environmental benefits reach far beyond the realm of the project, as there are only 40 Green List Shops in the shopping centre, whereas the waste separation applies to all of the 100 shops.

Additional benefits

Additional benefits were an increased awareness regarding leaking water taps and toilets, and of the possibility to use paper with the swan label. During the second year, many shops made an effort to limit the customers' amount of waste. This means unpacking the goods and encouraging the customer to bring their own bag.

Essential for the success of the project was that the shop attendants were involved in the environmental work as much as possible. This was not just to get best results in the shop, but also to make the employees take the ideas home with them.

Conclusion

The project has proven that it is possible to achieve good results for the environment in form of electricity savings, eco-labelled chemicals and waste management. It is however clear, that it is necessary to have continual campaign on different environmental issues in order to keep the shops interested in environmental resource management.

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Elva has a unique water treatment plant

Segregating phosphorus by the use of bacteria is exceptional and rare in Estonia. This technology is now being used in the new water treatment plant in Elva, after the plant was rebuilt in 2003.

The health-promoting atmosphere and natural environment of the town of Elva need constantly special attention. Nature influences every stage of the town planning process. The first, modern water treatment plant was built in 1985 near the Lake Verevi. Then the sewage plant, having a great growth potential, was also functioning using biological treatment by the active sludge process, where effluent is being directed into lagoons after purification for secondary treatment. Unfortunately no substances were biologically segregated. Soon it became clear that the use of such technology did not protect the lake against pollution constantly emerging because of spring floods. The efficiency of lagoons also decreased to the dangerous level.

Unique technology used

Elva water treatment plant was rebuilt in 2003. The biggest change consisted in the intensified biological segregation of phosphorus. Segregating phosphorus by the use of bacteria is exceptional in Estonia. Only four out of six hundred water treatment plants working in Estonia are using the same technology. This concerns a classic activated sludge treatment facility where distinct bacteria act in different environmental conditions. Although limits to total nitrogen content in effluent discharged into the natural environment have not been enacted by the legislation of Estonia, nitrogen is being segregated from the Elva wastewater at the same time with phosphorus. This means full effectiveness at minimal costs.

The plant is capable of receiving wastewater in the amount of 650 m³ per day. Construction of the water treatment plant has been one of the most promising investments for the town because since the recent renovation the plant completely meets the needs of the town for the next 20 years.

Renewal of biological treatment technology considerably improved condition of the Lake Verevi since purified wastewater is no longer directed into lagoons but into special bypass piping, by which water is directed past the lake. Two channels were excavated in order to avoid floods and improve an exchange of water. Because of specific, stratified water the lake is recovering slowly but water parameters in superficial layers were already good during the last bathing season. Connecting the renovation of the water treatment plant and the improvement of the lake's condition was a crucial and successful investment in the interests of the development of the town.

Elva is a green city

Elva with its population of 6 200 is a small town lying in Southern Estonia. Almost 40% of it is covered with forest parks and nature reserves. There are three lakes in the town, one of them right in the town centre. The biggest lake Verevi is a well-known bathing area in the neighbourhood. Scientists consider that people of Elva live in a spa. Due to forest parks and lakes Elva air contains volatile phyto-organic compounds and negative ions, inhalation of which has a curative effect on people.

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Nearly 40% of Elva is covered with forest parks and nature reserves. Photo: Picnic in Elva, Malev Toom.

Tartu uses European Common Indicators

In 2002, the City Government of Tartu introduced some of the European Common Indicators. The results were compared with six European cities with similar number of population (100,000). Results show that the citizens of Tartu consider their hometown to be a good place to live, and that they live in a sustainable way.

Children's journeys to and from school -indicator shows that children's choice of transportation has a significant impact on public transport. According to the survey, over 50 % of pupils go to school on foot. Tartu's sustainability lies partly in the fact that most parents allow their children to travel on foot and use public transport and that public transport and schools are only a walking distance away for many children.

Indicators *Citizens' satisfaction with the local community* and *Local mobility and passenger transport* show that the citizens of Tartu are more satisfied with their place of residence and public transport, and less satisfied with social and health care services than the citizens of comparable European cities on average. The survey results indicate that the people of Tartu travel in a more environmentally-friendly way than the people of other investigated European cities. In Tartu the portion of car users is smaller than in other cities.

The investigation of these indicators will continue. In addition, the indicator of the availability of public open areas and services is now monitored.

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Rostock aims for the European Energy Award

The Hanseatic City of Rostock has decided to go for the European Energy Award. The start-up meeting was held in January 2004, followed by forming of Energy Team that comprises of representatives from main energy producers and users as well as from all departments within the city administration. The Agenda 21 Office of Rostock leads the team, as the task involves long-term town development as well as inclusion of ordinary residents of Rostock.

The European Energy Award® is a European certification and quality management system which rewards cities and towns with a label for outstanding efforts in the field of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies.

Until January 2005, Rostock will develop a qualifying and certifying procedure to analyse the present energy situation and to develop concrete measures of improvement in sectors like development planning and communal buildings. The project will also include an external audit, funded by the EU and the region of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

After half a year, it is envisaged to have a complete picture on energy consumption, energy costs and other activities concerning energy management. Towards the end of the year an action plan is to be developed, which shows how effectively energy can be saved and regenerative energy utilised. Synergy effects between the local institutions and utilities will be of particular interest.

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The Green Carbak School

The pupils and teachers of Carbak School near Rostock, decided to change the grey school surrounding into a green one. Together with the parents, they thought up ideas as how to do it and in 2000 started a project *Green School*.

Dedication paid off and today the school has a lot of greenery areas and all activities are done bearing in mind the impact on environment. The school has already won several prizes for their work and their future aim is to become recognised on European level.

The activities to make the school into a greener one include several small and big tasks. The trees on the playground have been mapped which helps the children to learn their names. Also some bird nesting boxes were hung up. The school has its' own pond, too, which is used for educational purposes. Pupils are responsible for cleaning the playground from paper and rubbish. In addition, the children also cultivate vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Carbak School is recognised

In June 2003, the pupil's project group won the main prize in *Green School/Ecological School Yard Design* competition auspiced by the Federal Office for Environment and Nature (STAUN). Dr. Marianne Linke, the Social Minister of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, was very impressed by their presentation *Luck is Green - The Green School*. The school took part also in *Pupil's Project Competition*.



Day of Environment 2004 - inauguration of the Green classroom is one of the activities the school has performed. Photo: School of Carbak.



tion in the framework of the 31st World Environment Day 2004. Pupils of the school presented their projects with the help of a CD-ROM and won the first prize.

Now, the school has started new projects, and their new goal is to become recognised as an *Environmental School in Europe*.

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Baltic Sea Forum in Rostock-Warnemünde

Baltic Sea Forum is organised as a part of the Hanse Sail on 6 August 2004 with the theme *The Transnational Co-operation in Environment and Nature Protection of the Countries in the Baltic Sea Region*.

More information:

www.herder-gesellschaft.de.vu

Call to join in a new procurement project tender

A group of 11 local authorities currently plan their first joint call for tender on cleaning agents and monitors for 2005. They are now inviting other public authorities to participate in the initiative. These 11 authorities are working together in the European LEAP project (Local Authority EMAS and Procurement), one aim of which is to prepare and test a strategy on joint procurement of green products at the European level.



More information:

www.iclei-europe.org/leap

Chestnut trees are in danger in Gdynia

Gdynia inhabitants have become concerned about the chestnut trees since the information was spread that the most dangerous pest of chestnut tree, a horse chestnut leaf-miner, had reached the Polish coast.

This pest can reproduce four times a year, and the infested trees are usually completely defoliated at the end of season. Long-term defoliation may result in the death of these beautiful trees.

The horse chestnut leaf-miner (*Cammeraria ohridella*) is of Macedonian origin, but at present it inhabits all southern European countries as it can cover the distance of 100 km per year thanks to its enormous mobility. Horse chestnut leaf-miners have almost no natural enemies, which is the major cause of its invasion. Only tits eat larvae of the miner but they can eliminate only a small percentage of the pest.

Aware of the approaching invasion of the horse chestnut leaf-miner, a campaign entitled "Save Our Chestnut Trees" which was addressed to all inhabitants of Gdynia, was initiated. The objective of the campaign was to bring every single chestnut tree in Gdynia under control and to report to Gdynia City Hall on its condition using special sheets. The infected chestnuts will be treated with insecticide, which is a main part of our local pest management system. In addition, we have been encouraging people to place nesting boxes for tits nearby chestnuts and to compost organic vegetable wastes and raked leaves in order to be ready to fight against the pest.

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Standards for Energy Performance Contracting

Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) is a viable instrument for reducing costs and CO₂ emissions with external help, as local governments cannot make enough of investments in energy efficiency. The model was adapted and further developed in Berlin. An on-going Clearcontract project leads the way to the adaptation of the EPC standards to eight European countries.

Energy consumption is today too high in most European countries. Local governments face a challenge of meeting both local demands for energy and European targets on energy efficiency and emission reductions. External investments are needed, as local governments cannot make all the necessary investments themselves.

The principle of Energy Performance Contracting is simple. Municipality awards the planning, financing, implementing and maintenance of energy saving measures in selected buildings to an energy service company that is called the contractor. Contractor ensures that adequate investments are made and savings are achieved. Investments are paid back via the savings.

The Berlin Energy Agency has developed most of the approach applied in Berlin and elsewhere in Germany. Experiences have led to the development of Clearcontract – Clearinghouse for Energy Contracting. It is a large project leading the way to the adaptation of the EPC standards to eight Central European countries.

The know-how is offered through a central clearinghouse that offers information and services online on the website www.clearcontract.net. On 12 October 2004, the approach, results and opportunities reached with the Clearcontract are discussed in a seminar in Berlin.

More information:
www.clearcontract.net
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clearcontract@berliner-e-agentur.de

Hoverwing - sustainable new waterborne transport?

Mobility is a key issue in Europe at the time of transnational integration. One new and more environmentally-friendly solution could be the Hoverwing. This waterborne vehicle, developed by the German company Teratrans, is described by the company as a dynamic hovercraft that travels at 90 knots (180 km/h) without causing wake, wash or erosion to the nature. It operates on the sea without touching it, and resembles a cross between conventional hovercraft and aircraft. It travels only at surface level and is classified and certified as a boat.



*Projected 20 seat Hoverwing passenger vessel.
Photo: Teratrans.*

This transport system is developed in order to offer speed and comfort combined with low travel costs. Remote coastal regions could potentially be reached without supplementing road, train and air traffic. With optimal combination of existing traffic systems, Hoverwing, according to Teratrans, could increase sustainable land-use and reduce ecologically harmful consequences.

According to Teratrans, the production of a passenger vessel of 30 seats is feasible at this stage of technological development. Teratrans is now undertaking the process to identify specific demands for verifying suitable routes in order to establish the service. The service to be established could potentially connect some of the Baltic Cities.

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UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat

Network is a 'net' that 'works'. Partnerships are invaluable and best solutions can best be learnt from others. In the work of the UBC such practical co-operation has always been essential.

In the UBC, our Agenda 21 work is a joint initiative of 104 cities and other partners. The fora for joint work of these cities, their representatives and other partners, are the UBC Commission on Environment and the Agenda 21 Working Group. They are open to participation of all member cities, and also many partner organisations are regularly present at the meetings.

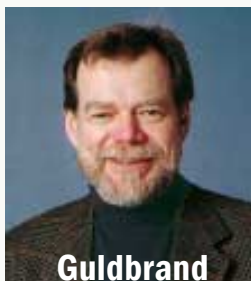
You are most welcome to join! Two meetings are organised every year. It is in these meetings that you are also most likely to find partners for your own initiatives, or use the opportunity to join projects in the pipeline!



Meetings in the seminar room are usually accompanied by on-site learning at excursions. Here are some of the EnvCom participants visiting the new open air museum just outside Kaunas, May 2003.



Mikko



Guldbrand

The EnvCom Co-chairs are currently Mr. Mikko Jokinen from Turku, Finland and Mr Guldbrand Skjönberg from Nacka, Sweden. In his every-day work, Mr. Jokinen is Environmental Director of City of Turku and Mr. Skjönberg is Manager to the Boards in the City of Nacka.



The secretariat staff currently consist of a team of five professionals working fulltime for the UBC. They are Head of Secretariat Mr. Risto Veivo (left), Publications Officer Mrs. Sari Bowie, Project Co-ordinator Ms. Anna Granberg (middle), Project Officer Mrs. Sanna Erkko and Project Co-ordinator Mrs. Tea Nömmann (right).

In addition to the meetings, we organise several Environment and Agenda 21 workshops and seminars every year, as well as publish the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin and website. The bulletin offers you an excellent forum to publicise your activities and initiatives on environment and sustainable development. If you have an idea for a story, just contact us!

We are here for you. The UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat is the co-ordination and service unit for the environmental and Agenda 21 work of the UBC. It runs the services for the cities: organises meetings and policy work, prepares documents and publications, as well as initiates and runs projects.

The UBC EnvCom and Agenda 21 webpages are continuously updated. There you can find acute and general information on the activities. You can also check the Documents & Publications page for publications and reports in pdf-format. These include for example the Local Agenda 21 Good Practice Review for city leadership. If you have any questions, ideas or comments regarding our services, please, never hesitate to contact us!



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www.acrr.org/wastefreelifestyles.htm

Towards Waste-Free Lifestyles

European conference on local authorities' actions

28th and 29th of October, 2004 – Turku, Finland

