

ENVIRONMENTAL

bulletin No 1, 2011

A close-up photograph of several clear glass cups filled with a dessert. Each cup contains a layer of white cream at the bottom, followed by a layer of fresh raspberries, and topped with a dusting of yellow powder. The cups are arranged on a silver tray, and a silver fork is visible in the foreground.

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level decisions
steer innovative cities***

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Decisions steer innovative cities

Innovative and sustainable cities do not emerge by themselves. Market forces or political statements alone do not attract people and enterprises. Active leadership and broad partnerships are needed to steer our cities into a sustainable direction.

The network of Union of the Baltic Cities is a gateway to the many exciting ideas and actions that are already shaping the future of more than 100 great cities in our region. Our cities and our history might be diverse, yet our challenges are largely similar. We all want to live in physical environments that are clean, safe and well-functioning. We all want good housing, efficient transport systems and a wide range of social, cultural and commercial services. We all have an interest in improving the state of the environment in the Baltic Sea itself, whilst combating climate change and the loss of a nature and its diversity. The wide range of activities taking place under the Union of Baltic Cities bears testimony to the large scope that exists for learning from each other and sharing experiences on sustainable city development.

Norway's Cities of the Future programme has been set up precisely in recognition of the need to steer city development. It is built on dialogue, networks and partnerships involving local and central government, the business sector and other partners. It involves the people that live, work and lead their everyday lives in the 13 cities that take part in the programme. This initiative has over the time become the main platform for reaching a common understanding of the problems that the different cities face, and for rallying partners around a shared vision for the future. It underscores the need for joint efforts to reach sustainability goals.

The government has singled out four focus areas under the Cities of the Future programme; land use and transport, buildings and energy, consumption and waste, and climate adaptation. We have entered into agreements with key stakeholders on each of these four areas, with the parties

committing themselves to limit urban sprawl, strengthen public transport and reduce traffic from cars. The central government offers financial support packages for cities' transport, environment and urban development. These are often difficult topics for local governments to handle. It is not always easy to introduce restrictive measures against the use of private cars, such as road pricing, even when the income could partly finance the public transport system. This is therefore an area in which politicians must steer and take a lead. There are many benefits in solving traffic problems, including clean air and more attractive city centers. The business sector also sees benefits in road pricing and improved public transport, as this will increase access to the city and lower transportation costs.

Cities within and beyond our region are mobilizing to develop sustainable cities, creating networks to learn from each other as they go along. Herein lies the key to improved city living and a green low carbon future. It is encouraging to see that it is not always a matter of drastic or costly new solutions. To get started, all it takes is a joint decision to take action and show leadership on city development, whilst reaching out to networks for inspiration and support.



Erik Solheim

Minister for Environment of Norway

UBC member cities (as of March 2011)

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Photo: Johann Selles

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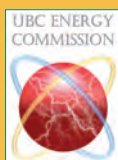


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Photo: Tero Pajukallio

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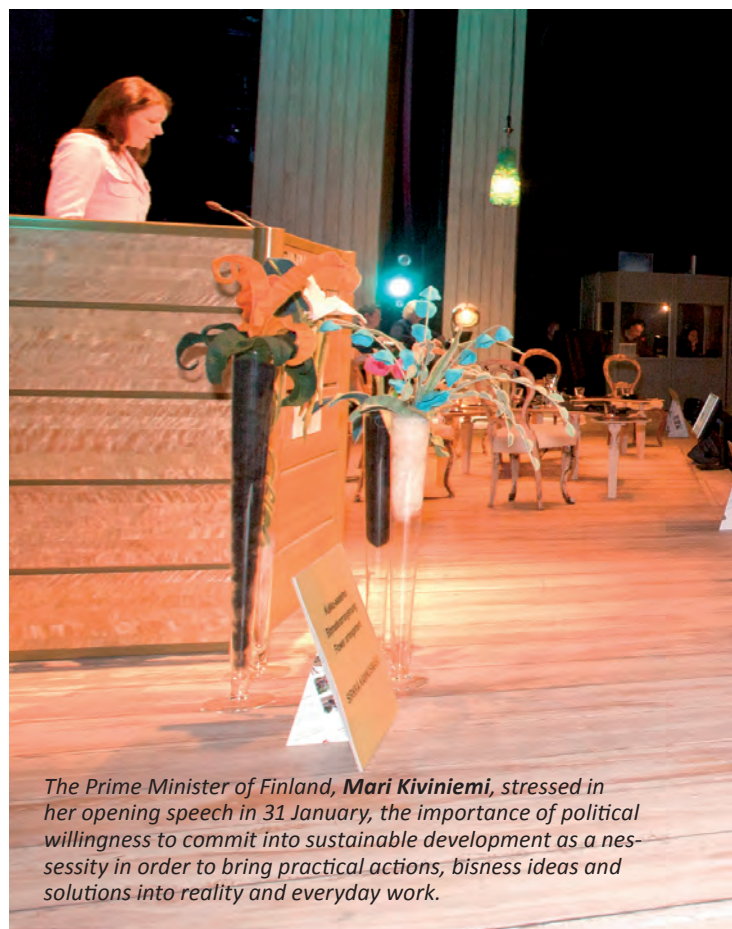


Inspiring solutions – a basis for susta

Exchange of experiences at the SOLUTIONS local,

It is not enough to find a new, motivational solution for the current challenges. One needs sell the idea to the decision making bodies and enable them to stick to it through smart objectives. It has become evident that sustainable development goes faster through organizations that have made decisive decisions. Often these have been bold and courageous decisions that have been passionately pushed by key persons. The Solutions local, together Nordic Conference on Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region managed to capture some of these vital solutions as high level presentations.

The common denominator of a success of these solutions has been not just the decisiveness of the leadership, but also the local work together with stakeholders. These ideas are not kept just for themselves, but developed further, often, through international projects and processes. The three-day conference on sustainable development, called Solutions local, together, was held in Turku on 31 January to 2 February. It brought together more than 580 experts – local authorities and other stakeholders, and representatives of the business world – from 18 countries. Through the various workshops and discussions, new solutions were sought for creative urban planning, sustainable consumption, protection of the Baltic Sea, combating of climate change, and renewable energy use.



The Prime Minister of Finland, **Mari Kiviniemi**, stressed in her opening speech in 31 January, the importance of political willingness to commit into sustainable development as a necessity in order to bring practical actions, business ideas and solutions into reality and everyday work.



Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö, Sweden, told about a massive change of transforming a dump, rundown area into a modern, sustainably built living area.



Marjatta Bardy from National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland (on left) and Ministers of the Nordic Cooperation: Palle Christiansen from Greenland, Katrín Jakobsdóttir from Iceland, Veronica Thörnroos from Åland, Ewa Björling from Sweden, and Jan Vapaavuori from Finland, at the minister panel.

“For once the conference was sustainable, not just in talks but also in actions.”

Text: **Stella Aaltonen**

Photos: **Tero Wester, Jaana Kotamäki, Roddy MacCracken and Tero Pajukallio**



Nordic Conference on Sustainable Development
in the Baltic Sea Region, 31 Jan - 2 Feb, Turku 2011

inable cities together Conference



New solutions for promoting the green economy and a more sustainable lifestyle

In her opening speech, **Mari Kiviniemi**, Prime Minister of Finland, highlighted the pioneering role of the Nordic region in sustainable development. In their panel discussion led by Minister of Housing **Jan Vapaavuori** from Finland, the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation pointed out that climate change is not only a threat but also an under-utilised opportunity for the green economy and finding new solutions for sustainable development.

The main idea of sustainable development is to get more and more from less and less. Professor **Peter Lund** of Aalto University pointed out in his speech that restricting global warming to two degrees would only cost each and every one of us the same as a cup of coffee per day for the next 40–50 years. He called for radical solutions and innovations to promote sustainable energy production.

- Currently, the Baltic Sea area consumes a significant proportion of Europe's energy, but it is also an important producer and exporter of energy. In proportional terms, the use of renewable energy is higher here than in other parts of the EU; however, it could still be considerably higher, Lund said.

The best innovations are created locally

The aim of the conference was to share positive experiences from innovations and models of operation while offering municipalities and other local actors genuinely productive and practical ideas. The best practical solutions for combating climate change were also recognised at the event. The awards went to the **ECO2 – Eco-efficient Tampere 2020 project** of the City of Tampere (more on page 17) and to the **Snow-cooling project** of Snowpower AB and the County Council of Västernorrland, Sweden.

During the conference, it became evident that it is sometimes very hard to find solutions (knowledge, ways of thinking, attitudes and products) that could be multiplied to other places or would be good enough for all. The definition of a solution is not clear either. Especially if it dealt in a wide sense, as it was during the Solutions local, together Conference. Something what is a new solution to one can be business as usual for others. For example some solutions that were found good in Sweden ten years ago are now valid in Finland. One thing is clear, that if the solution is created locally together with stakeholders it has chances to multiply and inspire other too.



Complex sustainability

Sustainable development has been used as an umbrella for many topics. This is on one side the richness of the term, but also an obstacle. It is very evident when organizing an event around the topic with a variety of organizations with their own approach to the topic. Solutions local, together Conference is a good proof of enriching co-operation between five ministries, association of local and regional authorities, regional, local and international actor. In order to reach a programme that in the end satisfied fully 52% and partially 47% of the participants, it took an intense two-year planning process before it.

The conference evaluations reveal that the content set-up of the conference was ambitious and multi-dimensional. While for many it offered a good set of solutions to take home, some felt that the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development could have been highlighted more.

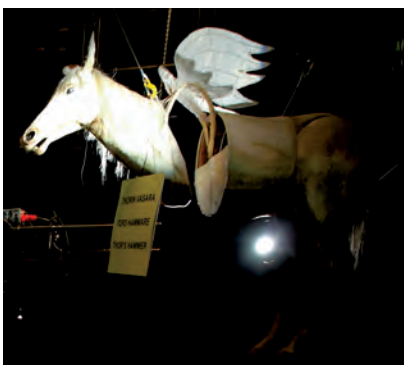
More solutions for sustainable development will be explored in Umeå, Sweden, which will host the next Nordic conference on sustainable development.



In the Short-films side event, Elena Titova presented environmental and non-commercial short-films from all around the world. Films were part of the Green Vision film festival, organized annually by the Committee for Nature Use, Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety of the city of St. Petersburg.



Staging at the Turku city theatre was planned by Jani Uljas, the main set designer of the city theatre. In the staging, he used sets from various previously performed plays. In addition to the set, furniture, cloths and utility articles from local producers were used. The set and items used were marked with yellow signs indicating the origin of them.



All about details

The most sustainable thing is that one would organize an event as an online conference, as then the emissions from travels would be mainly eliminated. This raises questions in regards to the sustainable dimension of it and of the effectiveness of taking the process further. Once the decision is taken to organize a physical conference, talk is not enough.

One can make a conference content as complex as possible, but when it comes to sustainability, it is all about details. Every single step of the event needs to be thought carefully all the way to the end. During the Solutions local, together Conference planning process a lot of effort was put on finding the most sustainable local option for the different elements. This was not an easy process, as many individual discussions needed to take place with all the different suppliers and this, of course, created a chain reaction in their respective organizations. In all cases the comment received was "Before this, no one has ever requested this." For the conference organizers it was rewarding to notice that sustainable practical arrangements were highly appreciated. This includes a lot of details, such as aprons, name lanyard, voting in the panel, flower decorations, reminders on individual choices on nametag and by e-mail, feedback automats, not receiving a conference bag with unnecessary documents etc.

One of the outcomes of the Solutions local, together is a hands on practical guide on how to make an event that is truly sustainable. This will come out later this year. Meanwhile you can get familiar with the conference presentations at: www.solutions2011.fi or through key presentations at: www.youtube.com/user/so11utions in Youtube.



"It is challenging to bring talks into action. In the conference, this was done excellently."



Statistics

- 2,5 days
- 584 participants
- 18 countries
- 72 speakers
- 13 local solutions in Turku
- 3 side events
- 8 restaurants offering local food



The students of the degree programme in sustainable development of the Turku University of Applied Sciences, evaluated the environmental impacts of the conference. The impacts of the event were evaluated from societal, social and environmental perspectives. In practice, different methods of information collection were used during the conference. A special focus of the evaluation were put on f.ex. logistics, catering, outcomes of the sessions and practical solutions.

The students of Tourism Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management at Novia University of Applied Sciences contributed with planning of parts of the sustainable interior design and the calculation of the carbon and water foot print of the conference. The foot prints of the Solutions local, together Conference were visible at the Market of Solutions and they have been finalized after the conference with the details from the participants.

Local solutions

The Solutions local, together Conference wanted to enable a larger local foot print after the event and therefore a focus was put on offering practical local solutions that one could get to know. Some of the visits offered on 1st of February 2011 were also open to the general public and aimed to speed the local processes.

Local food initiative

After a long planning process, the conference managed to get eight restaurants in Turku to commit themselves in offering local food menus that use a minimum of 80% locally produced ingredients. The launch of the menus was at the conference and the restaurants have committed themselves in offering it during the entire year 2011.



“The fact that you got the restaurants in Turku to develop green food for the Conference, was a fantastic conference “spinoff” effect, which I see as a great local solution!”



Market of Solutions

The market of Solutions offered an exhibition and networking event on sustainable development for over 50 exhibitors. Over 1000 visitors visited the market. The event got positive feedback and it was hoped that more of this kind of events would be organized in the city. Also the conference guests had an opportunity to visit the Market of Solutions.

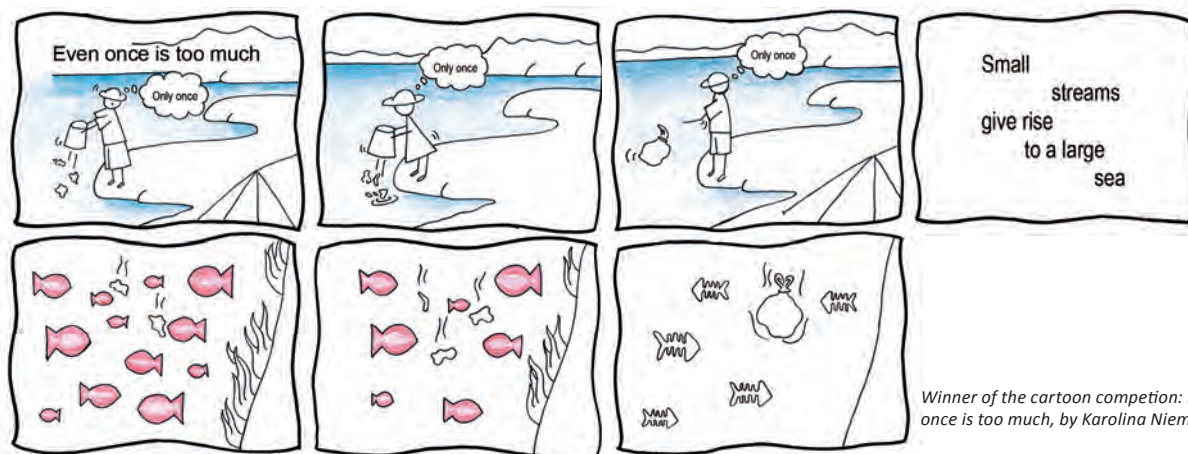
During the Scool event on Tuesday, children had a chance to test their knowledge and practice new skills. Here a group of girls is making the Baltic Sea puzzle that was especially made for the city of Turku’s education sector to be used in the Water path.



School event

The School event *Sustainability paths to schoolchildren’s lives* had 1000 visitors. The functional exhibition introduced the results and experiences gained from the Water path initiated by the conference. The Water path was introduced in autumn 2010 for the 5th graders in connection with the school camps that are organized by the City of Turku. The school event gave a positive push for the sustainable development in the school sector of Turku. Now there are new cooperation established and also more engaged teachers involved.

In connection with the School event, the results of a eco-comic competition between Finnish and Russian children were evaluated. The eco-comic competition is part of NEAT 2.0 – New Environmental Awareness Tools - project, financed by the Finnish Ministry of Environment. Here is the Finnish winner’s comic.



Winner of the cartoon competition: Even once is too much, by Karolina Nieminen.

Practical Solutions to Climate Change -competition

During the year 2010, an international competition targeted at the Baltic Sea Region and the Nordic countries was searching for business concepts, practices and technologies to assist municipalities and other local and regional actors to better control the effects of climate change. The competition was looking for projects that would: combat climate change, support local and regional economics, employment and general well-being, lead to concrete changes in the practices of the municipalities and their residents, and be able to be broadly implemented as a successful measure. In total, 78 solutions from seven different countries were sent in.

The competition was part of the Solutions local, together Conference. The winners are officially announced at the Conference on 1 February 2011. In addition, the participants of the conference can get acquainted with the solutions at the Market of Solutions in the afternoon of 1 February 2011.

More information: www.solutions2011.fi/index.php/keke:contest



Citizens Campaign

One of the biggest events prior to the Solutions local, together Conference was the Small actions - big impacts regional campaign, through which everyone in South-West Finland is challenged to do climate actions. Through the website one can learn how to effectively reduce energy or water consumption. The campaign website offers the inhabitants, companies, organisations and housing cooperatives a set of actions connected to choosing the mode of transport, the way of living, and what kind of food to eat. Through the webpage you can see also what other participants of the campaign have promised. More information about the campaign (in Finnish only) at: www.pieniatekoja.fi



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Already 500 Good Practices from Baltic Sea Region – now widening to Europe

Are you familiar with UBC Good Practice Database? If not, it is worth to having a look as it has practices that cover sustainable development in cities including all topics from transport to health and from social aspects to economic instruments; all dimensions of the Aalborg Commitments. For example, there are currently 85 cases related to climate. And more are being inserted all the time! Part of the Solutions local, together good practices can already be found from the database.

The UBC Good Practice Database focuses on the cases from the Baltic Sea Region. In order to enable and speed up the exchange of practices in local authorities, the database starts to include Good Practices from other parts of Europe in May 2011. The UBC Good Practice Database (UBC Wheel) was launched in March 2009 to answer to the need of local authorities to find practical examples.

If you know or have a good practice – do not hesitate to let us know about it. The UBC Good Practice Database is an excellent way to market your good practices and also get inspiration and ideas for your own work. We warmly invite you to register and insert your own cases to the database at: www.ubcwheel.eu – LOGIN.



www.ubcwheel.eu

Örebro takes action for the climate

Text: **Susanne Rosendahl** Photo: **municipality of Örebro**

The Climate Plan was decided by the City Council in June 2010. It provides an overall picture of the climate issue in Örebro and what the municipality plans to do in order to achieve its targets. The Climate Plan is a guiding document, forming the basis for the operational planning of the municipality, its budget and its investment programme.

Reduced consumption

Since direct emissions locally are only a small part of our real impact on the climate, the Climate Plan is based on the effects of our consumption, regardless of where they occur, and not on the actual emissions occurring within the boundaries of the municipality. With regards to electricity, we calculate that a kilowatt-hour (kWh) produces 400 g of carbon dioxide, which corresponds to the marginal rate forecast for Northern Europe in 2020.

To meet the goal of a 40 per cent per capita reduction between 2000 and 2020, the annual impact on the climate will have to fall by 234,000 tons of carbon dioxide, based on 2008 levels. The seven fields of action and their climate benefits, in brief, are:

1. **Energy Efficiency:** A reduction of 40,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. Separate targets exist for the own organisation, industries, houses and for private property owners. A large number of measures to be implemented, including information campaigns.
2. **Conversion from Oil:** A reduction of 34,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. With oil becoming more and more expensive, this change will, to a great extent, happen automatically. Most of the oil being used today is used by just a handful of large industries.
3. **Measures within the District Heating System:** A reduction of 37,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. Most important here is that the power plant, which supplies the city of Örebro, should be converted to increase the proportion of biomass being used and to increase the production of renewable electricity.
4. **New Renewable Energy:** A reduction of 46,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. This field of action is the key to get the seven fields of actions combined to achieve the overall goal by 2020. It is equivalent to 23 large wind turbines.
5. **Transport in Own Operations:** A reduction of 10,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. This is reached by choosing efficient vehicles, running buses on biogas, and making travelling and transportation more efficient.
6. **Local Transport Measures:** A reduction of 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. This is the estimated climate impact of the measures that are to be carried out locally

The municipality has set its sights on being climate neutral by 2050. The climate plan of Municipality of Örebro shows how to reduce the overall negative impact on the climate by 40 per cent per capita between 2000 and 2020. The climate plan has tree focus areas: energy, transport and food consumption.



to create a more sustainable transport system, including city planning that is more conducive to cycling and public transport.

7. **National Means of Controlling Transportation:** A reduction of 55,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. This is the expected local impact from implementing the controls on transportation that is needed to reach national climate objectives.

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Tartu started to use biogas buses

Text & photo: **Jaanus Tamm**

One of the most important and most visible results was the change of the bus service operator - AS SEBE replaced the previous contractor to run the city bus lines. The new operator came with a fleet of 51 new buses. Currently Tartu is a city that has probably the most modern bus fleet in Europe, the oldest bus being just three months old. As Tartu promotes the environmentally friendly way of thinking, the new gas buses complement this idea perfectly. The Mayor of Tartu, **Urmas Kruuse**, considers the environmentally friendly attitude to be one of the main trends in the city of Tartu.

In 2008, the only partner representing Estonia in NGVA Europe, OÜ Mõnus Minek, performed a study which was commissioned by Tartu Veevärk and Tartu City Government, on the possibilities to use biomethane produced from sewage sludge. At that time, one of the recommendations in the report was to include a condition in the regular bus services procurement that would concern the introduction of methane gas buses. And so it took off. Moreover, the amount of biogas produced only from the sewage sludge of AS Tartu Veevärk would suffice for 12 biomethane buses and additionally, if one were to use all the biowaste and -mass of the surrounding areas, then in the long term it would be possible to operate all Tartu's buses by using biogas. At present, Tartu City Government is exploring the possibilities to start using biogas from Aardlapalu landfill as a fuel in city transport.

Political decisions in favor of methane gas busses

The need to ensure the cleanliness of air in cities has led many Scandinavian and European cities to run the urban buses on biomethane. Currently the people and the environment have profited the most. Deputy Mayor of Tartu, **Margus Hanson** thinks that gaseous biofuels, including biomethane could solve the air pollution problem in Estonia's big cities – the emission of solid particles from diesel engines that exceeds the norm would decrease 100 % and the amounts of other pollutants would also be 12-70 % smaller. Cleaner city air is better for nature and the respiratory tracts of people. Chairman of the Management Board of Sebe AS, **Kuldar Väärssi**, said that only after the buses have been taken into use will it be possible to say to what extent the gas buses are economically feasible in Tartu.

In recent years, the city of Tartu has been paying much attention to environmental issues by actively developing areas, which are related to waste sorting and recycling, street lighting, improving buildings' insulation and public transport. The development in public transport moved forward in March 2011, when five new gas buses were presented for use. These are the first regular urban line gas buses to be used in Estonia. At first they will use compressed natural gas (CNG) for fuel, but in the near future the buses should start using biomethane, which will be produced from local waste and other types of biomass.

- Indeed, five gas buses will be integrated in the urban transport of Tartu very soon and this is an extraordinary event for the entire Estonia, said Deputy Mayor Margus Hanson happily, when commenting on the permanent use of gas buses on urban lines for the first time in Estonia.

- Currently the buses use natural gas for fuel, but later plans include the introduction of purified biogas or biomethane as a renewable energy source, which can be produced in the Tartu region either from organic waste or sewage sludge. For example, a local water company is making preparations to start producing biogas and that would in its turn reduce our dependence on the gas prices in the world market. If everything goes well and the gas buses prove themselves to be worthy, I would not exclude the possibility that only gas buses will be asked for in the next regular services procurement, said Hanson.

AS Eesti Gaas constructed Estonia's second compressed gas station in Tartu to enable the operation of gas buses in Tartu. Currently the station is being set up and everything should be done and completed by May 2011.

- Changes do not take place easily, said Hanson and added that the City Government had included the requirement concerning the use of gas buses in the regular services procurement terms specifically to change the longstanding notion. The city accepted this obligation when it decided to participate in the international project "Baltic Biogas Bus", which is part-financed by the Baltic Sea Region Programme of the European Region Development Fund.

- The next step should be that a waste handling company considers adopting gas transport, said Hanson.

Tartu is setting an example for the entire Estonia and a political decision needs to be made to introduce methane gas buses gradually into use elsewhere in Estonia, including the capital, Tallinn.

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Aiming for a better food culture

Text: **Daniel Hultenmo/Giv Akt**
Translation: **Helen Nilsson**

There is a revolution coming. The City of Malmö has approved a new Policy for Sustainable Development and Food. During the autumn of 2010, pre-school personnel and those responsible for food in health and social care received training in the new policy.

The aim of the project Climate Friendly Food, which is financed by the City of Malmö and Sweden's Environment Protection Agency, is to increase the use of organic and climate smart food in pre-schools, schools and residential care homes. As part of this aim, the personnel from pre-schools and health and social care has been offered training in climate thinking and climate friendly food since the autumn of 2010. The training is built around information on food, the environment, health and the effects our food can have on the climate. In addition, the training courses are adapted depending on the target group attending the training; teachers get one sort of training, and cooks get another.

All food from organically certified sources

- The training courses are very popular and appreciated, says **Gunilla Andersson**. Malmö School Restaurants have already come a long way with their work in improving the food served in the schools; therefore the focus is now on the nurseries. Decreasing the amount of meat served, which is resource intensive to produce, by 25 % and reducing the amount of food wasted are examples of two real measures that the project can contribute to.

The goal is that all food prepared in the City of Malmö should be from organically certified sources by 2020. In addition to this goal, the municipal executive committee approved a new Policy for Sustainable Development and Food in October 2010. The policy contains some concrete measures that will promote health and the environment without increasing costs.

- The policy will be an important platform. It has been sent out to everyone who works with food in Malmö, says Gunilla Andersson.

Here the plates are already smart!

Text: **Daniel Hultenmo/Giv Akt** Translation: **Helen Nilsson**
Photos: **Johann Selles & Ewa Levau/Giv Akt**

A lot of good examples can already be found in Malmö. **Marie Nilsson** is a devoted cook at Visan's pre-school in Malmö, which is already on the way to a better food culture, all by themselves.

- I want to give the children healthy food. I have always been a fan of organic and seasonal food, says Marie Nilsson.

Marie shows proudly around in the clinically clean kitchen where the final preparations before lunch are being made. The potato and parsnip soup simmering in a huge pot on the stove gets a final pinch of herbs at the same time as the generous salad buffet is placed on the serving trolley. On one of the worktops there are piles of home made pancakes for the children's mid afternoon snack. Marie Nilsson moves with familiarity around the kitchen and collects serving cutlery and small signs that say what the salad dressings contain.

A lot cheaper

- I have worked with organic food for 10 years. In this kitchen we make all the food from scratch so it is not so expensive. Last autumn the principal said that we can serve fillet steak the rest of the year, the food can be cheap despite the fact that we have so much organic food.

The ambition is to serve as much organic, locally produced food as possible; and today the menu is almost 100 % organic, it is only the raspberries in the jam for the pancakes that are not organic. On average the figure is around 50-60 % organic. Not only is the food all prepared from scratch, even the bread that the children





have for breakfast and for their mid afternoon snack is home-made. It is a lot cheaper to bake the bread instead of buying it. There are other advantages with home made bread.

- Lots of the parents are envious of the food we serve, and sometimes they comment in the morning how nice it smells with fresh bread. Everyone is happy because they can see that the children are getting nutritious food and we try to have fresh vegetables everyday, adds Marie Nilsson.

Exotic fruit instead of a cake

The well stocked salad buffet is served before the warm meal, so that children will not forget to eat their vegetables, and they don't. There is already long queue when the trolley is rolled into place and many of the children have to out back some of the cucumber and sweet corn they have taken otherwise there will not be enough for all the children.

- They really love fruit and vegetables. When a child has a birthday instead of cake and ice cream they get some exotic fruit, and that is really appreciated, says Marie Nilsson.

The 120 children at the pre-school are very lucky. Marie Nilsson is not just a cook, she also has a degree in food science and it is this knowledge that she uses when she is making more climate friendly and healthy food.

- I am over qualified for this job, but I want Malmö to wake up, it is the children who are important. I want to make a change and make a difference and it is inspiring to be able to do that.

Facts about the policy

Everyone in Malmö has the right to good food as a part of an economic, social and ecological sustainable development. This is made possible by following the "eat S.M.A.R.T. model" which combines health and the environment without increasing costs. Greenhouse gas emissions relating to food shall decrease by 40 % by 2020, compared to the 2002 levels. All food that is served in the City of Malmö shall be certified organic by 2020. By 2020 all other goals of the policy are going to be reached.

The policy for sustainable development and food was approved by a meeting of the municipal assembly on 28th October 2010. It

shall be applied in those operations within the City of Malmö that procure, order, prepare and serve food and beverages. The policy is also relevant for those who procure catering services. Besides pre-schools, schools, and health care, the policy also includes all public hospitality, school cafeterias, social and leisure clubs and all events that are arranged by the City of Malmö.

More information:

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Read about the policy: www.malmo.se/matpolicy



"The quality of food served in our organisation is important."

*- Gunilla Andersson,
project manager for the policy*

In March 2011, the municipality of Kalundborg (MK) together with the Danish Board of Technology (DBT) hosted a citizen summit where 350 local citizens discussed how KM should adapt to a future with a warmer climate. Changes in precipitation, flood patterns, storm surges and rising sea level will affect MK in different ways and many houses, summer cottages and farm land are increasingly at risk of being flooded. To address this situation MK is currently developing a climate change adaptation strategy.



Citizens debating at the citizen summit on climate change adaptation in Kalundborg.

Citizen Summit on Climate Change Adaptation in Kalundborg

Text: **Hannibal Rasmussen, Søren Gram and Bjørn Bedsted** Photo: **Jørgen Madsen**

Different solutions and approaches to the challenges posed by climate change formed the themes of the citizen summit where short presentations and group discussions prepared the attending citizens to vote on the preferred solutions and approaches using their individual electronic voting device. The results of the summit will be an important input when the City Council of Kalundborg is to pass the climate change adaptation strategy later this year.

Local citizens encourage politicians to act now

Two-thirds of the citizens attending the citizen summit wanted to phase out the current land use in the most threatened non-urban areas of the municipality and turn them into wet lands. 90 % of the citizens agreed that it was important to act now and make long-term plans that anticipate the future climate changes. Hereby the citizens gave a mandate to the local politicians to start making decisions about where the municipality will support protection and where the current land use will have to change or be phased out entirely. These political decisions should be taken as quickly as possible to allow house and land owners to plan accordingly e.g. if their summer cottage area is to be turned into wet lands. See a full version of the results from the citizen summit on www.tekno.dk and www.baltcica.org.

As part of the participatory process DBT and MK held a scenario workshop in the autumn of 2009 where stakeholders worked together to form visions for local climate change adaptation based on different scenarios (see Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin

No 1/2010, p.15 for details). These visions helped give inspiration and direction to the themes of the citizen summit.

This participatory process has been developed within the BaltCICA project under the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 – 2013. As a BaltCICA partner, DBT is part of the process of testing and implementing new participatory decision procedures throughout the Baltic Sea Region.

Course in dialogue methodology

Based on experiences from BaltCICA of participatory processes across the Baltic Sea the Danish Board of Technology is developing a course for planners and practitioners. The course will enable participants to plan participatory processes and carry out their own Scenario Workshops. For more information on this course, please contact Søren Gram, Project Manager, DBT, sg@tekno.dk.

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Part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund).

Practical environmental tools for small and medium-sized companies through EcoCompass

Text: **Lotta Toivonen** Photo: **Tero Pajukallio**

There are approximately 65,000 small and medium-sized companies (SME`s) in the Helsinki Metropolitan area. The combined environmental impact of these companies is considerable, but the means for decreasing the effects are often lacking. In the EcoCompass project companies and cities have worked together to improve the environment, but also to strengthen the competitiveness of the region. The project has strengthened environmental cooperation between the parties and offered practical tools for SME`s to help them to improve their environmental performance.

The EcoCompass project has developed a less formal environmental management system (EMS) also called as EcoCompass. The EcoCompass approach was inspired and guided by the structure of other Nordic approaches and tested with 33 pilot companies. The EcoCompass system is targetted for SME's who want reliability in managing their environmental issues and need external recognition of their work. The system focuses on issues such as legal requirements, energy-saving, logistics, waste management and purchasing. The EcoCompass EMS is a less formal and less expensive version of international certification systems and allows companies to progress up to ISO 14 001 and EMAS later.

Economic benefits

In addition to marketing value, good environmental performance often corresponds with economic benefits and increase in the effectiveness of activities. For example energy saving, material efficiency and waste management can result in significant cost savings. Many of the EcoCompass pilot companies have been positively surprised by the economical benefits they have gained. Environmental awareness in the companies has also risen.

Smaller companies with low environmental impact and less demand for a certificate have been offered even lighter tools. The project has produced practical industry-specific environmental instruction cards for the use of business advisors of the Region Enterprise agencies. Business advisors reach a large number of companies and they have been trained to include environmental issues in their advisory work. The project has also organised training sessions for entrepreneur groups, for example, tailored environmental training for immigrant entrepreneurs. More information on the homepages www.ekokompassi.fi

EcoCompass project is coordinated by the City of Helsinki Environment Centre and funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Uusimaa Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.

More information:

EcoCompass homepages: www.ekokompassi.fi

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The pilot companies recieved their EcoCompass certificates from the Mayor of Helsinki Jussi Pajunen (far right), in a festive gala held at the City Hall on 8th of April 2011.



A one-family house typical of the most common form of housing in Denmark, built in the 1960-1970s and typically equipped with insulation half of what is recommended today. In this particular electrically-heated house, the annual heating-bill had roofed 29.000 dkr. An investment in an air-to-air heatingpump costing 20.000 dkr will cut 8-12.000 dkr off the family heating bill annually, paying off the investment over 2-3 yrs



Green Business Growth

A unique private-municipal co-operation on energy efficiency in medium-sized non-public buildings

Text: **Merete Valbak** Photo: **municipality of Kolding**

Green Business Growth is a co-operation between three municipalities and twelve private partners, covering businesses within production, consultancy, entrepreneurship, finance and education. The aim of Green Business Growth is to create 300 new jobs within energy efficiency in buildings by increasing the demand and strengthen the supply. This innovative co-operation could not be undertaken without a cross-municipal decision to land sustainable intentions and visions through concrete projects and good practice.

Middelfart and Kolding municipalities are already well-renowned for green focus politically and practically, Odense municipality is the latest and largest newcomer to join Green Business Growth and brings more volume to upcoming projects.

Energy renovation through locals

The means to meet the aim of 300 new jobs come through an innovative focus on locally based projects, having an approach which can be readily adopted by other cities or municipalities. In Kolding a future project "Neighbourhood Energy" will focus on neighbour-effects of energy renovation of whole neighbourhood building-masses. The project will set off in May 2011, and then move on to include neighbourhoods in Middelfart by summer and in Odense by fall. This sweeping motion through different municipalities ensures a higher amount of energy efficiency jobs in the project areas, than would otherwise occur through traditional workman-to-customer contact.

The project benefits those who can gather 5-50 neighbours needing any type of energy renovation. It offers energy guidance on all houses and assembles workmen in skilled teams covering any type of energy renovation possible. The neighbour-cluster is capable of gaining an attractive offer on the assignments, because the workmen-team gets a guaranteed volume of assignments. The project aims to increase the demand for energy renovation by engaging locals in the project.

Good experience on training in energy efficiency

In a previous project in Kolding and Middelfart, local workmen (mainly small and medium size workmen businesses) have passed in-service training in energy efficiency in order to focus on an overall energy solution and not only through focusing on carpenters or plumbing and heating. Furthermore, the training has stressed benefits gained by teaming up cross-professionally. The locals are engaged from the word of mouth going through focus groups and campaigns drumming on the economical benefits. The approach leads into gaining healthier buildings and strengthening the community solidarity in primarily suburbs, selected city neighbourhoods or smaller, rural villages.

The partners are: Odense Municipality, Kolding Municipality, Middelfart Municipality (project owner); TRE-FOR, Fiberline Composites, Saint-Gobain Isover, Kolding Business, Middelfart Business Center, International Business College (IBC), Grønt-Mij Carl Bro, Pettinaroli, O. Adsboell & Sons, Bank of Middelfart, Schneider Electric and Danish Building Information Centre.

Green Business Growth runs until April 2013. You can read more about the project in: www.groenerhvervsvaekst.dk (only in Danish).

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Action speaks louder than words – Eco-efficient Tampere 2020

Text: **Elli Kotakorpi** Photo: **Jari Mäkinen**

These are examples of actions, that the city of Tampere in Finland implements to set an example in climate change abatement and to decrease the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

Internationally recognized

The active climate change policy implemented by the city of Tampere has already been recognized internationally. The ECO2 project, which coordinates and supports the climate actions of the city, was awarded in an international climate change competition targeted at the Baltic Sea Region and the Nordic countries on 1 February 2011. A total of 79 organizations from seven different countries participated in the competition. The aim of the competition was to find appropriate solutions to assist municipalities and other local actors to better control the effects of climate change.

- Climate change abatement is possible only through wide cooperation. All actors that participate in urban development have to be involved, says the Manager of ECO2 project, **Pauli Välimäki**. Cooperation between the city and the business sector in energy and climate issues has started well.

- Many construction companies are willing to design low energy buildings and even low carbon districts. Therefore it is a great opportunity for Tampere to make low-carbon construction into a new expertise area in cooperation with construction companies and research institutes, says Pauli Välimäki.

The climate actions of the city are coordinated and supported by the ECO2 – Eco-efficient Tampere 2020 –project. It is a strategic project by the City of Tampere, initiated in spring 2010. The ob-

All buildings in Tampere have to be at least energy class A from the beginning of 2012. Finland's first passive energy daycare centre will be built in Tampere as well as the largest area of wooden houses. A new information centre for energy-efficiency in construction and housing will be opened this spring. Tampere Power Authority increases the share of renewable energy considerably.

jectives of ECO2 are to implement the climate commitments of the city, to develop new city planning methods for low-carbon city development, to facilitate growth in sustainable business and to become a forerunner in climate policy. ECO2 initiates project cooperation with the private sector, academia and civil society organizations. The project lasts until 2020 and during the start-up phase it is financed, in addition to the city of Tampere, by Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund.

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Strengthened urban-rural interaction requires new city-regional policy making platforms

Text: **Lauri Hooli** and **Maija Rusanen**

Traditionally urban and rural areas have been the opposite ends of the same line in regional policy. Policies most needed to foster urban development might have been seen unnecessary or even shunned in rural areas and the other way around. However, in contemporary world what is urban and what is rural has been increasingly blurred. Each region and its development are depended on both urban and rural areas and the interaction between them. This sets new challenges for decision-making in municipalities when greater amount of decisions should be rather done in functional regions.

Local development is more and more determined by actions taken outside of the borders of individual municipalities. Planning practices of one municipality can influence for example transport, housing and service patterns of the whole region. From regional development perspective the borders between city and surrounding region should be more dispelled, even dismissed. Instead boundless and multifaceted co-operation in the city-regions should be emphasised. For thriving in international competition the interaction between urban and rural areas should be as smooth and common goal oriented as possible.

This and other present trends in regional development, for example increased requirements for participation of individuals have made the entire planning process much more complex. Therefore new tools and decision making platforms are needed without increasing the already overwhelming governance bureaucracy.

Integrated Management helping City-regional cooperation

NEW BRIDGES "Strengthening quality of life through improved management of urban-rural interaction" project (2009-2011) has created neutral cross-sectoral and cross-border platforms for stakeholders in seven partner city-regions to identify and afterwards solve some priority challenges in city-regional context. This has been done by using Integrated Management System (IMS).

IMS is a logical step by step management model previously used mainly in urban management. However, based on projects experience IMS can also be beneficially applied to regional planning in city-regional context. The system can help establishing structures linking together different regional and municipal govern-

ing bodies responsible for urban-rural development. The model is divided in different steps starting from the identification of challenges, going through planning phase to the implementation and ending up with evaluation of the process. Integrated management of city-region builds understanding, accountability and transparency between municipalities in the region. In best cases leading to the situation where the targets of both urban and rural areas can be turned into a common vision, which will contribute to more balanced regional development.

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Managing Urban - Rural Interaction for Quality of Life -Conference

Strengthening of Quality of Life through Improved Management of Urban Rural Interaction

Do you want to learn and discuss more how to best apply IMS in regional development?

The final event of NEW BRIDGES project **Managing Urban - Rural Interactions for Quality of Life -Conference** invites all interested stakeholders to come and discuss about the current situation and future challenges within the work on quality of life and urban rural interaction. The conference facilitates the exchange of experiences and knowledge regarding innovative approaches and integrated management in regional development.

Conference will be organized in 31 November - 1 December 2011 in Hamburg, Germany.

For more information, please check NEW BRIDGES homepage http://www.urbanrural.net/index.php/ur:final_conference



Part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund).

Support for actions

– Supporting structures for the Covenant of Mayors in the Baltic Sea region

Text: **Esther Kreutz** Photo: **Jaana Kotamäki**

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) is a commitment of local and regional authorities in the European Union to fulfil, and even go beyond, the EU targets in reduction of CO₂ emissions through energy efficiency measures and cleaner energy production and use. The initiative started in 2008 and has currently over 2300 signatories from all over Europe.

Signing a commitment seems easy, especially if the commitment is for a good thing like decreasing emissions and combating climate change. But it is clear and self-evident that a signature alone will not change the world nor improve anything. Signatures, commitments, strategies need to be brought to action. To ensure this and to support local and regional authorities in just this – bringing the commitment to action – the Covenant of Mayors has called from the very beginning for the help of so-called “supporting structures”. Knowing that it is challenging for local and regional authorities to take on another issue, to create another plan and to integrate it in their every day processes, national and internationally working supporting structures are there to help.

Currently 135 supporting structures have signed the Covenant of Mayors and therewith committed themselves to give support and to promote the initiative. Supporting structures are public bodies, regions and provinces, regional networks and associations. They support the CoM by promoting the initiative, spreading the message and also giving concrete technical support and help for the local authorities to develop and implement the Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP), that the local authorities commit to when signing.

Support for UBC cities

In the Baltic Sea region 111 cities and municipalities have signed the CoM, among them 32 UBC member cities. This means that the cities have committed themselves to prepare a SEAP during



Director for Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Environment Leena Karessuo from the Finnish Association for Local and Regional Authorities signed the Covenant of Mayors at the Solutions local, together Conference in Turku 1st February 2011.

the first year after adhesion and further annual implementation reports.

In June 2010, UBC signed to be a supporting structure. As a regional city network we will support the CoM mainly with promotion, networking and facilitation of exchange of experiences and of course providing our members with information and contacts about the CoM and where to get more support. Further information and guidance in the national languages and also more technical support for implementation is given by the national supporting structures.

If your city has signed the Covenant of Mayors and is looking for support, please feel free to contact us and/or also the supporting structure in your country!

More information about the Covenant of Mayors and the supporting structures you can find at:
http://www.ubc-environment.net/index.php/main:covenant_of_mayors_support

Currently there are Supporting structures established in the following BSR countries:

Denmark - KKR Zealand and Region Zealand
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Tel: +4557875861

Estonia - Climate and Energy Agency of Estonia
info@kena.ee

Finland - Association for Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
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Lithuania - Kaunas Regional Energy Agency (KREA)
Feliksas Zinevicius, krea@techpark.lt

Norway - Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
Ole Jørgen Grann, ole.grann@ks.no
Tel: + 47 24 13 27 38

Poland - Polish Network Energie Cités (PNEC)
Anna Jaskuła, biuro@pniec.org.pl
Tel: +48 12 429 17 93

Sweden - The Climate Municipalities (Klimatkommunerna)
Håkan Samuelsson, kansliet@klimatkommunerna.se
Tel: +46 46 359 93 28

Germany – Climate Alliance (among others)
Ulrike Janssen, u.janssen@climatealliance.org
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Dispersion model created in SNOOP

Text: **Anu Keltaniemi**

The NO_x, SO_x and particle matter emission concentrations in harbour areas of Helsinki and Turku have been modelled in the Shipping-induced NO_x and SO_x emissions - OPerational monitoring network (SNOOP) project. The meaning of the modelling was to estimate outdoor concentrations based on AIS (Automatic Identification System) emissions in 2009. In order to get comparable data with measured results of AIS also the emissions (point sources) from the power plants and industry and traffic emissions were measured and included to the model calculations.

Earlier dispersion models have been done in Helsinki metropolitan area and in Turku. Helsinki metropolitan area dispersion model was based on emissions of 2005 and it was reported in 2008. Turku dispersion model was based on emissions of 2007 and it was reported in 2009. The next step is to compare results to the measurements. Emissions of NO_x, SO_x and particle matter in Helsinki and in Turku are presented in the table:

The project arranges a Policy Forum on May 19th 2011 in Turku, where the dispersion model is presented. More information about dispersion model and the policy forum can be found on SNOOP web pages <http://snoop.fmi.fi>.

Emissions (t/a) Helsinki (2005) Turku (2007)	Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	Sulphur dioxide (SO _x)	Particle matter (PM _{2.5})
Power plants and industry	6756/5393	3963/3317	225/405
Earlier modelled ship emissions	1741/1793	332/261	50/64
AIS emissions (2009)	2997/1466	930/391	203/93
Traffic	5015/1651	27/2.7	202/116

Table: Total emissions (Finnish Meteorological Institute, Timo Rasila)

SNOOP project

During the three-year (2009–2012) project the nine Finnish and Estonian SNOOP partners, City of Turku (Lead Partner), Finnish Meteorological Institute, HSY Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority, Centre for Maritime Studies of University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences, Estonian Environmental Research Centre and Tallinn University of Technology / Marine Systems Institute work together to produce policy-relevant, scientifically based information on emissions from shipping and their effects.

The project is financed by Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007–2013 and Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY) of Southwest Finland. The total budget of the project is approximately 1.3 MEUR.



CENTRAL BALTIC
INTERREG IV A
PROGRAMME
2007–2013



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

This story reflects the authors views and the Managing Authority of Central Baltic INTERREG IV A programme 2007-2013 cannot be held liable for the information published by the project partners.

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Kick off for European Partnership in June

Joining forces for integrated sustainability management

Text: **Kirsi-Marja Lonkila**

The launching event of the European Partnership for Integrated Sustainability Management will take place during the Resilient Cities conference on the 4th of June in Bonn, Germany. The newly established partnership is gathering together organisations around the Europe that are committed to promote and use integrated management in local level sustainability work.

CHAMP in the background

The European Partnership for Integrated Sustainability Management is built up within the Managing Urban Europe initiative, which started with the Managing Urban Europe-25 Project (MUE-25). In 2008, MUE-25 resulted in guidelines on Integrated Management System (IMS) for sustainability, targeted at local and regional authorities.

In the ongoing CHAMP project (2009-2011), the IMS guidelines are adapted to the specific topic of climate change. In addition, an online Capacity Development Package with adapted guidelines, tools, training material and good practices will be established. In the CHAMP project, four national training hubs in Finland, Hungary, Germany and Italy have conducted pilot trainings about IMS with the focus on climate change. Through these trainings, over 50 cities have increased their capacities to tackle the challenge of climate change in a more systematic way. Now it's time for the next step: establishing more sustaining structure for IMS capacity building in Europe.

Search for interested organisations ongoing

Currently the search for interested organisations to become part of the partnership and forming the national training hub in all European countries is going on. The national training hubs will act as support and training centres for local and regional authorities working on sustainability and climate change issues through IMS.

National training hubs can be formed by one or more public or private organisations; however, the role of the cities will mainly be as benefiting from the capacity building conducted by their national training hub. Being in a central role in the European Partnership for Integrated Sustainability Management, the training hubs can influence on the future development of integrated sustainability management and exchange experiences on their work.

For more information, please visit the CHAMP project website: www.localmanagement.eu or contact Mr. Pekka Salminen, Project Manager for CHAMP project firstname.surname@ubc.net

A Managing Urban Europe Initiative
CHAMP
Local Response to Climate Change



The 2nd CHAMP round table for mainstreaming integrated approach, 3 May 2011, in Brussels

Integrated approach is an important principle in EU sustainability policies. However, there is no true institutional support for actually implementing integrated management on local and regional level. Additionally, many organisations and initiatives work parallel towards the same goal without using enough synergies. The CHAMP consortium organises a round table to find support for institutionalisation of integrated approach and to improve cooperation between initiatives. The meeting aims at building long-term support structures for integrated approach.

The round table will take place on 3 May 2011, at 14h in the House of Cities, Municipalities and Regions (Square de Meeûs 1) in Brussels.

We welcome all interested parties to the round table discussion and to the launching event!

For more information, contact Project Manager Pekka Salminen.

The construction of sewage treatment facilities

Text: **Nataliya Petrenko**

Under the current Program for Protection of Environment of the Baltic Sea the Kaliningrad (Vistula) Lagoon was designated as one of the priority areas. The Russian Federation as a member of the Helsinki Convention has undertaken the task to improve the situation in that area.

Nowadays urban wastewater of the city of Kaliningrad is discharged through sewage treatment facilities in the Coastal Bay of Kaliningrad (Vistula) Lagoon. Technological scheme of wastewater treatment facilities does not ensure the quality of wastewater in comparison to the standard indicators. Because of this it has become necessary to build new treatment plants.

For this purpose in year 1999 between the Russian Federation and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was signed a loan agreement for the realization of the project "Reconstruction of water supply and environmental protection in the city of Kaliningrad" which entered into force in year 2002. The construction of sewage treatment facilities has been started in 2009. The completion of the construction is scheduled to 2011.

The implementation of the above mentioned project will provide purification of urban wastewater in accordance with water quality targets and ensure compliance with the obligations of the Russian Federation on the Helsinki Convention.

Accent on infrastructure and revitalization in Kaliningrad

Text: **Olesia Karpinskaya**

The modern city development is inseparable from the modernization of the urban environment and it is turned into improving the comfort for work and life while preserving the historical monuments and cultural heritage. Following this direction is especially important for Kaliningrad - the Baltic metropolis.

One of the peculiarities of this city is a long-term use of transport and engineering infrastructure, inherited by the current generation from their predecessors who lived in Königsberg before 1945.

Consequently at the turn of the century there was a difficult situation due to a deterioration of communication and they did not conform to contemporary needs of the city, whose population in comparison with 1939 increased almost twice. In such condition city officials have begun to realize a comprehensive program to modernize the transportation and communal communications.

The greenest city in Russia

The modernization program includes the construction of a new bridge across the two branches of the river Pregel dividing the city into two parts, the reconstruction of 224 drainage system facilities in the city, located in the territory of the city. The important part of this effort is the project of reconstruction and development of the green attire of the city. Inhabitants of the Kaliningrad are proud of the status as one of the greenest cities in Russia. But to save it, the city must improve the existing woodland parks and plant new ones. In the next five years in Kaliningrad 5 public green spaces are scheduled to appear.

The city officials direct serious efforts on the negative impact of the environment. In recent years, the manifold has laid to drain all the wastewater on the purification plants of the city. Simultaneously, work is underway to eliminate small urban coal-fired boilers and switching to heating with natural gas.

The main instrument for realization the program of modernization of the urban environment of Kaliningrad is an investment program. Despite of the crisis, the realization development infrastructure was assigned more than 3 billion rubles in 2010. Residents and local authorities of the city of Kaliningrad hope that their joint efforts will help transform the city into a modern city, in which people care of nature and historical heritage.



Innovative approach to nutrient loading data?

Text: Zivile Karvonen Photo: town of Mariehamn



One of the aims of the project called Urban Reduction of Eutrophication (PURE) is to establish a new user-friendly database to monitor the level of performance, technology used and nutrient inputs from municipalities into the Baltic Sea. The basis of the PURE Database is on grass root local level activity as the water companies and municipal wastewater treatment plants themselves have a direct access to the database and their own data. In that way they can complete and update such data whenever there is a need.

What purpose is the Pure Database created for?

The database enables to have accurate and up-to-date information without heavy and laborious centralized reporting, which often appears to be a time-consumer. The database with its automated reporting tools can also be used in mandatory local reporting or other visualization purposes of the performance of the plant. Such an easy-access local level tool could induce improvements, change approach to nutrient loading and technical data. The user-friendly database can be called innovative, as it is the first such kind of a database, which encourages in benchmarking and facilitating matchmaking of water utilities directly with each other and with different stakeholders, like financiers and policymakers. At this point it is important to stress, that the PURE Database is created not for any competition purposes, and benchmarking is anonymous for the user.

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



Answers provided by Jan Westerberg,
Head of Environment Protection Office of
the town of Mariehamn.
jan.westerberg@mariehamn.ax

How is the town of Mariehamn involved in the database development?

As a local level actor itself, Mariehamn has an opportunity to include the practical needs and experiences from the municipal point of view to the PURE database. The Environmental department of Mariehamn is well advanced in developing its environmental monitoring system and recently has got a certificate of ISO14001 standard on its environmental management system. Mariehamn shares its experiences of management of a similar database and assists the Lead Partner UBC Commission on Environment in compiling the first round data from municipalities around the Baltic Sea region together with PURE steering group's John Nurminen Foundation and Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission HELCOM.

What is the current situation with the database?

Now the draft PURE Database has been established and it is still in the process of testing and developing. 7 wastewater treatment plants from Baltic Sea Region have already had a chance to test this database and give their feedback on how it could be even more user-friendly and efficient tool for the wastewater treatment plants.

HELCOM sees the PURE Database as a tool for promoting the exemplary municipalities and encouraging others to follow these "forerunners". The PURE project through its Database will also support updating official national data regarding municipal waste water treatment as contained in the HELCOM Pollution Load Compilation database and contribute to the review of country-wise nutrition reduction of the Baltic Sea.

Common wastewater treatment database

Eutrophication is the most significant environmental problem of the Baltic Sea. It is caused by both nitrogen and phosphorus inputs from human activities, but phosphorus is the primary cause of e.g. massive occurrences of blue-green algae. Advanced phosphorus removal and proper sludge management are fast and cost-efficient ways to reduce the eutrophication process. The municipal wastewater treatment plants play important role in improving the state of the Baltic Sea.

PURE – Project on Urban Reduction of Eutrophication implements one of the most cost effective and quickest ways to tackle eutrophication: it enhances phosphorus removal at selected municipal wastewater treatment plants in the Baltic Sea region. As part of the PURE project, a database is created for collecting descriptive information from individual wastewater treatment plants in the Baltic Sea region and monitoring the municipal eutrophying nutrient inputs of phosphorus and nitrogen.

For that, we are asking you to provide us with the **contact information of your city/municipality water company. The contact information would include contact person's name, title, phone number and e-mail.** We will then contact the water treatment plants and propose them to join this common wastewater treatment database, which allows the different water treatment plants of the Baltic Sea region to benchmark each other. At the same time we will get the information about the nutrient load of the Baltic Sea. Please, send in the information latest by **31 May 2011.**

If you have any questions, please, contact us: Hannamaria Yliruusi; firstname.surname@ubc.net, or Zivile Karvonen; firstname.surname@ubc.net



www.purebalticsea.eu



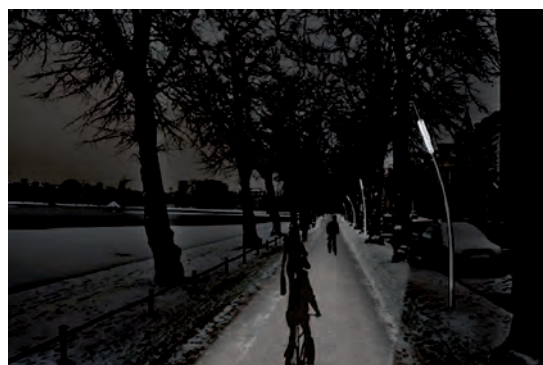
Part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund and European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)



Design development competition

Text: Eva Hjalmered Photos: UBC Energy Commission

The South Baltic project "LED – Light in Public Space" selected the winner of the Design Development Competition for Bachelor- and Master Students. The winners of the competition were announced and the winners are **Julia Hagen** and **Stefan Maassen** from the University of Applied Sciences, Technology, Business and Design in Wismar with their prototype "Typha". Typha is a plant that can be found around the Baltic Sea in the coast line. The typha grows in the shore and connects water and land. The winning duo wanted to connect water and land and thought of the typha and how its shape could be used in public lightening.



Julia and Stefan thought about the surroundings of their living, the area of Northern Germany, more exactly the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpomerania. The geography is determined by the North German Plain with its hilly lowland with fields, forests and lakes. The pristine nature is a distinctive element of Mecklenburg-Vorpomerania. The area as a whole was of interest, but the city of Schwerin in particular. Schwerin has a total of twelve lakes located within the city zone covering almost 30 % of the urban area. The vast waterfront was the idea giver to the development of a concept of a family of outdoor luminaries, a way to combine water, shore and land. Two objectives were clear in Julia and Stefan's concept; creating safety and providing sufficient light for orientation and increasing the quality of urban spaces.

Protect nature

The typha is a water and marsh plant that is widely spread over the Northern Hemisphere and can be found in a variety of wetlands across the whole globe. It is commonly found in dense populations which act as an eye catcher. The typha indicates the presence of water and creates a smooth and natural transition from water to land. In Mecklenburg-Vorpomerania their image is directly associated with the lakeside and wetlands.

By using LED's instead of incandescent or discharge light sources it is possible to reduce the effects of light pollution. Their luminaries are there over designed for locations where they potentially affect not only humans, but also a wide range of animals. For that reason the design winners decided to provide the luminaries with special features. The luminaries are provided with time and motion sensors and the color temperature has been adjusted for the area of use.

- As lighting design students with a background from spatial design, theatre and technical design we combine both technical and aesthetical aspects in our luminaries' design, while we are always aware of the light distribution, quality and the luminaries' interaction with the space, said Julia Hagen and Stefan Maasse, the typha designers.

The design

The luminaries are designed as if it is growing out of earth, the pole tapers to its endpoint and is slightly curved. Thus the luminaries have a very natural and dynamic appearance. The proportions of stem to bud are similar to those from pole to the lamp head, except that the conical shape of the luminaries' pole is increased. All heads of the luminaries have the same shape, which was inspired by the natural shape of the typha plant. The head is available in three different sizes which are linked to three different pole heights. They all have a synthetic

on – winner "Typha" prototype

cover which gives room for cooling elements with mounted LEDs. The lamp head's interior features greater variation due to the technical components controlling the varying functions of the different lamp head versions.

- Our Typha family offers a wide range of possible applications for different public spaces. Beginning with the simple version of a uniform lighting for paths

with a higher frequency and therefore higher safety requirements to guide and direct pedestrians and cyclists, we make sure that the design harmonizes with different natural surroundings both technologically and aesthetically, the designers conclude.

Going a step further, one is also able to impressively highlight the respective

urban and natural structures by using Typha. With different pole heights, angles and light distributions it offers lighting designers the possibility for efficient and individual lighting design solutions for pathways, promenades and related public spaces – whereas the degree of personalization and variety can be adjusted to the consumer's wishes.

More information:

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

GREEN CITizens of Europe are living in Umeå

Text: **Carina Aschan**

The project "Green citizens of Europe" develops new ideas for making sustainable living more easy and more fun!

Individual measuring of electricity and water in apartments motivates the tenants to save energy. Through placing various kinds of meters in the apartments, AB Bostad Umeå is studying how the visual design and interactive communication can improve the involvement of tenants in the buildings total energy savings.

Currently a tendering for a mobile communication office is going on. "Green citizens" should be close to the inhabitants of Umeå and that is why the environmental friendly office will be a mobile one and can be moved to different places.

A new parking solution "park & bike" is under development. The thought behind is that commuters who come to Umeå by car, would park their cars cheaper outside of the city centre and get a bike for the costs of the parking price, which they can use in the city centre during the day. At the Umeå City Airport a special garage

for those who commute to the airport by bicycle is designed. In May 2011 starts the big spring bike campaign "What's your most ridiculous car ride?"

Read more about what happens at the projects website: www.begreenuma.se.



Short News

EACI unveiled new ELTIS portal on Urban Mobility

The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) unveiled in March 2011 the newly designed ELTIS internet-portal on urban mobility, featuring a range of new information services in a contemporary layout and design.

ELTIS is an information portal for European professionals working in the field of transport, energy, urban design, health and the environment. In addition to hundreds of good practice case studies and news from across Europe, ELTIS now also provides:

- information on EU funding
- regular updates on EU legislation and policy
- downloadable video case studies
- a free image library
- a listing of training opportunities
- a helpdesk

ELTIS offers its users the opportunity to upload news stories, case studies, tools and events and to share these with fellow professionals. The portal is available in eleven languages - Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Spanish and now also in Dutch, Portuguese and Romanian.

With ELTIS Mobility Update, a new monthly email service in six languages, ELTIS users receive a summary of the latest developments in urban mobility. Signing up for ELTIS Mobility Update is easy and free at www.eltis.org.

The launch of the new ELTIS fulfils one of the commitments of the Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility - the setting up of an urban mobility portal that facilitates the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences in the field of urban mobility in Europe. UBC EnvCom is a partner in ELTIS project.

For more information, please contact:

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NETworking the COvenant of Mayors- NET-COM

The European Covenant of Mayors (CoM) is a very successful initiative of the local level. Over 2300 cities and municipalities have committed themselves to implement sustainable energy action plans and decrease their CO2 emissions significantly. The CoM initiative has even surpassed the original expectations and now there is a need to make sure that the commitments are successfully implemented.

Cooperation, networking and exchange of experiences among local authorities and their associations can significantly boost the CoM implementation. Therefore the continuous capacity building of the European and national/regional networks is crucial for the coming years.

The NET-COM project is carried out by a consortium of partners made of European, national and regional networks of local and regional authorities. UBC EnvCom is one of the partners. The project is led by the Energy Cities. NET-COM starts during the spring 2011 and more information will come soon!

For more information, please contact:

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BSR InnoShip aims at making the Baltic Sea a model region for clean shipping

Baltic shipping is constantly growing and some of the busiest shipping routes in the world go through the Baltic Sea. Due to more stringent international requirements, shipping industry will be faced with increased fuel expenses, logistics costs and needs for investments into low-emission technology in the near future.

BSR InnoShip focuses on promoting transnational coordinated efforts to make the Baltic Sea a model region for clean shipping in atmospheric emissions and strengthening the capacities of authorities and decision-makers. This includes improving knowledge, skills and capacities of ports, cities and shipping companies in development and adoption of innovative low-emission technical solutions and also raising public awareness and political commitment to reduce negative ship exhaust emissions. The key idea is that for successful mitigation of emissions all stakeholders must work together.

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www.baltic.org/projects/bsr_innochip



Part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund and European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)

Promotion and enhance of sustainable urban mobility=QUEST

UBC EnvCom is a partner in the new three-year QUEST project on promoting and enhancing sustainable urban mobility across Europe. The aim of the project is to develop an audit tool to evaluate and improve the quality of urban sustainable transport. The project supports cities to progress in sustainable urban mobility. Depending on the current level of quality of the sustainable urban transport in the city a tailor made improvement program for urban mobility policy will be set up.

Quest is mainly funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. Officially it has 19 partners, but more than 50 cities from all over Europe are willing to implement the QUEST audit. UBC EnvCom is responsible for the dissemination and communication in the project. The project is officially launched in early May and its Kick-off meeting takes place in Gant, Belgium in June.

For more information, please contact:

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Making Nordic cities into climate leaders - NordLead

Local actions are crucial for mitigating climate change and reaching national and EU level greenhouse gas emission targets. During the spring 2011, a project called NordLead, will be launched to find the success factors and support needs in local climate work in the Nordic countries. The NordLead project aims at strengthening the capacities of the Nordic municipalities to tackle the issue climate change by mutual learning and developing new support structures.

The project is led by UBC Commission on Environment together with associations of local and regional authorities in the Nordic countries and Nordregio as a scientific advisor partner. The project is partly financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

For more information, please contact:

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UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat

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

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

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

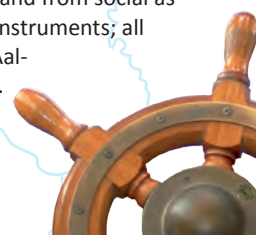


EnvCom,
Turku

Our aims

UBCWheel

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



www.ubcwheel.eu

Projects



InnoShip - ELTISplus - PURE - CHAMP - NEW BRIDGES
- MATRUSCHKA - SUSTAINMENT - BUSTRIP - MUE-25 -
NewHansa ... just to mention a few.

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Managing Urban - Rural Interaction for Quality of Life -Conference

31 November - 1 December 2011
Hamburg, Germany



*Strengthening of Quality of Life
through Improved Management of
Urban Rural Interaction*

**What do we need to consider when we are talking about resident's quality of life?
How could the interactions between cities and surrounding regions be strengthened?**

Mark the dates in your calendar!

Managing Urban-Rural Interaction for Quality of Life –Conference

30 November - 1 December 2011, in Hamburg, Germany

The **Managing Urban-Rural Interaction for Quality of Life -Conference** invites practitioners, politicians, researchers and all the interested stakeholders to Hamburg to discuss the current situation and future challenges seen within the work on quality of life and urban-rural interaction. The conference facilitates the exchange of experiences and knowledge in regard to innovative approaches and integrated management in regional development.

The conference offers:

- Presentations from experts working in the field of urban-rural development at different levels,
- Interactive workshops providing new ways to the work on quality of life and urban-rural interactions,
- Tested practices and tools on how to involve inhabitants and local stakeholders in planning processes,
- New perspectives on regional planning, innovative management and cooperation methods,
- Policy and practice recommendations for improved management of urban-rural interactions,
- A possibility to discuss and learn from interesting case examples from seven partner city-regions who will present their outcomes of NEW BRIDGES project.

The Final Conference of NEW BRIDGES project is organized 30 November - 1 December 2011 in Hamburg, Germany. It is organised by the City of Hamburg and the HafenCity University in close cooperation with the Union of the Baltic Cities Commission on Environment, ECAT-Lithuania and Nordregio.

For more information, please check NEW BRIDGES homepage: www.urbanrural.net/index.php/ur:final_conference



Part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund)

www.urbanrural.net

Join us for an afternoon of
**Success stories of local climate change
work in the Baltic Sea Region**
on 4 October 2011 in Liepaja, Latvia

The event is organised in connection with the XI UBC General Conference 4-7 October 2011 in Liepaja.

Keep a lookout at:
<http://www.localmanagement.eu/index.php/champ:home>
for more information!



Photo from archive of the UBC EnvCom. Photographer unknown.