

Hälsningar

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HOW TO ENTER U.S. RENEWABLE ENERGY MARKET

The City of Lidköping, Winnebago County, and Freedom Field Renewable Energy recently signed an International Energy Collaboration to increase awareness of renewable energy opportunities, develop and commercialize renewable energy solutions between the two communities.

That means that Swedish companies that want to know how to enter the U.S. renewable energy market now have one place they can contact, the Freedom Field Renewable Energy Center in Rockford, Illinois. Visit www.freedomfieldenergy.com or contact Lidköping International Business Developer Linnea Bengtsson, linnea.bengtsson@lidkoping.se

Under one roof at Freedom Field are many working examples of renewable energy technologies, complete with operational data. Examples include a green roof, a micro turbine, solar/thermal heating and cooling, radiant floor heat, absorption cooling system, live wind metering and much more.

“There is no other facility that has as many diverse renewable energy technologies under one roof, as far as we know” said Mark Podemski, Rockford Area Economic Development Council’s vice president for development. “This partnership allows U.S. companies to learn from Sweden, particularly Lidköping as they are so advanced in this field,” Podemski added. www.freedomfieldenergy.com.



L-R At the signing were Winnebago County Board Chairman Scott Christiansen, Freedom Field Board Chairman Dr. Vogl, Lidköping International Business Developer Linnea Bengtsson and Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey.

LOOKING FORWARD TO CONFERENCES IN SWEDEN

September will be an excellent month to renew friendships and make new connections, as there are two important conferences in Sweden.

Swedish-American Entrepreneurial Days, E-Days 2011, Sept. 14-16 in Växjö and Karlskrona

“This is the largest trade and networking event between the U.S. and



Sweden, so we encourage attendance and participation,” advised Mark Podemski, RAEDC’s vice president for development. For more information, visit sacc-edays.org/vaxjokarlskrona/ or contact mpodemski@rockfordil.com

International Bioenergy Days, IBED 2011, Sept. 27-29 in Lidköping

Attending from Rockford as of “press time” are Chester Kolodziej, manager of Freedom Field Renewable Energy Center, and his wife, Sandra; Dr. Robert Vogl, chairman of the board of directors, Freedom Field Renewable Energy Center and president of Illinois Renewable Energy Association, and his wife Dr. Sonia Vogl, treasurer of IREA; and Sue Mroz, Winnebago County director of regional planning and economic development and Mark Podemski, VP for Development for the RAEDC. Linnea Bengtsson, Lidköping’s international business developer to Rockford, will be a speaker on the Rockford-Lidköping partnership and its many opportunities. Contact info@bioenergydays.com or <http://Ibed.entailer.com>

WHY SWEDEN IS A VALUABLE ROLE MODEL

Sweden continues to gain more recognition for its strong economic performance. The Washington Post and Bloomberg called Sweden “the rock star of the recovery” in an article this summer. They compared Sweden’s 5.5 percent growth rate last year to the 2.8 percent expansion of the U.S. as well as other economic factors positive to Sweden. www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/five-economic-lessons-from-sweden-the-rock-star-of-the-recovery/2011/06/21/AGyuJ3iH_story.html



Swedish Ambassador to the United States [Jonas Hafström](#) noted that this economic growth came while the country continues toward its goal to be oil-free by 2020. He made the remarks last year while visiting Rockford during the 2010 IBED conference.

RAEDC’s Mark Podemski added, “When you know that Lidköping waste-to-heat conversion program is so successful that they have to import waste from other communities, you know that we have a valuable partner from whom we can learn much. There are many other communities in Sweden that can share their sustainability knowledge. That’s another reason why the September conferences in Lidköping, Växjö and Karlskrona are so valuable.”

"SWEDEN TODAY" CLASSES FOR BUSINESSPEOPLE

Lidköping’s International Business Developer Linnea Bengtsson will teach a series of four classes called “Sweden Today” to the Rockford-area business community. Topics covered will help Rockfordians conduct business in Sweden. They include Swedish then and now, etiquette and lifestyle. The classes will begin on September 7, 5:30 p.m. at the Rockford Public Library. For more information, contact Linnea at linnea.bengtsson@lidkoping.se or catch her blog at www.lidkoping.se/linneasblogg. Linnea is a member of the board of directors for the Rockford Swedish Historical Society and teaches the class for them.



MORE LIDKÖPING GROUPS TO VISIT ROCKFORD

Lidköping continues to send more construction students from De la Gardie Gymnasiet, and they will send additional groups that include teachers, thanks to a grant from the Internationella Programkontoret in Sweden and the SwedishAmerican Foundation in Rockford.

The construction students will begin building a third house in Rockford in October with their partner students from Rockford's East High School. The home will be 100 percent Swedish.

A second group will consist of two teachers and four students who will compare social science and media science of Sweden and the Rockford area. Rockford host families are being sought. Contact linnea.bengtsson@lidkoping.se if you are willing to host.

The third group of two teachers will study how the Rockford schools work with students and families for whom English is not their first language. The plan is to have two Rockford-area teachers do an exchange in Lidköping next school year.

These exchange groups are funded by grants secured by Linnea Bengtsson and help further the cultural and economic growth of both communities.



Swedish home to be built in Rockford.

LIDKÖPING AND ROCKFORD UPDATE PARTNERSHIP, VIRTUALLY

The two cities updated their Industrial Partnership Agreement in a virtual signing via Skype in March. The purpose of the expanded agreement is to create more job growth and community wealth through business and educational collaborations, as well as to increase the awareness of Lidköping as an ideal entry point to the Swedish and European markets.

There are seven action plans to create job growth and community wealth.

- Advocate for greater understanding between the two cities and countries
- Encourage occupational and citizen exchanges
- Conduct more exchange programs
- Assist with future International Bioenergy Days
- Explore tourism opportunities
- Develop international business climate
- Explore retail possibilities

"Lidköping is very optimistic about this expanded agreement. We value our strong relationship with Rockford and know that it will be fruitful for both communities. We have much to learn from each other. Linnea Bengtsson began in her new position in January, and she has already started to make progress on the action plans," said Lidköping Mayor Hedvall.



Lidköping Mayor Hedvall reaches out to Rockford Mayor Morrissey on screen.

DIRECTORS TO VISIT ROCKFORD

Concentric AB, a Swedish company and formerly known as Haldex Hydraulic Systems, will hold its board of directors meeting at its Rockford, Illinois plant on September 20. The facility completed a major refurbishment this summer and created a “best in class” environment to manufacture hydraulic, pumps, motors power packs and flow dividers for mobile equipment applications. As part of the improvement, more than 20 conventional machine tools were replaced by six new Mori Seki horizontal machining centers.



Concentric facility Rockford.

The board will hear a presentation from Mark Podemski, RAEDC’s vice president for development about the Rockford area’s strong ties to Sweden.

SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP LEADS TO SWEDEN’S CROWN PRINCESS AND PRINCE

Meeting Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel in Borgholm was a highlight of a trip to Sweden in July made by Barbara Lunde, a co-chair of the Rockford Sister Cities Committee. Borgholm and Rockford became sister cities in 2002 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Swedish immigrants arriving in Rockford.



Rockfordians in Borgholm.

Borgholm Mayor Lisbeth Lennartsson invited Barbara to attend the dedication of 24 linden trees in the city square. The event was in part a symbolic wedding gift from Borgholm to the royal couple. One of the trees was sponsored by Sister City Rockford, the Rockford Area Arts Council and the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. Borgholm is the summer residence of the royal family and the royal couple attended the dedication.

At the event, Mayor Lennartsson read a congratulatory letter from Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey to the thousands of people at the dedication. Barbara remarked, “We hope that the Crown Princess and Prince will visit Rockford in the near future. Her father King Carl Gustaf visited our city in 1976. This connection is very important to both cities. My husband, Betsy Carlson and I were honored to represent Rockford at this exciting dedication,” she added.

ABOUT THE RAEDC

The primary role of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council is to enhance wealth creation in the Rockford Region by marketing the area and helping employers retain and create quality jobs. The RAEDC works closely with many partners to serve as a one-stop resource for clients, to improve the competitiveness of the region and to engage the community in the work of economic development.

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