



HOUSE OF SWEDEN

SPRING PROGRAM 2009 LIVING GREEN

OVERVIEW:

Few challenges facing the world are more urgent than combatting climate change. For the last half of 2009, Sweden will hold the Presidency of the European Union, and during those six months, climate change and sustainable development will be main priorities of the Swedish government. To set the stage for the Presidency, the Embassy of Sweden is also making climate and energy the main priorities for spring 2009, hosting seminars, exhibitions and events with both Swedish and American participants. The focus will be on issues such as climate change and our way of life and upcoming international climate negotiations. Potential solutions for reducing global warming will be presented, sending a clear message that it is possible to combine economic growth with ambitious climate policies. With an economy in turmoil, rising energy costs and an ever increasing awareness of the importance of energy efficiency, the timing couldn't be better to address these topics.

What can Sweden, a world leader on environmental issues, offer in meeting the challenges of global warming? How can our choice of lifestyles and food impact our carbon footprint? What would a new global climate deal look like? What technological solutions already exist to reduce carbon emissions, and what will be available in the near future? These are just a few of the issues that will be addressed during the Living Green program through thought provoking exhibitions, seminars and cultural events at House of Sweden from April 1st to June 7th.

All events are open to the public, unless otherwise noted.



VISUAL VOLTAGE

Date:
April 1 - June 7, 2009

This exhibit enables visitors to explore various forms of electricity, and to experience and reflect on energy consumption. Some of Sweden's best known artists and designers have been brought together with engineers, technical know-how and environmental consideration in this ground breaking exhibition. You will see electricity as never seen before. Photo: Per-Erik Adamsson.

By: The Swedish Institute and Interactive Institute



EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED

Date:
April 1 - June 7, 2009

Mattias Klum, one of Sweden's leading photographers, who works for National Geographic Magazine, is holding this one-man exhibition containing art that was produced over ten years as he travelled the globe for various projects. A wide range of topics have been brought together in a beautiful, but sometimes horrific, portrait of the world today. The artist comments: "We, the consumers, have a great responsibility for our world - everything is connected. During the 1960's, farmers in Sweden used biocides, and as a result, our largest bird of prey, the giant sea eagle, was threatened with extinction. We learned a long time ago that what you buy has an impact on nature. When you buy cookies, shampoo and potato chips made with palm oil, you destroy the rainforests and their inhabitants: orangutans, king cobras and... well, all biodiversity. When what is left of the rainforest is burned, there is an increase in carbon dioxide emissions. You see, everything really is connected." Photo: Mattias Klum.

By: Mattias Klum



MANNA - FOOD IN A NEW LIGHT

Date:
April 1 - June 7, 2009

How many insects does it take to make a hamburger? How do you fit hundreds of liters of water into one bottle of beer? In our modern lifestyle, the context of our food is becoming increasingly invisible. This is unlikely to improve as over half of the world's population lives in cities. This exhibition focuses on our dependence on nature in a time of increasing urbanization. Manna shows the connection between ecosystem services and the food on our tables.

By: Albaeco



CAFÉ GRÖN

Date:
April 1 - June 7, 2009

The Café is our "green" meeting place which serves food for thought. Enjoy a lunch or a traditional Swedish "fika" (coffee break) in a relaxed setting integrated with the Manna exhibition. All the homemade delicacies have been prepared entirely with ingredients grown through sustainable and organic producers. Café Grön offers only biodegradable serving ware, environment-friendly carryout bags and a discount to visitors who use environment-friendly transportation to get to the café. Welcome! Photo: Pål Allan.

By: Swedish Caterers



CHANGE AND CHOICE - TASTING GREEN LIVING

Date:
March 31, 2009 - By Invitation Only

Inauguration night will offer an unforgettable experience with food presented in spectacular installations by the Swedish company Måltidsvision. A combination of taste, music and choreography allow you to experience the complexity of sustainable food. Everything we eat affects the environment; and as we make choices we must consider many things. The installation is a reflection of the sea, forests, mountains, fields and cities from an ecological perspective. Global issues are explored, with Sweden as the starting point. "The melting point" segment of the exhibition will be on display throughout the program period.

Måltidsvision is a creative food events company from Sweden which creates unique and memorable culinary experiences using food to tell stories. For more information: www.maltidsvision.se

By: Måltidsvision



THE RETURN OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Date:
April 7 - 8, 2009

One of the first ecological show performances in the world. In this wild and powerful play, the group's own CO2 skeletons come out of the "climate closet" as they reconstruct that grinding, pounding feeling of guilt. The sincere and vital story is told in a playful and innovative way - the show makes international statistics entertaining. BNPs perform to their own music, stage electricity is generated by a bicycle and waste management electronica will be created.

By: KEL



RE: CYCLE PHOENIX

Date:
May 28 - 30, 2009

The workshop and exhibition encourage reflection over the growing waste problem and recycling, and make us think about the passing value of consumer goods and what we can do to prevent the harmful health and environmental problems caused by our waste. In the workshop, two Swedish artists - Marcus Mårtensson and Valeria Monti-Colque - working with children ages six through twelve, create art from waste - turning the waste into something valuable and useful. The aim is to introduce children to sustainable development in a playful way.

By: Sprong Communication

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS AT HOUSE OF SWEDEN

Throughout the spring, the Embassy of Sweden will host seminars and activities on various topics related to the program. If you would like to receive more information about a particular event, please visit the Embassy of Sweden website at www.swedenabroad.com/washington. To be invited to an event or seminar, please email houseofsweden@foreign.ministry.se, indicate the event and provide your contact information.

FRIENDS OF HOUSE OF SWEDEN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Friends of House of Sweden is a 501(c) 3 non-profit, established to fund policy seminars, exhibitions and cultural programs for the Embassy of Sweden in House of Sweden.

Sponsors play a vital role within Friend's mission to produce innovative new program activities and events hosted by the Embassy in the spectacular setting of House of Sweden, offering an inspiring environment for policy debates, social functions, networking events and dialog.

Embassy of Sweden's future programs hold many exciting new opportunities where Swedish commerce, culture, science, innovations and diplomacy will be shared with friends and partners in America of which you can be a part.

Since the Embassy launched its extensive public diplomacy program in October 2006, major representatives from the commercial and government sector as well as municipalities have participated as sponsors.

We always welcome new collaborators and partners. By becoming a sponsor at one of the many levels: Ambassadors Circle; Leaders Circle; or Patrons Circle to name a few, we will work with you to identify strategic opportunities in connection with Embassy programs in House of Sweden: a valuable meeting place and trademark.

Please contact Linda Tocchini-Valentini for more information on the sponsorship program.

SWEDEN'S PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

From July 1, 2009, Sweden will hold the Presidency of the European Union. This means that for six months Sweden will lead the EU and push forward a number of important issues. The Swedish Government aims to be a driving force in environmental policy, and as President will have an important role in bringing the December international climate negotiations in Copenhagen closer to a successful conclusion.

SWEDEN & EU'S CLIMATE POLICIES

Ambitious climate and energy goals

The EU's climate policy objectives are based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment of the risk of harmful climate change – temperatures must not be allowed to rise by more than two degrees above pre-industrial levels (circa 1860). The EU's own emissions targets by 2020 are:

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent within the framework of a global climate agreement, or by 20 per cent in the absence of an international agreement.
- to increase the proportion of renewable energy to 20 per cent.
- To increase the proportion of renewable fuels to 10 per cent.
- To increase the efficiency of energy use by 20 per cent.

Economic growth and climate policy go hand in hand

Sweden has demonstrated that economic growth can be combined with reduced emissions. Between 1990 and 2006, Sweden's emissions dropped by almost 9 per cent, while economic growth climbed to 44 per cent. Since 2003, Swedish clean technology has grown by 75 per cent and today has a turnover of more than \$3 billion annually.

Sustainable energy and climate policy for the environment

Sweden leads the European Union – if not the world – in terms of renewable energy, with renewable energy accounting for 43 percent of Sweden's total energy mix. Sweden is committed to reaching almost 50 percent by the year 2020. The long term priorities of the Swedish government are to phase out the use of fossil fuels for heating by 2020 and to have a vehicle stock that is independent of fossil fuels by 2030.

The vision of the Swedish government is for Sweden, by 2050, to contribute zero net greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, while at the same time enjoying a sustainable and resource efficient energy system.

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Climate Change and the Loss of Biodiversity

Date: April 4, 2009

During this afternoon café, photographer Mattias Klum will share his experiences from two decades of documenting and visualizing our natural world. Mr. Klum's intimate images and films on subjects ranging from rainforests and king cobras to Buddhist monasteries in remote parts of the Himalayas are world famous. He tries to affect change through imagery because "What we learn to care for and appreciate we are more likely to cherish and keep alive..." A selection of his photos are currently on exhibit in "Everything is Connected" at House of Sweden.

Partner: Mattias Klum and National Geographic Society.

Visual Voltage Weekend

Date: April 17-19, 2009

A green evening dialogue Pecha Kucha style, guided tours of the exhibit, interactive activities such as "The Minibottle World" and "The Mission", workshops, films and quizzes will be available for the entire family to explore together the green house effect and climate change.

Partners: The Swedish Institute, Interactive Institute, Wolfgang Brunner and Pecha Kucha DC.

Designer's Talk

Date: April 19, 2009

At this Sunday afternoon café, Swedish and American experts will discuss the importance and benefits of sustainable design solutions.

Partners: The Swedish Institute and Interactive Institute.

Research Seminar: Common Transatlantic Issues in the Preparation for Copenhagen in View of the Upcoming Swedish EU Presidency

Date: April 22, 2009

Among the most important topics facing the climate negotiations at COP 15 are the various aspects involving competitiveness and carbon offsets. These central issues will be highlighted in a research seminar involving scholars, policymakers and the corporate sector.

Partners: CLIPORE and Resources for the Future.

The Road to Copenhagen: US-EU Climate Policy Dialogue

Date: April 22, 2009

On July 1st, Sweden will begin its 6-month Presidency of the European Union, leading the EU delegation in the decisive COP 15 climate summit in Copenhagen. The negotiating stance of the EU and the U.S., together with China, India and Brazil will have a major impact on the outcome. The purpose of the dialogue is to give senior decisionmakers an opportunity to exchange views on the prospects of the negotiations.

Partners: CLIPORE, Resources for the Future, the European Climate Platform.

A New Climate Change Accord – Legal Character and Commitments

Date: April 23, 2009

Negotiations for the new climate change accord after year 2012 face difficult issues concerning the legal character of the text, as well as the approach to defining responsibility for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Representatives from both the U.S. and EU administrations, as well as academia, will discuss ways to tackle the differences in opinion and how to reach an agreement.

Partners: Stockholm Environmental Law and Policy Centre at Stockholm University and the George Washington University Law School.

Living Green – Sustainable Urban Planning and Green Buildings

Date: May 5, 2009

This afternoon conference will explore various approaches on improving the urban environment, including the concept of SymbioCity – Sustainability by Sweden. Swedish and American experts will discuss how we can develop green neighborhoods and promising technical solutions for reducing the carbon footprints of cities.

Partners: The Swedish Trade Council, the U.S. Green Building Council and Stockholm Business Region.

Adapting to Climate Change – A Development Challenge

Date: May 15, 2009

Climate change will fundamentally impact the development of the poorest countries and communities. Ms Gunilla Carlsson, chairperson of the International Commission on Climate Change and Development and Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation, will present the Commission's findings and recommendations on how adaptation and disaster risk reduction can be integrated into development plans and strategies and how international support should be designed.

Partner: World Resources Institute (WRI).

Science Café – Food and Climate

Date: May 19, 2009

How do our eating habits affect the climate? American experts will be joined by one of Sweden's foremost weather and climate media personalities to discuss the relationship between food and climate change during this evening café. The audience will enjoy an interactive session moderated by Nils Bruzelius, Washington Post science editor.

Partner: Swedish Institute.

CHALMERS – For a Sustainable Future

Date: May 21, 2009

The seminar is about the long-term commitment and responsibility for learning, competence building and innovation. Top researchers from Chalmers University and representatives from the Swedish business community will present their views on transdisciplinary technology, environmental science and innovation management. In addition, potential opportunities for research collaborations between Chalmers University and the U.S. institutions will be explored.

Partner: Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

HOUSE OF SWEDEN

ALL EXHIBITS IN HOUSE OF SWEDEN ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:
Thursdays through Sundays: 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
CAFÉ GRÖN: Thursdays through Sundays: 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

www.swedenabroad.com/washington

VISITOR ENTRANCE:

2900 K Street, NW (south of K Street, NW)

House of Sweden is located on the banks of the Potomac River in Georgetown, between Rock Creek and Georgetown Harbour

HOUSE OF SWEDEN

House of Sweden is a unique building in the heart of Washington, DC. This meeting place embraces the Embassy of Sweden, an exhibition hall and event center as well as corporate apartments. House of Sweden is owned and managed by the Kingdom of Sweden through the National Property Board Sweden.

www.houseofsweden.com



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN