



STOCKHOLM
winner 2010



EUROPEAN
GREEN CAPITAL



STOCKHOLM – FIRST EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2010

On February 23, 2009, the European Commission chose Stockholm as Europe's first Green Capital, commending its long-term focus on environmental issues.

Stockholm, the largest city in Scandinavia, is a meeting place for people of different cultures, a gateway for new ideas and a centre for culture, sports and entertainment. It is one of the world's most beautiful cities, with excellent public services, an enviable waterfront location and a glorious local countryside. It is a rapidly growing city with 800,000 inhabitants.

The City of Stockholm has outlined an overall, long-term vision – Vision Stockholm 2030 – for sustainable growth and development. By 2030, Stockholm is to be a versatile and dynamic city, one which promotes innovation and growth, and one which belongs to its citizens.

Contributions of companies

"The award engages the entire city. All municipal administrations and companies will play important roles in the work required in being the first European Green Capital. Private companies are extremely interested in participating," says Gunnar Söderholm, Head of the Environment and Health Administration of the City of Stockholm.

"The award was a boost for all of the city's environmental activities. It's clear that many people have noted that Stockholm will be Europe's Green Capital in 2010 and are proud of it."

The 2010 winner has an outstanding track record of integrated urban management, credible green credentials and ambitious plans for the future.

Climate emissions down by 25 per cent

The European Green Capital Award is given to a city which is noted for achieving high environmental standards, is committed to ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development, and which can act as a role model to inspire others and promote best practices in other cities.

Stockholm is determined to lower its carbon emissions. To date, the city has achieved a 25% decrease in climate emission levels since 1990 (to 4 tonnes per inhabitant in 2005, half the Swedish average), and the city council has set an ambitious target of becoming totally fossil fuel free by 2050.

2010 will be a spectacular year for Stockholm, with numerous activities relating directly to the award. You can follow the news directly on www.stockholm.se



BETTER ENVIRONMENT HAS MADE STOCKHOLM MORE ATTRACTIVE

Being selected as the European Green Capital of 2010 is a great honour. This award is the result of a strong team effort in which, I believe, everyone in our city has played a part.

Stockholm has a long history of environmental protection and this is an issue which is very important to the citizens living here. During past decades, politicians have had to find solutions which meet the needs of a growing city in a sustainable manner.

The Stockholm model builds upon the principle that environmental aspects have to be integrated everywhere and at all times. Improving our environment, minimizing our environmental impact and reducing our carbon emission levels are issues which all our administrations and companies have to work with on a daily basis.

The environmental work has given us a more attractive city, proud citizens and a better environment. It is, however, important not to rest on our laurels but to continue to commit ourselves to ambitious goals for further sustainable development.

We regard our environmental work as important, not only for the sake of our own city and its inhabitants, but also as a way in which to share best practices and ideas with other cities. Pollution knows no municipal boundaries and neither do greenhouse gas emissions. We want to help spread local solutions and, in that way, contribute towards meeting the global challenges of ecological stress and climate change.

*Ulla Hamilton
Vice Mayor, City of Stockholm*

OUTDOOR SPORTS IN THE CITY



Charlotte Stanler loves jogging, swimming in the sea, ice skating, cross country skiing and kayaking. Within the city of Stockholm she can do it all.

Dressed in her running gear, Charlotte Stanler sets out from her office in a public building in the centre of Stockholm and jogs down a path for pedestrians and cyclists running along the waterfront before changing direction and following the pavement along one of Stockholm's busier streets.

Charlotte Stanler is training for the Stockholm Marathon and the city's parks and pavements are a training route for this lover of outdoor sports.

"As a citizen, I appreciate that politicians are making an effort to improve the urban environment. The congestion charge which have been levied around the city are an example of that, as is the promotion of eco-friendly cars which run on biofuels. These cars don't have to pay the congestion charge she explains" she explains, adding that, as a result, safety conditions have improved for cyclists.

"Biking in the city streets used to be a risky business, but now more cycle paths have been opened and riding to work seems to be becoming a trend."

In summer she also pursues another hobby, kayaking with her boyfriend among the many islands on which the City of Stockholm is built.

"The water here is cleaner than in most other European capitals. You hardly ever see garbage floating around, and bathing is pleasant in most of the waters surrounding the city."

In a Nordic climate where winters can be icy and snowy, many sports enthusiasts change disciplines during the year. Charlotte Stanler is no exception. In the winter, she prefers ice skating and cross country skiing. The waters she swims in can also be used for skating when they freeze, and golf courses on the city periphery are ideal for cross country skiing when winter clouds release just a few inches of snow.

"As an active sports enthusiast, I hardly ever feel the need to go outside the city to practise the sports I love," she says.



FACILITIES FOR THE FAMILY

Anders Elwin and his family live in Stockholm's inner city, in a neighbourhood which offers recreational facilities for the whole family, such as playgrounds, parks, recreational fishing waters and bicycle paths.

Anders Elwin is one of many parents who send their children to the Eira School near the waterfront on Kungsholmen, one of the numerous islands that make up the city of Stockholm. The family don't own a car, as they have little need for one.

"There are regular bus services on all the major roads in this part of town, and the number of bicycle paths has grown significantly over past years. I work on the outskirts of town, but the subway takes me there - it's quick and efficient," says Anders Elwin, who has lived in the city for 17 years. Both his children, aged 8 and 13, were brought up in the city.

"We've seen radical improvements in the urban environment here. All to the benefit of children, and now more families with children live in the inner city. We have several parks with good playgrounds in this neighbourhood. Many of them are staffed during day time which makes it ideal for pre school classes to visit," he says as he walks

through Kronobergsparken, one of the many green areas on Kungsholmen. Anders then walks along the canal between the island and downtown Stockholm, with the main railway line and one of the main radial roads in the background across the water.

Despite the heavy traffic on the opposite side, the air is fresh on this side. "I've lived in the city for decades, and I've really noticed the improvements in air quality. The congestion charge for cars going in and out has reduced the number of vehicles in the inner city, and the air is less polluted as a result."

After work, Anders jogs along the waterfront, on a path for walking and biking. It's ideal for children, and his youngest child can ride her bike here without fear of traffic.

"A few decades ago, there were heavy industries on these plots along the waterfront, and the water was heavily polluted. Now there's a park here, and the water is good for fishing. I fish here with my son in the summertime".

As Anders says, green cities bring the countryside into the town.



GREEN MEASURES: WHAT HAS STOCKHOLM DONE?

Green areas

- 90% of the population live less than 300 metres from a green area. This allows for a better, local quality of life, recreation, water purification, noise reduction, and enhanced biodiversity and ecology. Stockholm has 24 official bathing beaches within the city's boundaries, and several more are planned.

Towards a fossil fuel free city

- Stockholm has reduced CO₂ emissions by 25% compared to the 1990 levels. CO₂ emissions are less than 4 tonnes CO₂ per capita - half the national Swedish average.
- Stockholm has the ambitious target of becoming a fossil fuel free city by 2050.
- 69% of all households have access to district heating - and the share of renewable energy in district heating is nearly 70%.

Biogas

- Biogas is produced in waste water plants, through digestion of organic waste sludge. In Hammarby eco-district, the waste water from a single household produces sufficient biogas for the household's gas cooker. Most biogas is, currently, used as fuel in eco-friendly cars and busses. Collection of food waste for biogas production is to increase from 4,500 tonnes to 18,000 tonnes between 2008 and 2012.

Waste recycling

- The city has an excellent waste treatment system and uses innovative production methods such as vacuum controlled underground transportation of solid waste.
- 25% of the waste produced by Stockholmers is recycled, 73.5% is recovered for production of district heating (energy recovery by incineration), and 1.5% is biologically treated.

Public transport

- Stockholmers use the efficient, reliable and functional public transport system frequently.

77% travel by public transport during peak hours. All inner city buses run on renewable fuels and all subways and commuter trains run on renewable electricity making them an even more environmentally sustainable means of transport.

- In Stockholm, the number of people cycling has increased by 75% over the past ten years. Stockholm has 760 km of cycle lanes, and more are being built.

Congestion charge

- A congestion charge was introduced in 2006 for cars travelling in and out of the inner city area during daytime hours. The emission reduction levels from congestion taxes was approximately 30,000 tonnes CO₂ in the year 2006. Emission levels are down 10-14% and air quality has been improved by 2-10%. Traffic has been reduced by 20%.

City development

- The city is building two new eco-profile residential areas, using experience gained from eco-profiled Hammarby Waterfront. Located on former brownfields, one of the new areas - Stockholm Royal Seaport - aims at being fossil fuel free by 2030, while the entire city of Stockholm is aiming to achieve this by 2050. Stockholm Royal Seaport is to be a showcase for sustainable urban construction where innovative environmental technology and creative solutions are developed, tested and presented. This city district will be an example for other cities to follow, a world-class environmental urban district.

Environmental management

- Stockholm's first Environment Programme was launched in the middle of the 1970s.
- The city has an Integrated Management System which ensures that environmental issues are included in the city's budget, operational planning, reporting and monitoring.
- All citizens can follow the environmental monitoring on the website: miljobarometern.stockholm.se

HAMBURG – EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2011



Hamburg is Germany's second largest city, home to 1.8 million inhabitants. The city is also a major port on the river Elbe, Europe's second largest in terms of number of containers handled.

The number of containers handled by the port rises every year, yet overall CO₂ emis-

sions from transport to and from Hamburg city have remained stable for the past ten years.

When Hamburg becomes the European Green Capital for 2011, the City Council will organise train trips to various European metropolises in an effort to spread its novel ideas and seek new best practices around the continent.



The European Green Capital: REWARDING GOOD URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Each year, one European city is awarded the title of European Green Capital. The award goes to a city that:

- has a consistent record of achieving high environmental standards;
- is committed to ongoing and ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development;
- can act as a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices among other European cities.

The award marks a city's desire and ability to solve environmental problems in order to improve quality of life for its citizens and reduce their effect on the global environment as a whole.

The European Commission has long recognised the important role played by local authorities in improving the environment, and their commitment to genuine progress. The European Green Capital Award is a new initiative to promote and reward these efforts.

www.europeangreencapital.eu