



## Is Your Island Ready to Help Us save the Baltic Sea ?!

In the fall of 2008 a project was initiated by the Swedish association for islands in the archapology; Skärgårdarnas Riskförbund. The long term target; Together with islands from Åland, Finland and Estonia to save the Baltic Sea from pollution and further damage.

The project GREEN Islands was born with fresh ideas, working for an improved environment in the Baltic Sea region.

In your hand you have the first edition of a four series newsletter, with the intention to describe the project , attract and recruit more interested islands to actually join our task.

### The goal of the prestudy

What you now are about to read is a direct result of a pre-study funded by the SIDA Baltic Sea unit.

The overall goal with this study is to find a number of islands in the Baltic Sea ready to actively join the Green Island project.

The Danish Islands Samsø is our model island for the moment. In a very short time they have managed to transform much of their traditional energy consumption

to new energy sources like Wind, Bioenergy and Solar energy. In fact this small island does not only have energy enough to supply all their inhabitants, but are also exporting electricity to the rest of the country – Amazing! You can read more about the Danes in another article included in this newsletter.

### Ingmarsö is the first Island!

We also have to congratulate the inhabitants of Ingmarsö – an island just outside Stockholm for being the first to sign up for the Green Islands project. The main target now , is set to have about ten islands joining the project before the end of May, when the pre- study report will be filed. We are currently looking at four to five Swedish members with the other five islands being recruited from Finland, Estonia and Åland.





# The Baltic Sea is still suffering!

Lately there has been rumors circulating indicating an improvement in the overall marine climate for the Baltic Sea. Unfortunately this is not true.. Instead new data released in the fall of 2008 are pointing in a completely different direction. The Baltic Sea conditions have never been worse!

Samples and data are showing that large areas to the west, east and north of the Gotland island is more or less dead from marine life and has zero oxygen. Farming and constant usage of fertilizers is still the main course of the problem, but also reported sewage spillage is adding to the problems.

Farming in Poland and many of the Baltic States is rapidly changing face from a small scale individual trade to large efficient farming units releasing increased quantities of Phosphor and nitrogen into the environment. Many of the Baltic Seas states have spillage from farming pouring out in the Baltic Sea, some of it generated from some 188500 cattle, 62000 pigs and more than 20600 sheep which is farmed in the area. On top of that we also have a large poultry industry releasing tons of nitrogen and phosphor.

Although these facts are evident, all the countries in the region are at governmental level committing to reduced limits of spillage. But we ask ourselves how this is going to happen? Sweden as an example is promising to decrease the nitrogen spillage with 7000 tons and also the phosphor spillage with 21000 tons per year. The University of Agriculture in Sweden however indicates that these numbers are far from enough. According to them, we have to transform the farming industry completely in order to save the Baltic Sea environment.

## What can we do..?

To start with, it is important to make sure that the sewage spill from the islands is taken care of in the best possible way. We have to reduce our energy consumption, take good care of our garbage, and reduce unnecessary spillage from boat traffic. Look at Samsö - they are a true model island in many ways..If they can do it – we can too.. It is important with a broad scale contribution from inhabitants utilizing various competencies and really looking at the small details.. This will make a difference along side with City and community services looking after larger issues such as water supply, sewage and garbage. In the fall of 2008 the Swedish association for Islands in the arcapology decided to initiate an Inter regional project with a strict environmental theme, targeting a number of islands from

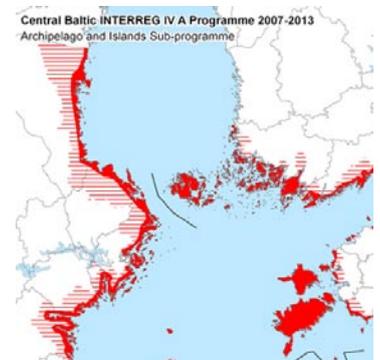
the Baltic Sea region mainly Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Aland. The overall target is clear; To Save the Baltic Sea – our immediate living environment.

Highlighted in red you will find the targeted areas for our project. Islands interested to participate MUST have all year around inhabitants and cannot have a bridge connection to the mainland.

## Green Islands and a greener look at life!

Of course the project management is hoping for a steady contribution from all the people living in the Baltic Sea arcapology in order to successfully improve the environment.

A gigantic task it is - yes for sure! At the same time we are proud to quote Sören Hermansson from Samsö in Denmark who in a recent interview published in a Swedish newspaper said;

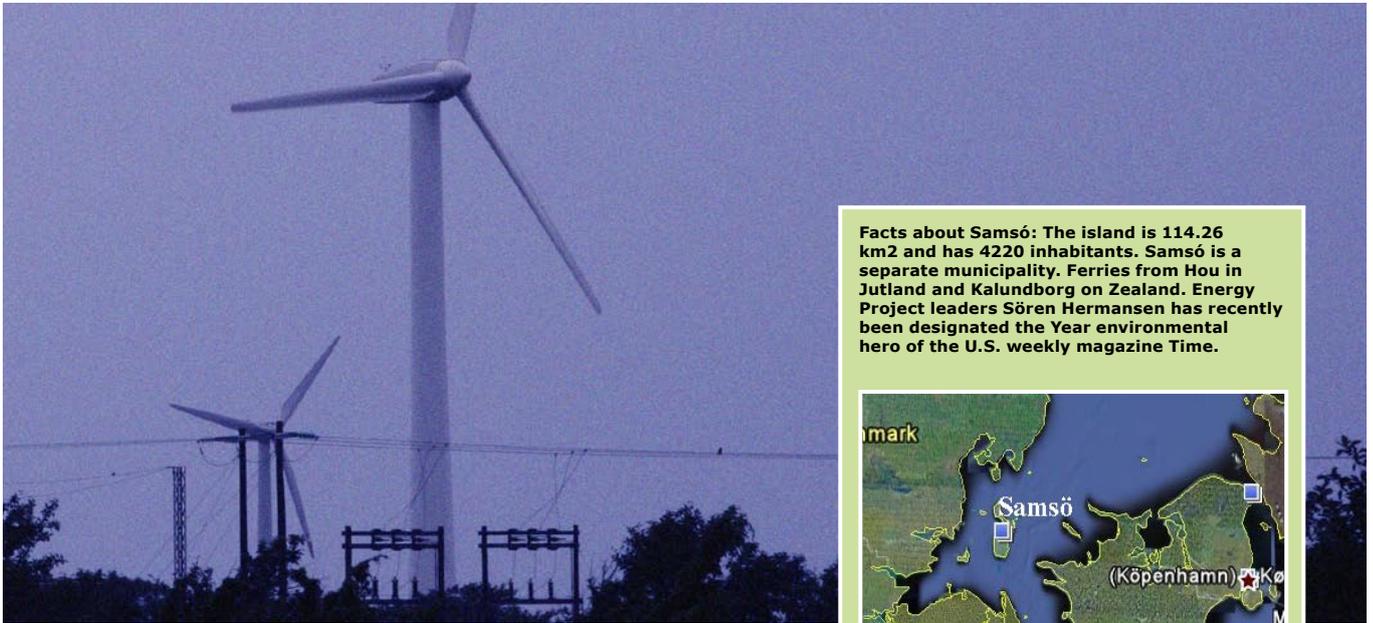


*“If I believe that what we have done here at Samsö can teach the world something? Then it has to be that no transformation from fossil to recycable energy systems can take place unless there is a strong and clear local perspective added to things. If you look at the world as a number of small islands where people can share common interest and understand each other and the immediate environmental needs – yes then I believe that we here at Samsö really can be a good example for the rest of the world “*

**We hope in turn that the future Green Island islands to show others how to put on to a greener and more sustainable lives.**

**We hope that your island will be one of them?**





**Facts about Samsö: The island is 114.26 km<sup>2</sup> and has 4220 inhabitants. Samsö is a separate municipality. Ferries from Hou in Jutland and Kalundborg on Zealand. Energy Project leaders Sören Hermansen has recently been designated the Year environmental hero of the U.S. weekly magazine Time.**



## Samsö in Denmark - a true model island !

Already from the beginning of the Green Islands project the Danish Island Samsö has been the model island for what we would like to initiate and achieve. Studying a number of articles published on the internet and in newspapers you cannot let go from being amazed by the enthusiasm and commitment show by the inhabitants at Samsö.

In most cases project like this stumbles and fall already in the initial stages; Too difficult - too expensive - not possible..... Not at all according to the people living on this island. They managed to overcome most of the challenges and are now in a very good position moving forward. A true model island! The story started in the late nineties when the Danish government announced a competition aiming to become independent from fossil fuel within a period of ten years. A clever engineer from the mainland visited Samsö – but mainly spoke for death ears.

### Sören - an environment hero!

Luckily enough there was at least one man who listened and also believed in the task on hand – Sören Hermansen. Mr. Hermansen a teacher in environmental issues started to engage himself in the project and soon enough + equipped with a box of Danish pastries and a full box of Danish beers he started to tour the island together with his new friend – the engineer. The first goal was to convince the large scale farmers and landowners. Once the benefits became clear to them many of the small scale users were quickly to jump onboard as well.



**Sören Hermansen VD for Samsö Energiakademi**

Today you can without a doubt conclude that most of the inhabitants at Samsö are taking an active part in the project. They are relying on wind energy supply, solar cells or renewable heating. Many of them have improved their home environment by exchanging windows, installing new heating systems and rebuild their homes to conserve energy.

### What has happened over the TEN YEARS term?

More than 21 wind plants are in use, half of them land based with an effect of 1 MW whilst the plants built at sea are generating 2, 3 MV each. In total these plants are delivering not less than 105 400 MW per year.

Four heating stations have been built burning spillage from the forest industry and farming to generate 6.2 MW per year.

The overall feedback from the inhabitants of Samsö is overwhelmingly positive. In fact many farmers are today earning more money on exporting energy than what they get out of the farming products.

New projects are popping up all the time. The most recent initiatives are targeting hybrid cars to run on electricity only, to be brought in to Samsö. The idea is to have the cars refuel from the wind plants during nighttime and then run during the day time. Another task is to have the energy from the many ferries trafficking recycled and used.

The farmer Erik Andersen is only one of many happy people at Samsö. He invested in rape production and is now involved in bio fuel production for vehicles.. At the same time his creatures love the rape spillage - rich from proteins and that makes for more happiness and satisfaction!



**Erik Andersen, an environment farmer from Samsö**



# The GREEN Island VISION!

The Green Island project is an interregional project targeting islands in the Baltic Sea from Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Åland. The start up phase involves a pre-study to be done with support from the SIDA Baltic Sea unit. This report will be filed in May 2009.

The project goal is to create a number of GREEN Islands in the Baltic Sea. This will be done by investing in teaching and education on how to successfully improve the lifestyle and actions thereof, to become more environmental friendly. Such a small scale transformation will help to improve the Baltic Sea environment.

The overall target is to have many islands qualify for a specific environmental certification - We Are a Green Island. The process for the certification is still under investigation.

We feel that this journey is just about to start. For us it is extremely important to listen to feedback provided by the Islands joining the project. At the moment we are mainly looking for an indication of interest from islands interested to join our mission.

Our strategy is to recognize interested parties with a specific logotype - "We are participating in the Green island project". In order to become part of the project we would like the following FIVE steps to be fulfilled in order to become fully integrated with the project.

Yours sincerely



**Lennart Andersson**  
Pre-study leader SRF

## You become a green island - project overview

1

### Initial Meeting January – March 2010

*A first organizational meeting. Decision to participate. Contact persons assigned. An agreement signed with the SRF, the city and the island.*

2

### Start up phase April – July 2010

*How is our situation today? Energy sources, energy consumption in houses, commercial properties and in the farming industry. Vehicle orientation. Sewage issues.*

3

### Environmental plan Aug – Dec 2010

*This is what we have to do to reduce our sewage spillage, revamp our energy consumption and transform to use recyclable energy. An environmental plan to be drawn up.*

4

### Financial aspects January – December 2011

*All financial aspects of the project to be determined. Cooperative initiatives targeting new systems for sewage, energy production, wind plants etc.. Services will also become available to calculate other investments connected to housing improvements.*

5

### Action plan 2012-2013

*Action is planned for 2012. We are looking to start certifying islands for the Green Island project in the beginning of 2013, with a yearly process following thereafter until the plan is fully integrated in daily life..*

**The Environment in the Baltic Sea is getting worse by the minute. Join the Green Island project today!**

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