

Goal-oriented environmental work gives results

The Environment Award is passed on

SFV has presented an internal environmental award every year since 1999. The purpose of the award is to recognise exemplary efforts aimed at improving and preserving the environment. For the eighth time since the Environment Award was instituted, the rotating award was presented to a proud and well-deserving employee. Thomas Ericsson received the 2007 Environment Award at an event at Cirkus in Stockholm in October. In addition to the honour and the rotating award, Thomas will also be given the opportunity to go on a study trip. He was awarded for his goal-oriented work with the climate management facilities at the Vasa Museum in 2006.

See the jury's explanatory statement on the next page.

Background to the project

The tenants at the Vasa Museum wanted to get a better climate management unit at the museum. The ship was deteriorating in the existing indoor climate and they wanted to stop the chemical breakdown process that has started in the ship's wooden parts. "At the same time that SFV wanted to meet the tenant's desires and demands, we also wanted to review what we could do to reduce energy consumption and find an improved, environmentally-friendly solution," says Thomas Ericsson.

A multi-functional climate management unit

This desire led SFV to decide to renovate the old climate management unit into a unit that can handle different functions: cooling, dehumidification, humidification, air-conditioning, reserve power, cooling water and heat pump functions. The goal was to reduce the use of both electricity and heat, and also that the unit would work without an oil burner being activated in the event of low temperatures. SFV also wanted to utilise the museum's location near the water on Djurgården in an efficient way. This was done by accessing cooling water outside the museum (from 28 metres down) and running it to the climate management unit.

Streamlining provides energy savings

Once the climate management unit was installed, Thomas started the monitoring and follow-up work. "It is an advanced unit with a complicated control system. In the beginning it mostly involved observing and learning. After that you learn by doing. But it's a never-ending process; you are never "finished," says Thomas. The system constantly has to be measured and adjusted. The result seems to get better and better the longer we work with the control system. The objective to reduce the oil burner's "emergency operation" in the event of low external temperatures was realised almost immediately in 2006 when the oil burner was tested just two times to ensure that the reserve power was functional. The heat pumps took care of the other operations. The concrete goal, reducing electricity use by five percent, was also reached in 2006.

The environmental impact of the new unit

The new climate management unit has made all parties extremely happy. Energy consumption has decreased and the environmentally impacting effects of operation are extremely low. This not only has a positive effect on the environment but also for the cost of operations. Above all, the Vasa Museum has gotten a climate and environment that is beneficial to the preservation of the ship.

Environmental effects:

- A total reduction in oil consumption by 99 percent compared with the average consumption during the years 1998–2005 (128 cubic metres of fuel oil divided among two boilers).
- A reduction of electricity consumption by 360 MWh/year, which is equivalent to 14 percent lower than the average consumption during 1998–2005.
- The consumption of heat has decreased by 60 percent (1,166 Mwh/year).

Today, the Vasa Museum is a happier tenant

The tenants of the museum are very committed and place strict demands on property management. We have an ongoing dialogue about the majority of aspects regarding the technical management of the building. The relation between SFV and the tenant has become much better since the climate management unit was renovated. Complaints have turned into praise. "The actual renovation of the climate management unit meant that our relation with the property managers improved dramatically," says Jacob Jacobson who works at the Vasa unit. "At the beginning we had meetings every two weeks and then once a month. Now, we meet once every six weeks. At the meetings we review all measurement values with our curators together with Thomas and Ulf at SFV. It actually functions incredibly well, and it continues to improve the whole time with additional refinements and adjustments. Today, the climate in the Vasa Museum not only meets our requirements, but is well within the guideline values that all experts within this type of operation recommend.

"SFV's Environment Award 2007 goes to property management technician, Thomas Ericsson, for the balanced and goal-oriented work for the climate management unit at the Vasa Museum."

Thomas Ericsson, right, and Ulf Bjärud, who share responsibility for SFV's operations and maintenance at the museum.

Jury's explanatory statement for the Environment Award 2007

Here is the jury's statement:

"In a proper and balanced way, property management technician, Thomas Ericsson, through his supervision of the new unit, has succeeded in reducing the impact on the environment while simultaneously taking into consideration the customer's interests and requirements. Once the climate management unit at the Vasa Museum was completed, the work with key figures and statistics was initiated in order to reduce consumption. The goal was to reduce the consumption of both electricity and heating and to also ensure that the unit would be able to function without an oil burner having to be utilised in the event of low temperatures. Thanks to the fact that colleague, Ulf Bjärud, took on the responsibility for general operation and maintenance issues at the Vasa Museum, Thomas has had the opportunity to create a financially beneficial operation with better control, which allows for greater environmental consideration by reducing the use of electricity and fossil fuels."

Vasa Museum

The new permanent home of the Man-of-War, Vasa, was unveiled in 1990. Up to that time, the ship had been preserved on a pontoon in a temporary shed made of corrugated tin for the 27 years since it was salvaged and raised in 1961. The museum is the result of a Nordic architecture competition, which was won by the contribution "Ask" for which construction began in 1987. From the outside, the dominating copper roof with stylised masts and yardarms can be seen. The large ship hall is 34 metres high and the ship is visible from all six floors throughout almost the whole museum. The ceiling height provides space for the placement of the standing rigging.