

24-01- 2014

## Researchers from London visiting Gothenburg and Celsius Project

### Studying cooperation in the district heating system.

English scholars are visiting Gothenburg to see how different players and stakeholders work together to build the city's district heating system. Their study is part of Gothenburg led project "[CELSIUS](#)", an EU project that aims to aid the transformation to sustainable cities.



CELSIUS research is part of the EU's Smart Cities project, launched last fall. The focus of the research is on district heating, taking advantage of waste heat and using it to heat homes. It is one area in which Gothenburg has gained much experience and is therefore taking on the role of leading the project. "There is a lot of waste heat in Europe and here you see a lot of potential. It's about wasted energy that can be used to build district heating networks", says Katrina Folland, Göteborg's Celsius project coordinator.

### Various actors interact

Building and using district heating requires complex structures and partnerships. "It involves many different actors: there must be someone who owns the network, there should be someone who delivers heat, those who buy the heat etc. This requires complicated contractual arrangements. Nobody goes into this if it's not profitable for them. It is this complex process of interactions that is studied by the group of scientists from London, which is also one of the cities in the Celsius project. The study addresses the question of how to facilitate acceptance for this type of solution, which involves large systems with large investment up-front and long-term thinking. We have done well within Gothenburg and that is why they come here to study what we have done", says Katrina Folland.

### Support other cities

She says that the project is developing many interesting technological innovations. – "But perhaps it is even more interesting how to get acceptance from politicians, how to get to an agreement, to engage in a fruitful dialogue and agree on who should own what", says Katrina Folland. In the course of their visit, the researchers

interviewed over 15 people, such as politicians and officials from environmental, municipal housing and Gothenburg Energy. – “They want to try to understand the drivers and barriers to building up this system, since many European cities are facing just that. We can benefit from the project, and learn how to support other cities and also recommend to the EU how to create policies”, says Katrina Folland.

### “There is a whole lot to learn here”



Sociologen Ofer Engel från London School of Economics leder forskargruppen som den här veckan besökt Göteborg.  
Foto: Maja Högvik

The research team led by sociologist Ofer Engel from the London School of Economics. – “I am impressed by the vast amount of experience and creativity that the City of Gothenburg has accumulated regarding district heating over the years. There is much here to learn”, he says. Ofer Engel says the district heating system in London is virtually in its infancy compared to Gothenburg, that many parts of the system must be built almost from scratch and that it is therefore worthwhile to take note of how Gothenburg has done it. Something which has surprised him during his visit to Gothenburg is how the various players work together and interact in order to agree.