

Environmental investments made the Delphi student housing area in Lund more attractive

Investments in the overall environment made the Delphi student housing area in Lund both environmentally friendly and attractive. Consumption of heating decreased by more than 1 800 MWh annually, and the area has gained richer biodiversity.

Before the upgrade, the Delphi student housing in Lund was uniform and somewhat dreary, with conventional heating, stormwater management and outdoor environment. But with grants from the Local Investment Programme (LIP), this area of housing has been both environmentally adapted and upgraded.

Delphi is a good example of environmental measures leading to improvements in areas other than those related purely to the environment, as the social environment has also been improved and the area has become more attractive.

The project lasted from 1998 to 2000 and was run by Stiftelsen AF Bostäder.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Heating consumption has decreased by 1 833 MWh/year.
- Before the measures were taken there were ten different habitats in the courtyard environment, and after the measures there were twenty.
- The stormwater is now dealt with ecologically.
- Recycling, waste separation and re-use have increased.

Photograph: Niclas Rudolf



IMPLEMENTATION

Parts of the walls were replaced and all the windows were replaced with smaller and better insulated ones under the project. The gable-ends were renovated and given additional insulation.

A large number of plant species were planted. Energy use and waste management have been made more efficient.

To increase the drainage of stormwater, some surfaces covered with slabs have been replaced with gravel surfaces, flowerbeds or grass. Some of the downpipes from the roofs have been routed to a newly created wetland.

The Delphinebadet public baths use just over 75 per cent of the heat in the moisture and air of the baths to heat the pools and the indoor air. At the request of the residents a major investment was made in roofed lockable cycle racks linked to the rental contract for the apartment concerned. The work has taken place in consultation with the residents, associations, municipality, employees, students of architecture, ecology and landscape architecture and researchers. An integrated approach has been crucial to the success of the project at many levels.

POTENTIAL AND FUTURE BENEFIT

Creating sustainable cities is an important task. The fact that many different types of good environmental solutions are developed within an urban district or residential area makes it possible to develop integrated system solutions or other comprehensive solutions. We also gain “shop windows” for Swedish environmental technology, in which many people and companies can be involved. Good environmental solutions in an area also make the whole area more attractive.

WHY BEST PRACTICE

The project has been of great social significance and has had positive economic effects for instance on new entrepreneurs in companies for energy-efficient technology.

The habitats created in the courtyard are an example of rethinking. The result with regard to the number of new habitats was substantially better than expected. The gender distribution among the tenants has improved.

The project has attracted broad attention in the mass media. The combined result is extremely successful. Delphi is no longer the area where rooms are let last.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Contractors/providers

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The range of habitats was measured by
staff from the Department of Plant Ecology
at Lund University and Ekologihuset.

The project on the Internet:

www.afbostader.se

Further information on Best Practice

www.swedishepa.se/bestpractice
www.naturvardsverket.se/mir

FACTS

LIP Lund 1998
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