

## Vålådalen in Åre makes a commitment to the ecocycle

**Vålådalen has invested in the remote control of heating at its mountain station and a joint waste management centre for the whole village. The project has not just led to energy savings. Important cooperation has been developed through the waste management centre between inhabitants and businesses in the small village.**

The small village of Vålådalen in the Municipality of Åre has around 20,000 overnight stays every year. There are 16 permanent households in the village. When the municipality received a grant through the local investment programmes (LIP), the ongoing environmental adaptation was further enhanced by installing compression machines, hot-air compost, waste disposers and equipment for remote control of the heating in a central building at the Vålådalen mountain station. The project is a successful example showing how a small population centre can develop its waste management. Since the LIP project came to an end, the continued work on energy saving has been concerned with introducing more advanced systems.

### POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Electricity saving of 47 MWh per year
- Reduction in quantity of household waste sent to landfill of 51 tonnes/year
- Reduced transport

Photograph: Oskar Svärd/Vålådalen



## IMPLEMENTATION

The permanent households were involved early on in the environmental adaptation process and also use the mountain station's waste management centre to deal with their refuse. As the nearest public waste management centre is 27 kilometres away, reduced transportation was one of the direct gains from the local waste management centre. By making a commitment to local businesses and locally produced food, transport has been reduced and local and regional commerce have been promoted.

Compressors for waste have resulted in less air being transported with the refuse and have made waste management by staff more efficient. In addition, compressed material can be stored longer. The installation of remote-controlled heating in the main building of the mountain station has reduced energy consumption and resulted in more even and comfortable temperatures in its rooms.

Finding local expertise for technical solutions has posed problems. It has also been difficult to obtain statistics on energy consumption. The project has generated interest from Norway, among other places, and has also attracted attention in the mass media.

## POTENTIAL AND FUTURE BENEFIT

Efficient management of organic waste using the new technical solutions can replace waste transport and provide good technical support for the separation of waste by businesses and households. There is an environmental objective to increase biological treatment for food waste. Local management of waste fractions reduces the need to transport waste.

## WHY BEST PRACTICE

The project has been successful in involving and engaging the entire workforce of the mountain station. Smooth cooperation between businesses and population of the village has also been brought about. When the project was implemented, a commitment was made to what was then new technology. The project can also be advantageously implemented at other smaller population centres in the mountains. The station has been selected to serve as an example and a model by the County Administrative Board, to show how villages in sparsely populated regions and in the mountains can be made environmentally sound.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact:  
Benckt Aspman, Municipality of Åre,  
+46 (0)647-161 00, benckt.aspman@are.se

Lars Östlund, Vålådalen Tourist Office,  
+46 (0)70-625 64 57, latti@valadalen.se

The project on the Internet:  
[www.novator.se/kretslopp/9701/valadalen.html](http://www.novator.se/kretslopp/9701/valadalen.html)  
[www.are.se/are/leftmenu/Fakta%20om%20kommunen/miljo/3.3\\_a\\_LIP.pdf](http://www.are.se/are/leftmenu/Fakta%20om%20kommunen/miljo/3.3_a_LIP.pdf)

For further information on Best Practice  
[www.swedishepa.se/bestpractice](http://www.swedishepa.se/bestpractice)  
[www.naturvardsverket.se/mir](http://www.naturvardsverket.se/mir)

## FACTS

LIP Åre 1999  
Action 08  
Environmental investment: SEK 493,967  
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