

# HYDROPOWER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*A MATTER OF ETHICAL, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSIDERATIONS*

United Nations symposium

27-29 October 2004

Beijing, China

Björn S. SVENSSON  
SwedPower AB

Urban NORSTEDT  
Vattenfall AB

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Neither just sustainability

- No sustainability without development

- nor just development

- No good development without sustainability

# Human and Nature

## Human is a part of Nature

- With the right to be there
- With certain responsibility

# Electrification

- **Vital precondition for**
  - **Economic development**
  - **Quality of life**
  - **Poverty alleviation**
  - **Increasing the well-being of people**
- **But**
  - **Never without adverse effects**
- **Hydropower seems to be one of the best options**

# First some words about Vattenfall

## Vattenfall

– A Leading European Energy Company

***5th in size in Europe***

- ***160 Twh***
- ***31 000 MW***
- ***44% Fossil, 34% Nuclear and 22% Hydro Power (in Sweden 50%)***

## So far we operate mainly in..

**Finland**  
**Germany**  
**Poland**  
**Sweden**



- Hydro power
- Nuclear power
- Thermal power/other
- Thermal power/lignite
- Network operations
- Transmission operations
- Partly-owned networks

## Social commitment

Lars G Josefsson  
President and Chief Executive Officer



“As a leader of Vattenfall, **I see no conflict between profitability and responsibility** - on the contrary they are two sides of the same coin. **The energy business must** provide benefits to society and **earn public acceptance.**”

**Society rightly expects a great deal from us. As an energy company, our work directly influences industry as well as the quality of life of all our customers.”**

## Company Ethics

**Business goals includes limitations!**

- Business seems some times to be just about money
  - But it is not!!
    - At least not short-term money!!!



# Ethic Drivers

Escaping for life

*First protection of*

- Life
  - *Ethic values*
- Health
  - *Ethic values*
- Environment
  - *Ethic values*



# Vattenfall Ethic Values

## In brief

- *We shall behave responsibly towards the world around us - towards people as well as nature.*
- We shall **treat everybody with due respect** and act towards others in a way that we would wish others to act towards us. This applies insides Vattenfall as well as outside.
- We shall **respect** the prevailing views and values of **the different cultures in which we operate**. All our operations must obey national and local laws, stipulations and agreements.

And now I would like to hand over to..

Dr Björn S. Svenson  
SwedPower AB



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

# GREENHOUSE GASES EMISSION

FROM DIFFERENT KINDS OF POWER PLANTS  
[g CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents per kWh<sub>el</sub>]

FUEL	GHG emission	Comment
Coal	1272 (600)	Global average (Best Available Technology)
Oil	≈733	
Natural gas	≈650 (508)	(Advanced cycle)
Nuclear	<35	
Hydro	Negative – (<1200)	Emissions >1000 are exceptional
Wind	(≈35)	Non-firm electricity, i.e. emission from back-up must be considered

# BIODIVERSITY

## *Calculation of Impact*

**Amount of land (m<sup>2</sup>) required to produce  
1 kWh  
X  
Abundance (no. of inds.) of insects per unit  
area**

# BIODIVERSITY

## *Impact*

PROJECT	Annual average energy production (GWh)	Land appropriation (km <sup>2</sup> )	Specific loss of insects (inds x kWh <sup>-1</sup> )
Hornsö	<b>10</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>75</b>
Lule älv	<b>13 600</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>120</b>

## Biomass Fuel and Biodiversity

- Annual Yield of Wood =  $0.5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$
- $1 \text{ kg}_{\text{dw}} = <5 \text{ kWh}_{\text{heat}}$
- $1 \text{ kg}_{\text{dw}}$  supports  $>500$  insects
- 20% of annual yield is available as FR

  $>1000 \text{ insects} \cdot \text{kWh}_{\text{heat}}^{-1}$   
are lost

# Summary: Loss of Biodiversity

## Power

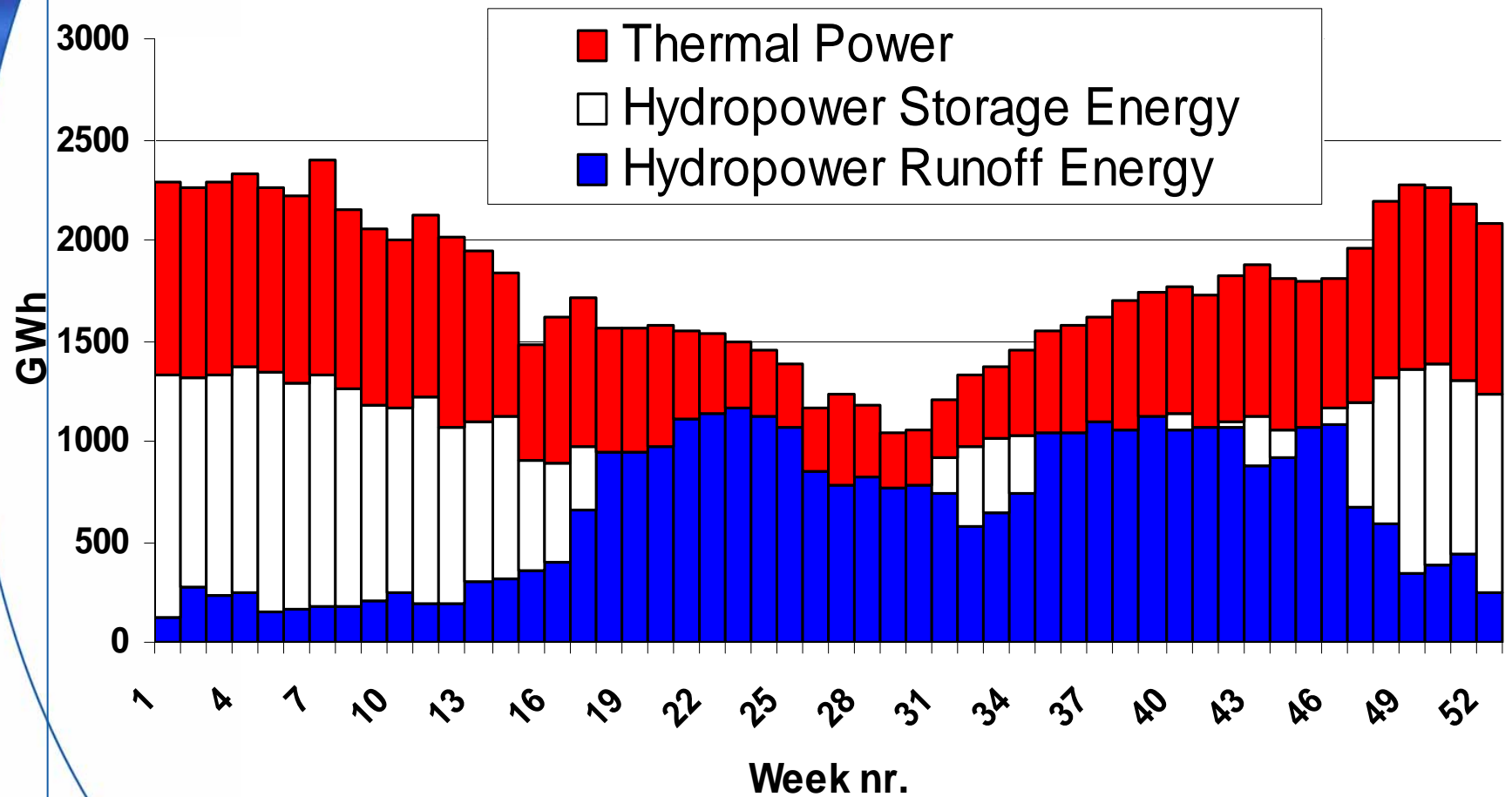
- Hydropower with reservoirs
- Run-of-river hydropower
- Biomass fuel as forest residues

## Reduces insect abundance by

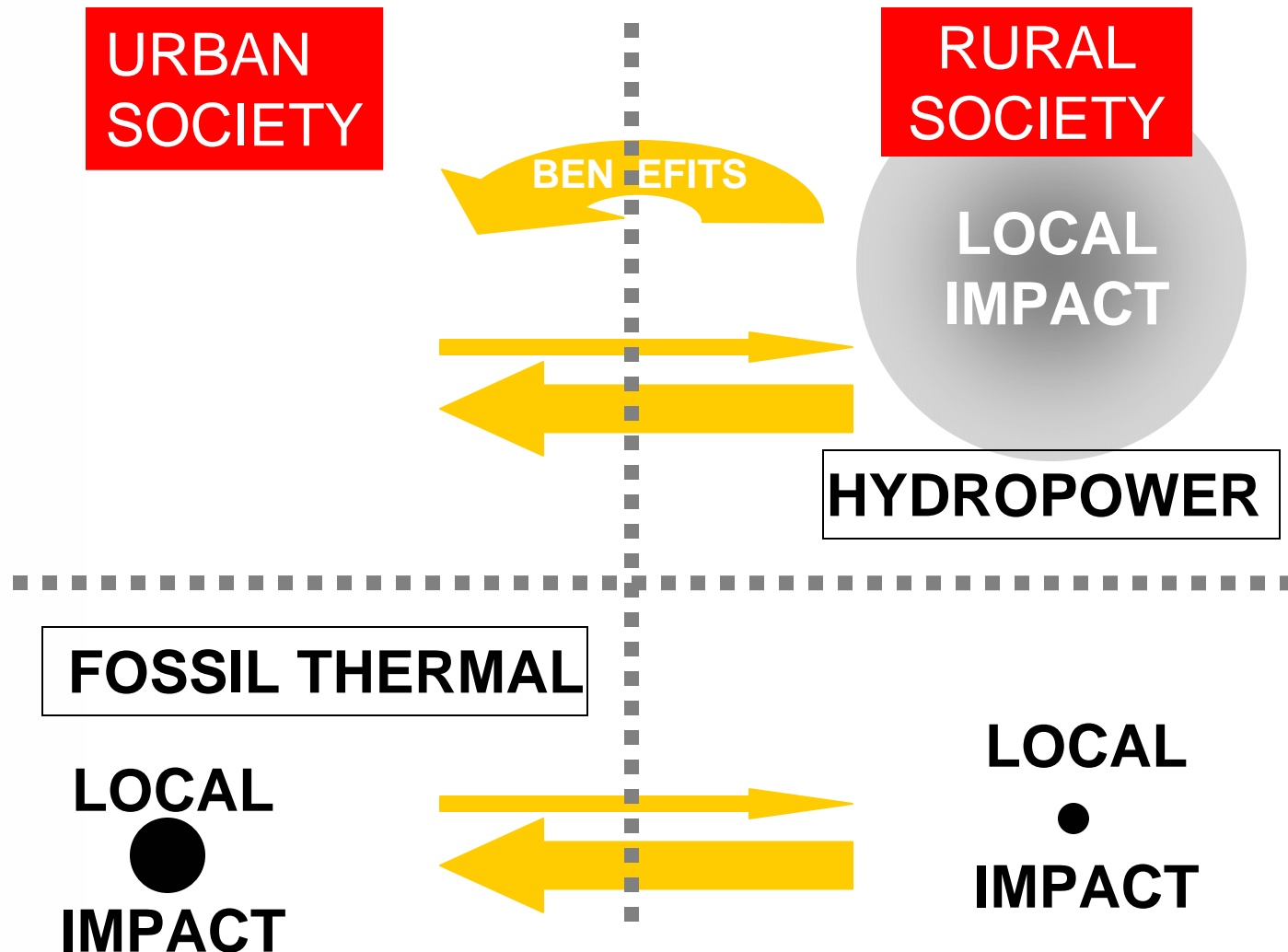
- $<120$  inds  $\cdot$  kWh<sub>el</sub>
- $\ll 75$  inds  $\cdot$  kWh<sub>el</sub>
- $>1000$  inds  $\cdot$  kWh<sub>heat</sub>



# Electricity production in Sweden 1987



# Benefits and Concerns



# SUSTAINABLE HYDROPOWER?

**Yes!**

**Provided:**

- *people are better off following flow regulations*
- *hydropower provides a better degree of service that is less expensive compared to other options*
- *specific impact on biodiversity is less than or equal to alternative means of power generation*

**And provided that:**



**• People know and appreciate all this!!**



- Thanks!!