



SWITCH

The Sustainable Energy People

SWITCH news, December 1st, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be this **Friday, December 4th, at 8:00 am**, at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be SWITCH member and Certified Financial Planner, **Betty-Anne Howard**. Betty-Anne will be talking about the Global, National and Provincial landscape as it pertains to SRI's and the relevance to SWITCH members and the Energy Sector. *Socially Responsible/Sustainable Investing (SRI's): Making the links between how we live our lives, spend our money and invest our money*. She has asked everyone to please go to the following link to complete her questionnaire which will help her focus on the most salient points for her presentation, http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=f55Z4XZtSzJhA6aoWX5UA_3d_3d

If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments for an Open Meeting, at a cost of \$30, or sponsoring an e-newsletter, at a cost of \$60, please contact Catherine or Ted, info@switchkingston.ca. The refreshments for the December 4th Open Meeting will be sponsored by **Betty-Anne Howard**. The refreshments for the January meeting and AGM on January 8th, will be sponsored by The Kiwanis Club. February will be sponsored by Nedco, a Division of Rexel Canada Electrical Inc., with a featured cheese donation from Fifth Town Artisan Cheese. March will be sponsored by John Marriott, OSIssoft Canada ULC.
Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!

Open Meetings will be held at Innovation Park in the Conference Room attached to the main entrance to Novellis. Attendees of Open Meetings can enter and exit without having to be signed into the facility, but please continue to sign the SWITCH attendance sheet.

All visitors to SWITCH can enter through the main entrance to Novellis (the front doors) and ask the receptionist to call the SWITCH office (dial 9+613-547-6700 x129). We will

SWITCH News & Announcements

- 1.** A big welcome to new member **R.W. Electric** and **Kingston Solar Installations**.
- 2.** SWITCH is offering a series of business presentations on *How your rooftop can make you money: The new Green Energy Act and your business*. Launched on October 1st, 2009, the new Green Energy Act will enable Ontario businesses to unlock their rooftop

asset and earn revenue by generating solar energy and feeding it back into the grid. There are also incentives for your business to become part of the quickly growing renewable energy market by diversifying your products or processes. **Please read the attached for more detailed information.** There are trade show booth opportunities for SWITCH members. **Please feel free to distribute this information to anyone you know who may be interested in attending.** The events will be held on the following dates:

Dec. 8 – City of Quinte West, Council Chambers, 7 Creswell Dr., Trenton, Ontario
Registration 8 am, Presentation 8:30 to 9:30 am, Networking after presentation

Dec. 10 – Brockville Country Club, 1548 Hwy 2, Brockville, Ontario
Registration 8 am, Presentation 8:30 to 9:30 am, Networking after presentation

Dec. 10 – Verona Lions Hall, 4465 Sands Hall Rd., Verona, Ontario, 7 to 8:30 pm.

Please contact SWITCH Outreach and Event Coordinator Andy Mills for more information, amills@switchontario.ca, (613) 547-6700 x130.

3. SWITCH will be co-hosting a December 'Technology Partners Mix and Mingle – Come Play by the Lake' with KTC, KEDCO, Parteq Innovations, Innovation Park, and ELORIN on Wednesday, December 16th. The event will be held at the Harbour Restaurant, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. It's a great chance to meet everybody in the innovation and technology sector. **The event is free, R.S.V.P. if you are interested in attending.**
4. SWITCH Executive Director Ted Hsu was interviewed by *The Kingston Whig Standard* last week about the solar energy workshops SWITCH will be running starting this week. Please go to <http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2189598> to read the full article.
5. SWITCH Executive Director Ted Hsu will be speaking at the Canadian Club on Thursday, December 10th, about "Cap and Trade for Greenhouse Gases: what is it, why does it matter; benefits to Kingston." The meeting will be held at Minos Uptown Village Restaurant, 2762 Princess St., starting at 11:30 am. The cost is \$24 for members of the Canadian Club and \$29 for non-members. Reservation is required, please call Minos Restaurant, (613) 384-2021 if you would like to attend.
6. Website feature:
http://www.quintesustainability.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=85&Itemid=62
7. SWITCH's Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday, January 8th at 8 am. We are currently accepting nominations for those interested in serving as a Director for the next year (on a Board of 9 members), and from anyone interested in acting as a Student Director for 2010. Please send nominations to SWITCH, info@switchkingston.ca.
8. SWITCH staff members Mark Gibson, Andy Mills and Pierre Nadeau will be working to provide value added services to small and medium enterprises who are either in the supply chain or consumers of sustainable energy products and services over the next four months. If you know of an SME that we might not have thought of, please contact us.
9. **"Become a SWITCH sponsor"**: You may have noticed this message at the top of the sidebar of our updated website. That space, as well as space on our weekly e-newsletter, and our email signature, will be available on an annual basis to a SWITCH sponsor. Please consider providing vital financial support to SWITCH and its mission of

making the Kingston region a centre for sustainable energy. Contact SWITCH executive director Ted Hsu for more information.

SWITCH Member News & Announcements

1. Congratulations to SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College** – a groundbreaking event for the Wind Turbine and Trades Training Facility was held last Friday, with the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment, in attendance. To read more please go to <http://www.sl.on.ca/index.aspx?iPageID=135&iID=1&iMenuID=2&iCurrID=45&iNewSID=301>
2. **Employment:** SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College** is seeking an Industry Liaison. **The deadline has been extended to December 7th.** Please go to this site for more information: <http://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/index.aspx?iPageID=3469&iMenuID=10>
Cam MacEachern provided the following background information about the position: *"The new Industry Liaison role commencing soon at St. Lawrence College is funded by Ontario's Ministry of Research and Innovation's Spring 2009 expansion of the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation (CONII) which St. Lawrence is now joining. The network will enable regional industries to fund applied research projects in partnership with colleges and pointing toward commercial improvements. SWITCH participated last winter in a letter-writing campaign advising the ministry of the value in expanding CONII."*
3. SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese**, won the Grand Champion Specialty Cheese Award for their Cape Vessey washed rind and cave aged goat cheese at the 2009 British Empire Cheese Competition. The title of Grand Champion Specialty Cheese means Cape Vessey was the highest scoring specialty cheese out of 193 entries (goat, sheep, and cow milk varieties). Cape Vessey is affectionately known by Fifth Town as "the little cheese that could". Fifth Town also won 9 other awards for their cheeses at the competition. Please visit their website to learn more <http://www.fifthtown.ca/>.
4. SWITCH member **Anton Driesse** gave a brief presentation on behalf of Sustainable Energy Technologies (SET) at the last SWITCH meeting. Anton reported that SET will start manufacturing their 5kW inverters in Ontario soon, and they are looking for sites to carry out technology comparisons. The sites should be large enough to accommodate 2 or 3 systems of 5kW, side-by-side, with minimal shading (approx. 500-1000 sq m). Some low, flat, commercial roof space is needed, as well as open space for ground mounting. The systems could be owned either by SET or the host. Interested parties can contact Anton, anton.driesse@kos.net, (613) 546-3676 or Brent Harris of SET, brent.harris@sustainableenergy.com.
5. On the 3rd Tuesday of every month, SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, teaches a course on "Greening Your Home" at 67A Plant Street in Batawa from 7 to 9 pm. The seminar covers the various aspects of making your home more sustainable: site selection, design professional selection, architectural features (such as insulation, windows, flooring, framing, ICF, etc.), renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal, micro-hydro), energy grants, rating systems, landscaping, energy and water conservation.
6. SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College's** Energy Systems Engineering Technician Technologists students are seeking renewable energy design projects in the Kingston

area. They will work with their clients to develop a feasibility level investigation of the design required and the project economics for small wind, solar thermal, solar electric, hydro or biomass projects. Please contact Steve Lapp (slapp@sl.on.ca) for further information.

Local non-member News & Announcements

1. **Newsflash:** G&R Inc., a solar company based out of South Korea, will be establishing a Canadian presence later this month, locating administrative and research offices at Innovation Park. Established in 1997 for the manufacturing and selling of solar energy materials, G&R Inc., provides total solutions in the construction of photovoltaic power plants.
2. The City of Kingston's Rack and Roll service officially ended for the season yesterday, November 30th. The bicycle racks will return to service in April, 2010. This is the sixth year Kingston transit has offered this service to cycling commuters.
3. The official website for Sustainable Kingston (an ICSP from FOCUS Kingston), can be viewed by going to <http://www.sustainablekingston.ca/>. Comments on the plan are easy to make by clicking on the blue circular icons found throughout the website.
4. FOCUS Kingston will be holding a series of community meetings to discuss the first draft of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) at the following dates and locations from 6:30 to 9:00 pm:
 - Dec. 2 - Cataraqui Region Conservation Area (West Hall), 1641 Perth Rd.
 - Dec. 3 - INVISTA Centre (Rona Hall), 1350 Gardiners Road.
5. Ontario Biogas Systems Operator's Course, Belleville, Ontario, January 26-29th, 2010. The course will teach operating parameters, testing methods, biogas system safety, and monitoring procedures to optimize performance. For more information, please call 1-866-242-4460 or visit <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/biogas/course.htm> for more information.
6. If you interested in having a property that can generate hydro-electricity for the FIT program, Alison Robinson of Lake District Realty has just listed a property that is a former grist mill, and she invites SWITCH newsletter readers to look at the details, <http://www.lakedistrictrealty.com> (click on the "New Listings" button on the lower right, and near the top of the list should be the "Eagle Creek" property).
7. The following links provide information on the proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code, expected to take effect in late 2011, <http://www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca/Page3117.aspx> and <http://www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=1135>. You are encouraged to comment. If there's interest, SWITCH can make a joint submission from its members.
8. Dave Charlesworth has set up a microFIT users group, consisting of a blog and newsgroup for those involved in the microFIT program. To contribute to the blog, please go to <http://mfogblog.posterous.com/> and for the newsgroup, please go to <http://groups.google.com/group/mfog-microfit-ontario-group/>.
9. The 5th Annual Sustainable Living Symposium will take place on March 20th at Loyalist College from 8:30 am to 5 pm. The event will be followed by a Green Homes Tour on March 21st. They are currently accepting exhibitor applications. Please go to http://www.quintesustainability.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=53 for more information and to register.
10. **New Grant program:** The Community Energy Partnerships Program,

<http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2009/09/ontario-supports-local-investments-in-green-energy.html> is offering one time financial assistance of up to \$200,000 for project planning, environmental and engineering studies. The program is open to community groups, including cooperatives, non-profit groups and local partnerships. Projects are eligible to receive a graduated incentive, based on the percentage of local ownership, of up to 1 cent/kilowatt hour in addition to standard feed-in-tariff rates.

- 11. SWITCH Membership Benefit: Wintergreen Studios** is a new off-grid education and retreat centre located in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, less than an hour's drive from Kingston. The lodge is solar-powered and features straw bale and green roof construction. **Meeting and retreat facilities, as well as one-day and two-day workshops, are offered at a 10% discount to SWITCH members.** Please advise them you are a SWITCH member when registering in order to receive the discount. To see a listing of workshops for 2009/2010, including "Living Off the Grid" and "Cordwood Building", please visit <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com/SustainableBuildingandMindfulLiving.php>.

Non-local News & Announcements

1. To read about how climate change might affect the insurance sector, please go to this site, <http://www.cleanbreak.ca/2009/11/28/what-the-insurance-industry-think-about-climate-change-and-sea-level-rise-not-pretty/#more-1901>.
2. CanSIA Solar Conference 2009, December 7-8, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto. Please go to this site to learn more and to register <http://www.cansia.ca/2009CanSIASolarConference>. **The Government of Ontario will be expanding their Energy Connections initiative to support long-term partnerships between Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and Ontario suppliers across the solar energy sector.** If you are an OEM seeking Ontario component manufacturers, or if you are a supplier, please contact their Energy Connections staff at: solar@ontario.ca, or visit them in person during the conference, at booth #320. They will be offering short one-on-one meetings during the CanSIA conference to potential suppliers. The Energy Connections Solar Directory of Ontario Manufacturers and Suppliers can be found at <https://www.showreg.net/OSEI2009/>.
3. **Event:** Renewable Energy in Ontario: Leadership Opportunities for a More Sustainable, Green Energy Economy, March 1-2, St. Andrew's Club and Conference Centre, 150 King St. West, Toronto, http://www.insightinfo.com/index.cfm?ci_id=26525&la_id=1.
4. **Event:** Growing the Margins: Green Energy and Economy for the Farm and Food Sectors, March 8-12, London Convention Centre, London, Ontario. This conference will be held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Canadian Farm & Food Biogas Conference and Exhibition. Please go to <http://www.gtmconference.ca> and <http://www.gtmconference.ca/site/index.php/canadian-farm-and-food-biogas> for more information.
5. **Funding Opportunity:** Does your business have a need that could be met by a University researcher and a student? MITACS will find the researcher and student, match your dollars 1:1, with minimal paperwork on your part. It's not just limited to science and engineering. For more information on the program, contact SWITCH or contact MITACS directly: Alison Lee, alee@mitacs.ca, 416-650-8439 (bus.) and 647-519-1211 (cell).

Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you at the next SWITCH Open Meeting,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant
SWITCH

at Innovation Park, 945 Princess Street,

Kingston, ON K7L 3N6

613-547-6700 x 129

info@switchkingston.ca

<http://switchkingston.ca/>

SWITCH thanks the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**
and the members of SWITCH for their financial support
Has SWITCH helped you? Would you like to support our work?
Please consider becoming a member or a sponsor of SWITCH.

For more information, go to our website: <http://switchkingston.ca/> or phone us!

SWITCH often provides services, or is available for consultations, on a confidential basis. We would be happy to accept any request that you have to keep certain information confidential. However, one of SWITCH's main activities is networking services. Unless otherwise requested, you should expect that information which the SWITCH staff learns in communications with you might be used to make progress on our mission of making the Kingston region a centre for sustainable energy.