



SWITCH

The Sustainable Energy People

SWITCH news, March 2nd, 2010

This week's edition sponsored by:



Greetings Everyone!

The next SWITCH Open Meeting **will take place on Friday, March 5th, 8 am, Queen's Innovation Park, 945 Princess St., 2nd Floor Lecture Room.** John Marriot of OSIssoft Canada ULC will discuss opportunities in facilities energy management, and Anton Driesse of PV Performance Labs, will talk about the details that can be extracted from operating PV plants, and how those can be used to maximize yield. **Please enter through the west side entrance and follow the signs.**

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 March open meeting will be sponsored by John Marriott, OSIssoft Canada ULC, April will be sponsored by SWITCH member **CPE Division-L Inc.** The May open meeting will be sponsored by NEDCO, and June, July and September will be sponsored by Kingston Solar Installations.

Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!

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 come and badge you in. **Parking is available in the WEST parking lot.**

SWITCH News & Announcements

1. A big welcome to new members **Dorothy Hector**, and **Ken Davies** and a special thank you to renewing members **TAB Mechanical** and **Boom Strategy**.
2. The Friday open meeting will be webcast. To watch, go to the SWITCH homepage <http://www.switchkingston.ca/index.php> and follow the instructions listed beside the share widget. **(You must register at least 1 hour before)**. If you received an invitation from DimDim you can also join up by following the instructions contained within the email invitation.
3. Promote your product to an audience "in the dark"! For Earth Hour, Kingston UNPLUGGED 2010 (March 27, Springer Market Square, 7-10 pm) is seeking fantastic prizes to raffle and is asking for donations. If you would like to contribute an item to this event that is gearing up for over 1000 people attending, contact Jennifer Kiwala,

jkiwala@switchontario.ca or 613-547-6700 x130 . Kingston Unplugged is looking for sponsorships. Please see the attached form if you are interested in helping out.

4. *How your rooftop and land can make you money: The new Green Energy Act and your business*, March 10th, 7:00 pm, Rideau Canal Museum, 34 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls. Launched on October 1st, 2009, the new Green Energy Act will enable Ontario businesses to unlock their rooftop and land assets 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. RSVP to register@switchkingston.ca.
5. SWITCH business presentations given by Mark Gibson and Jennifer Kiwala were featured in the Haliburton Echo <http://www.haliburtonecho.on.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?archive=true&e=2460641> and the Perth EMC last week, <http://www.emcperth.ca/20100225/Events/Get+%22FIT%22%2C+go+green+and+make+money>.
6. **Calling All Editors and Knowledgeable Readers:** Our Energy Digest is being read by more and more people as the Internet search engines discover us...and that means we have an even greater need for high quality, up-to-date information. This is currently the most complete source of reliable information on the FIT and microFIT program. SWITCH now needs you to share your expertise by editing the Energy Digest: simply go to www.switchontario.ca/wiki, and when you see something that you think should be different, log in (very easy) and make the changes. SWITCH staff will monitor all changes and ensure accuracy, style and correct spelling, so don't be shy! Call Mark at 613-532-7220 if you have other ideas or want help connecting.
7. **"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. **ELORIN** is part of the organizational team behind the 2010 Sustainable Living Symposium, taking place on March 20th at Loyalist College, Belleville. With interactive workshops and featuring 50 local businesses, organizations and products, the focus is on local services and solutions. You can register online, <http://www.quintesustainability.ca/> or by calling Quinte Conservation, (613) 968-3434 x131. The trade show will be followed by a Green Homes Bus Tour by the County Sustainability Group on March 21st.
2. SWITCH member **Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative**, will be holding an information session on federal and provincial grants available to homeowners to help offset the cost of retrofitting their home to reduce energy consumption. The information session will be held at the **Kingston Sustainability Centre**, 193 Princess Street, on **Tuesday, March 9th, from 7 to 9 pm**. Homeowners are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in combined federal and provincial grants until March 31st, 2011.
3. SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, is part of the CanSIA Technical Review Committee for NABCEB Solar Thermal Certification taking place in Toronto this week. Michael will be attending the Canadian Apprentice Forum in St. John's Newfoundland to speak on 'Green Building' on June 6 – 8. He will be attending the

Canada Green Building Council's Annual Summit in Vancouver, BC, to speak about 'LEED and The Pipe Trades – Development of a National Curriculum', on June 8 – 10.

4. SWITCH member **Dirk McLaughlin** gave a seminar this morning on the Characterization of InGaN for Optimization in Photovoltaic Applications at Queen's University. Please see the attached abstract to learn more about this topic.
5. **Update:** Brant Peppley, Director, **Queen's-RMC Fuel Cell Research Centre** provided the following fuel cell updates: FCRC has received an OCE Interact grant for a collaborative project with NextHydrogen, a company based in Mississauga that has a new approach to increasing the capacity of conventional alkaline electrolyzers. They have also contracted FCRC as a subcontractor for an NRC-IRAP contribution. INI Power is a North Carolina company funded by Canadians. They have developed an innovative 75W methanol-fuelled portable power system. Potential manufacturing opportunities exist in Canada. Again, the FCRC is involved and funding is partially provided by NRC-IRAP.
6. SWITCH member **AEPAY Global Energy** is looking for large commercial rooftop space for lease for the installation of solar panels. AEPAY plans on having several 250 kW arrays in place by the summer. Any inquiries can be directed to SWITCH member **Chris Morris**, sales representative with RealtySource Inc., brokerage. (613) 546 4208 (office), (613) 539 8438 (cell), chris@chris-morris.ca. Please see the attached for more information.

Local non-member News & Announcements

1. FOCUS Kingston is currently seeking feedback for the 2nd draft of Sustainable Kingston, An Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, via their website, <http://www.sustainablekingston.ca/>. Click on the blue circular icons. **The public is invited to attend a meeting on March 10th**, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour in the Press Lounge, to join in the conversation and offer input.
2. Hydro One has proposed an approximate \$6 per month service charge per embedded micro generator account for administrative costs. The Distribution Rate for Embedded Micro Generators will form part of Hydro One's 2010/2011 Distribution Rate Application. Implementation of the service fee could begin on May 1st. The final charge will be determined based on an approval from the OEB. Any questions about the service charge can be directed to Hydro One's Business Customer Centre, dxgenerationconnections@hydroone.com, 1-877-447-4412 (8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday).
3. **Event:** Innovation 2010, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, 53 Yonge St., March 25th, 8 am to 5 pm. Please go to <http://www.innovation2010.ca/> for more information and to register.
4. **Event:** Earth, Body, Spirit Expo, June 5-6, Invista Centre. There will be opportunities for exhibitors, workshop presenters, demonstrations, sponsorships, and volunteers to participate. For more information go to www.EarthBodySpiritExpo.com, or call 613-767-9721, info@withinkingston.com. The application deadline is April 10th. **A 10% discount is available to all SWITCH Members.**

Non-local News & Announcements

1. A partnership between Calgary-based Sustainable Energy Technologies Ltd., and German conglomerate Bosch Group to package SET's inverter technology with thin-film solar modules manufactured by Bosch might be announced later today. The thin-film solar product is cheaper to manufacture and uses less silicon material than conventional

crystalline silicon cells. The modules and inverters are expected to be assembled in Ontario. To read the full story please go to <http://www.thestar.com/business/article/773554--bosch-latest-to-tap-ontario-s-solar-market>

2. Schuco Canada is offering a series of training sessions for solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal starting in March and April. Please go to their website for full details of each course, http://www.schueco.com/web/ca/commercial/trainings_events/solar_trainings_events.
3. Clean Tech Funding is available through SDTC (Sustainable Development Technology Canada). SDTC is accepting statements of interest from **February 24 to April 21, 2010**. "The SD Tech Fund™ invests in late-stage development and pre-commercial demonstration of clean technologies by Canadian companies." Please visit their website for more information, http://www.sdtc.ca/en/funding/NextGen_Biofuels_Fund/index.htm
4. **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 Open Meeting on Friday,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Mark Gibson, Green Energy Business Consultant; Jennifer Kiwala, Outreach & Event Coordinator; Pierre Nadeau, Sustainable Energy & Internet Communications Assistant; Catherine Humphreys, Administrator

SWITCH

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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.