



Greetings Everybody!

Our next Open Meeting will be held this **Friday, March 6th, 2009 at 8:00 am** in the Lecture Room at Queens Innovation Park. SWITCH member **Burt's Greenhouses**, will be speaking about Biochar, and showing a film made by Alec Ross about the biomass heating system they use for their greenhouses.

The new procedure for entering the building will be finalized in March. Stay tuned!

1. A big welcome to new members **Matthew Marsh** (Queen's) and **Ian Semple**, an Electrical Engineer pursuing a master's degree in Urban Planning at Queen's.
2. Congratulations to SWITCH member **PARTEQ Innovations** for receiving \$9.1 million from the federal government for the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence for Green Chemistry technologies. The Green Centre, located at Innovation Park, will be the first organization of its kind in North America. To read the full story, please go to <http://www.parteqinnovations.com/news.html>
3. *The Renewable Energy How To Workshop Series for Homeowners* developed by a group of SWITCH members (**Al Gibson, Ben Kenney, Bardi Vorster, Joshua Pearce, Pierre Nadeau, Karina McInnis and Ed Thomas (Queens University)**) starts tonight at **6:00 pm St. Lawrence College, room 1040**. There will be some opening ceremonies with Kingston City Councillor Dorothy Hector as the keynote speaker. Registration is closed for the March workshops, but you can still register for the April repeat workshops. More information can be found on the SWITCH website *Events* page, and under the "Announcements" section of the homepage, or by going to <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/> Go to the main entrance at St. Lawrence College and follow the posted signs.
4. **Event: GreenUP! 2009: we expect at least 1500 and probably more people to attend this year**, Sunday, April 19th, at the K-Rock Center (KRC). **Exhibitors can now sign up**. See the general information sheet attached to this email. The cost is \$10 for non-profits, \$100 for small businesses, and \$200 for large businesses. **SWITCH members will receive a 10% discount. We encourage SWITCH members to be exhibitors at this event: you'll get to talk to a lot of green minded people**. The organizers are looking for help with fundraising, communications, site logistics, programming/workshops, entertainment, food and more. There are big plans for the event this year; a partnership has formed with the City of Kingston and the Whig Standard, with the intent of increasing our exhibitor turnout and encouraging involvement with the city's sustainability initiatives. The festival will be taking place Please check out the GreenUP! website, at www.greenupfestival.ca, for more information. Kudos to SWITCH members **Louise Cooper and Caitlin Newey** for leading the organization of this annual event.
5. **Event: Nuclear Lies, Green Truths - An evening on Climate Solutions**, March 16th, 7:00 pm, the Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson St., Bruce Cox, the Executive Director of Greenpeace Canada will be speaking. Climate change solutions will be the focus of the evening, and the conflict that nuclear energy presents. Admission is free. For more information please go to <http://www.renewableisdoable.com/>

6. To educate yourself further on **Ontario's Green Energy Act**, please read the attached document - it provides a good summary of the highlights of the Act. Thanks to SWITCH members **Tom Carpenter** and **Rob Miller** for finding it.
7. **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.** The 2009 program list and rates can be found at <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com> . Please advise them that you are a SWITCH member when registering in order to receive the discount. **Ian Kilborn from Quantum Renewable Energy will be teaching a Living Off the Grid course on July 16th.**
8. SWITCH member **Hearthmakers** is still looking for members of its Board of Directors. Please see <http://www.switchkingston.ca/classifieds.php> for more details.
9. A group of Napanee High School students are looking for a home for their Solar Concentrator/Stirling Engine. Ideally, they would need 1-2 engine lathes (one with a swing of 12" and the other with a 16" swing) and a vertical milling machine (with accessories if possible). They can supply their own cuttings tools and drill press. If you know of any opportunities that might be available, or have any ideas, please contact George Knight at 613-476-5326 or by emailing george_nst@yahoo.com
10. **News:** SWITCH member **Rob Miller/Axio Power** brings this news item to our attention: First Solar is buying Optisolar's project stream for \$400m in stock. The significance is that First Solar now becomes *the* leading player in the US utility-scale solar industry.
11. **Event: ELORIN BioBreakfast**, Thursday, March, 12, 7:15 to 9:15 am, Donald Gordon Conference Centre, 421 Union St. The speaker will be Rick Minke, President of Ekofuel Technologies Inc. Rick Minke will discuss how Ekofuel's Pellet Pro Pelletizers are revolutionizing the pellet industry. For more information and to register, please go to <http://www.elorin.ca/>
12. **Event:** SWITCH will be exhibiting at the Quinte Conservation Sustainable Living Symposium on Saturday March 28th in Belleville. **If SWITCH members would like the SWITCH staff to take some of your product and services to display at the SWITCH booth, please let us know.** The event is usually quite well attended. For more information see <http://www.quintesustainability.ca/>
13. **Workshop Series Reminder:** ELORIN is running a series of Spring Training Workshops for Entrepreneurs. The workshops were developed with the support of PARTEQ Innovations, KEDCO, and the Kingston Technology Council. Please go to <http://www.elorin.ca/> for more information. Workshops will be held at Innovation Park from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on the following dates:
 - Mar 05 - Workshop #1 - The Plan
 - Mar 12 - Workshop #2 - Intellectual Property
 - Mar 18 - Workshop #3 - The Pitch
 - Apr 05 - Workshop #4 - The Money
 - Apr 09 - Workshop #5 - Strategic Marketing and Sales (SWITCH Board Member, **Theresa MacBeth, Boom Strategy**, will be speaking).
14. Kingston Technology Council's Innovation 2009 will take place on March 26th at the Holiday Inn. Please go to the website for more information: <http://www.kingstontechnology.net/publisher/articleview/frmArticleID/65/>
15. **A great new website** sponsored by the NY State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) can be found at

<http://www.powernaturally.org/programs/SchoolPowerNaturally/default.asp?i=9> There is lots of information on lesson plans for schools in the "In the Classroom" section (on the right hand side). Thank you to SWITCH member, **Rob Miller, Axio Power**, for sending this link.

- 16. FYI:** The Ontario Power Generation has issued a call to potential suppliers of biomass fuel and transportation services. It applies to both sustainable forest-based and non-food agricultural products and by-products. The call is in aid of a development program set-up to determine the commercial viability of replacing coal with biomass at existing coal-fuelled generating stations. Also, The Ministry of Natural Resources has issued a request for expressions of interest to turn available wood from Ontario's Crown forests into new investment and jobs. For more information please go to <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/>

Hope to see you at our next Open Meeting!

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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!