



SWITCH news  
May 5<sup>th</sup> 2009

Greetings Everybody!

**Reserve the Date:** Our next open meeting will be **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be announced shortly.

*New sign-in procedure:*

*All attendees of SWITCH Open Meetings can continue to enter through the West side doors (the entrance used previously) from 7:30 to 9:00 am. There will be a Sign-In and Sign-Out sheet available at the top of the stairs. Please remember to sign this sheet as you enter and exit.*

*All visitors to SWITCH must now enter through the main entrance to Novellis (the front doors) and call the SWITCH office (dial 9+613-547-6700 x129). There is an office phone book available if you need it. We will come down and badge you in.*

1. A big welcome to new SWITCH members **AEPAY Global Energy**, a new company based in Kingston and co-founded by former SWITCH Board member Adegboyega Babasola, and **John Fairlie**, an ESET student at St. Lawrence College.
2. As approved by the members of SWITCH, the SWITCH Board of Directors will be increasing in size from 7 to 9 members. If you have any suggestions for new Board members or are interested yourself, please contact [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca).
3. You can now make a charitable donation to fund certain activities of SWITCH that are classified as charitable work in the environmental area. SWITCH has set up a charitable partnership with the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA). Details on how to donate will appear soon on the SWITCH and CFKA websites. A committee has been set up to oversee the fund-raising activities of the partnership. Adegboyega Babasola, of SWITCH member **AEPAY**, has volunteered to be on the committee. Thank you Babs! The other members of the committee are, Andria Coward of the Community Foundation, **Theresa MacBeth** and **Stephen Sottile** of the Board Directors of SWITCH, and **Ted Hsu**, executive director of SWITCH.
4. SWITCH member **Upper Canada Solar Generation** will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony at their new 10 kW solar PV installation on 2437 Princess Street in Kingston. Environment Minister, the Hon. John Gerretsen, will be there to throw the switch this Friday, May 8, at 10:15 am. Congratulations to the owner of the building and solar panels, Peter Splinter Family Holdings. The building houses a new Shoppers Drug Mart store.
5. SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co.** is looking for volunteers to help build a "green" pavilion this month. Details can be found in the attached document. The pavilion is designed to create a rest area for visitors to Fifth Town. Please email [kathyk@lapointe-arch.com](mailto:kathyk@lapointe-arch.com) to register.

6. Please see the attached Snap Quinte article regarding the Eastern Ontario Sustainable Building Centre (EOSBC) developed by SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**.
7. Last week, SWITCH wrote letters to Premier McGuinty, Ministers Gerretsen and Smitherman, and the OPA about certain concerns that SWITCH's business members had about the implementation of the Ontario Green Energy Act. Ted Hsu, SWITCH Executive Director, was at the Liberal Party of Canada convention in Vancouver last weekend where he spoke to Dalton McGuinty and an aide of George Smitherman about the matter.
8. The Ontario government announced last week a change in the Green Energy Act: that energy audits will no longer be mandatory when a home is put up for sale. The *buyer* can now opt out of having an energy audit so that audits will become a voluntary part of the negotiating process between buyers and sellers. To read the full story please go to <http://www.thestar.com/News/Ontario/article/625446>
9. SWITCH Board member **Ian Rowberry**, is offering "Sustainability 101", a small group workshop that introduces participants to the basic fundamental scientific principles that underpin the [Natural Step](#)'s framework for sustainability. The aim of these facilitated discussions - replete with take-away resources and further learning suggestions - is to develop a common understanding of what "big picture" sustainability means and enable participants to start thinking about their own situations with regard to sustainability principles. It may also help participants to engage more confidently in Focus Kingston's upcoming sustainability summit and the City's vision to become [Canada's Most Sustainable City](#). The workshops/discussions are offered free of charge, are open to any all kinds of groups (families, colleagues, social circles, residents associations, union locals, etc.), and are funded by the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Maximum group size is five people, and this initial series is limited to 20 groups. Please contact Ian at [ianrowberry@gmail.com](mailto:ianrowberry@gmail.com) for more information.
10. Congratulations to SWITCH member **Allan Proulx of Eco-Alternative Energy** for his article, "Turning Power Production Into Power Profit" that appeared in the May-July issue of Within Kingston.
11. Congratulations to SWITCH member **Bardi Vorster** who appeared in the Whig Standard today as the landscape architect of the new Caraco LEED house currently under construction. To read the article, see <http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1553013>
12. To register an event, or make a pledge to reduce your energy consumption please go to the Energy Conservation Week website <http://www.energyconservationweek.ca/> and register for *Count me in!* Energy Conservation week is May 17-23.
13. The Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Education have announced a new program called The Green Schools Pilot Initiative. The program will provide real-world demonstrations of innovative green technologies and will enable companies to expand into the local, North American, and global markets. To read more, please go to the MRI website, <http://www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/programs/gspi/program.asp>.
14. The Spring Edition of the Ontario Power Authority's (OPA) *Electricity Guidelines for Farmers* is now available. Please go to [http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=924&SiteNodeID=296&AA\\_SiteLanguageID=1](http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=924&SiteNodeID=296&AA_SiteLanguageID=1) to learn more.
15. **Contest:** SWITCH member **John Johnson** and Mary Anne Higgs have donated "The Power Cost Monitor" by Canadian company BlueLine Innovations. It hooks onto your external electricity meter and connects to an indoor monitor by radio so that you can have real time feedback on your home electricity consumption. SWITCH will be giving away "The Power Cost Monitor" (It's like new and these things usually cost about \$100 or more) to whoever submits the best proposal for using it. Please write one paragraph and send it along with your contact

information to [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca). **Contest ends May 31. Please pass this on to anybody you think might be interested - especially anybody with connections to local schools. Send in your proposal today!**

16. Kingston was ranked Ontario's 3<sup>rd</sup> best place to live (after Victoria, B.C. and Ottawa-Gatineau, ON). To read the full article please go to <http://www.moneysense.ca>. Thank you to Steve Sottile, of SWITCH member **Utilities Kingston** for sending this.
17. **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 full listing of all one day workshops please go to <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com/2Day.php>. Information on 2 day workshops can be found by going to <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com/5Day.php>. **Ian Kilborn from SWITCH member Quantum Renewable Energy will be teaching a Living Off the Grid course on July 16<sup>th</sup>.** To watch a slide show about Wintergreen on YouTube please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAwzuRWWJjg>.
18. **Event Reminder:** LaFarge PPI Energy Farm Demonstration and Open House, Loyalist Golf & Country Club, Bath, ON, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 to 8 pm. The LaFarge Bath plant is preparing to apply for a Certificate of Approval to use biomass in a trial scheduled for Fall 2009. They would like to get input from the public. Please see the attached postcard for more information. You can contact LaFarge by emailing [lafargebathinfo@lafarge-na.com](mailto:lafargebathinfo@lafarge-na.com) or on the web, <http://www.bathcementplant.com>, or by writing to: Bath Plant, LaFarge North America, PO Box 160, Bath, ON, K0H 1G0.
19. **Event Reminder:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Biomass Conference, May 31 and June 1, Ban Righ Hall, Queen's University *Energy from Biomass in Ontario: Getting Beyond the Promise*. Hosted by SWITCH member, **QIEEP** and the Sustainable Bioeconomy Centre (SBC). For more information please go to [www.queensu.ca/qieep](http://www.queensu.ca/qieep) or contact Lisa Doulas: 613-539-2482 [ldoulas@cogeco.ca](mailto:ldoulas@cogeco.ca) or Tom Carpenter: 613-533-6000 Ext. 74710 [tom.carpenter@queensu.ca](mailto:tom.carpenter@queensu.ca).
20. **Event:** ELORIN's annual conference is in Kingston this year, August 12-13, and it's about Sustainable Building and Design. Please go to [www.elorin.ca](http://www.elorin.ca) for more information.
21. There will be a public meeting to discuss the proposed Green Roof By-Law by the City of Toronto's Planning & Growth committee at Toronto City Hall, in Committee Room 1 at 10:00 am, on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. A letter requesting changes to the by-law was submitted to the City on behalf of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities. The letter is available on their website [www.greenroofs.org/resources/Toronto\\_by-law\\_recommendations.pdf](http://www.greenroofs.org/resources/Toronto_by-law_recommendations.pdf) (only the first few pages).
22. **Call for Volunteers:** If you would like to chair a SWITCH Open Meeting, please get in touch.

Hope to see you at the next Open Meeting,

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