



SWITCH

The Sustainable Energy People

SWITCH news, October 6th, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, November 6th, at 8:00 am**, at Queen's Innovation Park. The speakers will be SWITCH members Jeff Gibson, **jNetrix Systems Inc**, and **Aztech Associates**. They will be speaking about home electricity monitoring systems.

If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments for an Open Meeting, at a cost of \$30, please contact Catherine or Ted, info@switchkingston.ca. The refreshments for the November 6th Open Meeting will be sponsored by **Brittania Construction**, <http://www.britanniaconstruction.ca/>.

"Britannia Construction is a locally owned and operated family business that thrives on providing a positive and efficient home building experience...."

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 come down and badge you in.

SWITCH News & Announcements

1. A big welcome to new members **401 Electric Ltd.**, **Laforest Eco-Solar Systems**, **The Worm Factory**, and **Maarten Lubbers**.
2. **SWITCH in Lennox & Addington County**: SWITCH will be co-hosting an early morning meeting in Napanee, at the offices of SWITCH member **Lennox & Addington County** on Friday, October 16th. The purpose of this meeting is to expand the SWITCH network and benefits to L & A County. The economic development office of L&A County will be inviting attendees from their area to come and meet SWITCH. **Several SWITCH Board members are attending, as well as folks from the County Sustainability Group in Prince Edward County and the Tamworth switchgrass group**. It will be held at the Strathcona Paper Centre at 16 McPherson Drive, in the Goodyear Lounge on the 2nd Floor from 8 to 9 am. We will be organizing car pools from Kingston. **Please consider joining the Kingston contingent and please let us know if you are coming.**
3. SWITCH will be holding a free public screening of the new documentary, "A Sea Change", on

Saturday, October 24th, the International Day of Climate Action. The screening will take place in the Large Lecture Theatre at St. Lawrence College. Doors will be open at 6 pm. The film will start at 7 o'clock. "A Sea Change" is about ocean acidification, caused by the same emissions of CO2 responsible for global warming. The film website is <http://www.aseachange.net/>. **We need volunteers to help advertise the screening.** If you are interested, please contact SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu, thsu@switchkingston.ca.

4. Kingston, Everbrite Solar and the Wolfe Island Wind Farm were featured in an article by the *Ottawa Business Journal*. SWITCH Executive Director Ted Hsu, was interviewed for the piece. Please go to <http://www.ottawabusinessjournal.com/311204418946025.php> to read more.
5. **"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. SWITCH member **Canadian Hydro Developers** has tentatively agreed to a takeover bid from Calgary-based TransAlta Corporation, Alberta's largest power generator. To read more please go to <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/transalta-wins-canadian-hydro/article1312059/>.
2. You can take either a guided or a self-guided tour of the Wolfe Island Eco Power Centre. For more information, please visit this site, http://www.canhydro.com/index.php/EN/Operations/Wolfe_Island_Tours.html.
3. The **Kingston Sustainability Centre (KSC)**, located at 193 Princess Street, is open to the public Monday to Saturday from 11am-6pm, with evening event availability. The KSC offers a platform for Kingston's youth, businesses, educational institutions, government, and not-for-profits to collaborate on delivering sustainable living programs that support the vision to become Canada's Most Sustainable City. Become a partner, be a volunteer, drop in and learn. Use the community classroom and share your passions, knowledge, ideas and solutions to inspire all Kingstonian's. To learn more contact Dan Hendry, danieljameshendry@gmail.com, or Randy Cluff, randycluff@msn.com, or call (613) 561-6500.
4. SWITCH member **Anton Driesse** will be speaking at the ECE Graduate Student Seminar Series today from 3 to 4 pm in room WLH-302. The title of Anton's seminar is "Solar Power: The Future is Now!".
5. Electronic Energy Meter Kits are available for loan from the Central Branch of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, located at 130 Johnson Street. They are available on loan for one week periods. The meters can be transferred to other library locations and made available for pick up by patrons of KFPL.
6. SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce** sent the following solar PV FAQ wiki for Kingston http://www.appropedia.org/Solar_Photovoltaic_Cells_for_the_Kingston_Home_FAQ Joshua noted that SWITCH members should feel free to use it as a resource and to edit the page (add any missed items, references, or correct any mistakes). You can edit the text by clicking on any of the edit links on the page. **If you would like to start or add content to an appropedia section for other areas of sustainable energy information specific to Kingston, please let us know.**
7. 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. **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.
2. Dr. Helen Caldicott, author of *If You Love This Planet*, will be speaking in Kingston on October 15th. The title of Dr. Caldicott's talk is "Nuclear Power is not the answer to Climate Change". The talk will be held at Etherington Auditorium, Queen's University, at 8:00 pm.
3. **Event:** Brockville Climate Action Group meeting, Sunday, October 25th, 2pm, Brockville Public Library, 23 Buell Street, Brockville. The speaker will be Charles Forman, of Switchgreen Inc., "Switchgrass-based pellet production."
4. The November issue of *Within Kingston* magazine will feature a guide to buying local for the holidays. A special coupon advertising local merchant's products and services will be included. Please contact Vanessa Perry, (613)767-9721, vperry@withinkingston.com if you would like to be featured on the coupon insert. *Within Kingston* is offering this additional advertisement option at a discounted rate.
5. **Event:** Join Mike Nickerson, author of *Life, Money and Illusion; Living on Earth as if we want to stay* for a discussion on sustainability in the Wilson Room, Kingston Central Library on Sunday October 18th, from 1:30 to 3:30. Please go to <http://www.flora.org/sustain/> to learn more about the project.
6. **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. The microFIT program was officially launched on October 1st. To read more about the FIT and microFIT program, please go to this site <http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/>.
2. **Employment opportunity:** ClimateCHECK is seeking a Greenhouse Gas Services Analyst to join their company in Ottawa and Toronto. Please see the attached job description for more details.
3. The Canada Small Business Financing Program seeks to "...increase the availability of loans for establishing, expanding, modernizing and improving small businesses...", by encouraging financial institutions to make financing available. To find out more information about this program, please go to <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/csbfp-pfpec.nsf/eng/Home> or call 1-866-959-1699 (toll-free) or email CSBFA-LFPEC@ic.gc.ca.

4. The Electricity Sector Council is offering a wage subsidy of up to \$10,000 (1/3 of the total salary over a maximum 12 month period) for every new technician, technologist and engineer hired. Please go to the following website to learn more about how you can qualify for the subsidy
http://www.brightfutures.ca/projects/electricity_first_work/2009_application_documents.html
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

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<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!