



SWITCH news
April 7th
Non-Members Edition

Greetings Everybody!

Reserve the Date: Our next open meeting will be **Friday, May 1st, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be Kent Novakowsky, acting head of Civil Engineering at Queen's University. Kent is an expert in groundwater flow in fractured rock which is very relevant to geothermal heating and cooling systems.

New sign-in procedure:

All attendees of SWITCH Open Meetings can continue to enter through the West side doors (the entrance used previously). 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 members **Sisters of Providence, jNetrix Systems, Bill Andersen, David Santos and William Egnatoff.**
2. The second running of *The Renewable Energy "How To" Workshop Series for Homeowners* put together by SWITCH members **Al Gibson, Ben Kenney, Bardi Vorster, Joshua Pearce, Pierre Nadeau**, Karina McInnis and Ed Thomas (**Queen's University**) is about to start (April 16, 20, 21, 22). The summer session is scheduled for June 3, 4, 8 and 9 and the fall session will be on September 29, 30 and October 5, 6. Tell all your friends and neighbours. More information is available on the SWITCH website <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/>
3. The **CanSIA Solar Hot Water System Installer Workshop** run by SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College** is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th from 8 am until 6 pm. Information and a printable registration form can be found on the SWITCH website home page under *Announcements*. To learn more about the course please go to <http://www.cansia.ca/Default.aspx?pageId=143389>. **If you are thinking of registering for this course please send in your form. The college needs a certain number of participants to run the course.**
4. **GreenUP! 2009** is almost here. The event is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th, at the K-Rock Center (KRC). **Exhibitor space is very limited. If you are interested please contact greenup.planning@gmail.com** to find out if spaces are still available. 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 volunteers to help with **tours explaining the LEED characteristics of the K-Rock Centre.** The organizers are also 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. 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. The March issue of *Plumbing and HVAC* magazine, features the second of a 2 part article about pellet heating (part 1 was in the January/February issue). The content of the article in the March issue is largely from an interview SWITCH Board member, Brad Leonard, **Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow** did for the magazine. **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co.** is also featured in the March issue. Please go to <http://www.plumbingandhvac.ca/> to read more.
6. Thank you to SWITCH member Ian Kilborn, **Quantum Renewable Energy** for taking the time to offer some suggestions on how to answer the following question: *how can an unincorporated homeowner take a depreciation and/or interest payment deduction (when filing his/her annual income tax return) against the income generated from rooftop solar PV?* Ian offered the following: 1) Incorporation isn't necessary to claim depreciation or capital cost allowance (CCA). 2) The asset needs to be in the correct class to determine the rate at which you can deduct it's capital expense. 3) It isn't clear what the correct class for PV equipment is. According to a CANSIA document from June 1, 2005, PV systems 3kw and larger may qualify as class 43.1 assets, which are 50% per year deductible. 4) For more information please go to <http://oee.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/industrial/financial-assistance/tax-incentives.cfm?attr=4>. **Thank you Ian! If anybody has any personal experience with this income tax issue that they would like to share, please contact the SWITCH staff.**
7. **A reminder** that SWITCH member **Steven Moore** is writing a blog for Kingston Life magazine about the earth-sheltered home the Moore's are building along the Salmon River. The blog is called *Notes from the Underground* and you can read it by going to www.kingstonlife.ca. There are new postings each month.
8. Hydro One has released, and is soliciting feedback on a document entitled "Distributed Generation Technical Interconnection Requirements - Interconnections at Voltages 50kV and Below". The requirements will apply to all generator installations on the Hydro One distribution system, so if you want to see electricity to the grid and you live outside the center part of Kingston, this applies to you. To read more please go to www.HydroOne.com/DG. The comment period ends April 23.
9. **New Membership Benefit About to Expire:** Green Homes will be the focus of the May/June/July issue of *Within Kingston Magazine*. They are offering a **15% discount off of advertising to SWITCH members and a 10% discount to SWITCH e-newsletter readers**. Please contact info@withinkingston.com if you are interested in placing an advertisement. **The deadline for submission is April 10th.**
10. **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 SWITCH member Quantum Renewable Energy will be teaching a Living Off the Grid course on July 16th.**

11. **New Membership Benefit Reminder:** Childbirth Kingston's Spring Sale is featuring a "Green It Up" theme this year. Attendance last year was about 500. **They are offering a \$20 discount to SWITCH members who would like to exhibit and extending the application deadline to April 10th.** The cost of a booth (less the discount) is \$80. The show will be held on Saturday April 25th, from 9 am until 2 pm at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. Please email SWITCH if you would like a registration form.
12. **Event:** The 2nd Annual Biomass Conference; Energy from Biomass in Ontario: Getting Beyond the Promise, May 31st and June 1st, Ban Righ Hall, Queen's University. Hosted by SWITCH member, **QIEEP** and the Sustainable Bioeconomy Centre (SBC), the conference will focus on four key questions: 1) *How much biomass is out there?* 2) *How much will biomass cost?* 3) *How far can bioenergy take us?* 4) *How will bioenergy be developed?* For more information please go to www.queensu.ca/qieep or contact Lisa Doulas: 613-539-2482 ldoulas@cogeco.ca or Tom Carpenter: 613-533-6000 Ext. 74710 tom.carpenter@queensu.ca. Early registration ends April 30th.
13. **Event:** Green Enterprise Toronto presents, *Faces of the New Economy*, a photographic exhibit from Molly Crealock. April 20th, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Hart House, Hart House Circle, University of Toronto. SWITCH member Petra Cooper, **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co.** will be featured as one of 20 portraits exhibited.
14. **Event Reminder: ELORIN BioBreakfast, Waste is a four letter word**, April 9th, 7:15 to 9:00 am, Donald Gordon Conference Centre, 421 Union St. Peter Jardine, CEO of World Bio Fibre Technology Inc. will be speaking. Peter Jardine will discuss the concept of waste and the potential for using certain waste materials as resources for building. The focus for the last part of the talk will be on a World Bio Fibre Technology Inc. project to manufacture medium density fibreboard (MDF) from a mixture of wheat, oat and barley straw. For more information, please go to <http://www.elorin.ca>.
15. The two design concepts for Lake Ontario Park (one for an Enviro Park and one for an Art Park) are posted on the City's website. Please go to <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/lop/> to learn more. **Comments from the public will be accepted until April 13th.**

Hope to see you at our next Open Meeting,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant

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