



SWITCH news, brought to you by the members of SWITCH!
July 7th, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, September 4th, at 8:00 am**, at Queen's Innovation Park. The guest speaker will be Aaron Ball, Sustainability Manager and Nathan Splinter, Energy Engineer, from the Queen's Sustainability Office.

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

Sign-in procedure:

The next Open Meeting will probably be held in the Conference Room attached to the main entrance of Novellis. All attendees of Open Meetings should be able to 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 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 **CPE Division L** (Mike Chaput), **Moore Partners**, **Nicholas Robinson**, and **George Knight**.
2. **Beer, snacks, and brainstorming on the Solar Decathlon: July 15th, 5-6 pm, Grad Club, Queen's University.**
SWITCH members are invited to attend an evening event hosted by SWITCH and the Queen's Solar Design Team about QSDT's entry into the 2011 Solar Decathlon competition. RSVP to info@switchkingston.ca. For more information see the attached announcement. **There could be spin-offs to Kingston from the construction of the home.**
3. A special thank you to **ECO-NET Technologies** for sponsoring the refreshments at last Friday's Open Meeting. ECO-NET Technologies is a new solar energy business started by SWITCH member **Alan Gibson**, with partners Read Kelly and Garth Kelly. As introduced by Alan Gibson: *"ECO-NET Technologies is open for business! We are a solar solutions company located in Kingston initially focusing on the promotion and sale of the CERCIS evacuated tube solar collector and providing full service turnkey installations of solar hot water systems to both residential, commercial and industrial customers."* Please visit their website www.eco-net-tech.ca or call Alan at 613-545-5249 for more details.
4. If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments, at a cost of \$30, for one of our upcoming Open Meetings, please contact Executive Director, Ted Hsu, thsu@switchkingston.ca.
5. The Kingston Sustainability Centre is scheduled to open on **Friday, July 10th**. The Centre is located at 193 Princess Street, on the corner of Princess and Montreal streets. *"The KSC vision is a community education hub where the four pillars of the sustainability model will be presented to Kingstontians to learn about the resources, plans, solutions and activities that are available to them to help make changes in their lives in support of the vision to be Canada's Most Sustainable*

City.” They are looking for support to help develop this vision. Please see the attached for information on opportunities available at the Sustainability Centre.

6. To see conference presentations and a participants list from the 2nd Annual Biomass for Energy Conference hosted by SWITCH member **QIEEP**, and the Sustainable Bioeconomy Centre (SBC), please visit <http://www.queensu.ca/qieep/conference2/index.html>
7. The Rotary Club is looking for literature, and any other information you’d like to get in front of people, for their kiosks for the participants of the Rotary Club organized Wolfe Island Wind Farm tours. Please contact Charlene Fawcett, charlene.fawcett@rbc.com, 613-549-6484, for more information.
8. **For any companies that may be interested in Green IT/S** please read the following announcement sent by Jacqueline Corbett: *“Is your company interested in improving your IT environmental sustainability but not sure how to get started? As part of a multi-disciplinary SSHRC-funded research project, Queen’s engineering students, under the direction of SWITCH member, Dr. Joshua Pearce, will be performing information systems and technology energy audits for interested organizations. At the conclusion of the audit, organizations will receive a list of green IT and IS initiatives ranked according to the potential to reduce the ecological impact. Additionally, a cost-benefit analysis of the recommendations will also be prepared by Queen’s managerial economics students, under the direction of SWITCH members, Dr. Jane Webster and Dr. Tracy Jenkin, enabling the organization to see not only the environmental, but also the financial benefits of changes.”* For more information, please contact Jacqueline Corbett: JCorbett@business.queensu.ca.
9. Don’t forget to check out our **upgraded website and the SWITCH video** made by author of the recently published *Kingston and Frontenac County*, Alec Ross, <http://www.switchkingston.ca/>. **Please tell us how our website can be improved to serve you better.**
10. The Faculty of Applied Science at **Queen’s**, is looking for partners in the Kingston community to develop design projects for a one-semester, open-ended program for first year students funded by the Faculty. You can view previous completed projects by going to <http://appsci.queensu.ca/courses/APSC100/community/> or contact Lauren Bates, Community Service Projects Manager, 613-533-6000 x75764, batesl@appsci.queensu.ca for more information.
11. The September 4th Open Meeting will be an **Interim Members Meeting** to appoint 2 new Board members and a few other matters. More details will follow closer to the date, but please mark your calendars.
12. You can now make a charitable donation to the **SWITCH Sustainable Energy Future Fund** to help fund certain activities of SWITCH that are classified as charitable work in the environmental area. Full details will appear on the SWITCH and Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA) website shortly, but you can make a donation today by donating to CFKA and making note of the name of our fund.
13. The 4th instalment of the *Renewable Energy Workshops for Homeowners* will be repeated again this fall. You can register for free at <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop>. **Don’t forget to spread the word about this opportunity while you are visiting with friends and neighbours over the summer.**
14. **Event:** Community Challenge Day, August 14th. Organized by the Ontario Power Authority, communities will compete on the total number of megawatts saved and conservation pledges made per capita. Please visit <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/June2009/26/c2189.html> to learn more.
15. 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 for more information.

16. **Event Update:** 7th Annual ELORIN Conference, August 12-13, Holiday Inn, Kingston. This year's conference is all about sustainable building and design. **Steven Moore, of SWITCH member Moore Partners will be giving a workshop on the design and construction of his earth-sheltered home.** Ian Pritchett, Lime Technology, and Wayne Trusty, President of the Athena Sustainable Materials Institute, will be the keynote speakers. To see the agenda, please go to http://elorin.ca/site/index.php?method=public.eventDetail&event_id=155.
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 16th.** To watch a slide show about Wintergreen on YouTube please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAwzuRWWJjg>
18. SWITCH is looking for a volunteer to update our EPS logo files. If you, or anyone you know may be interested, please call 613-547-6700 x129 or email info@switchkingston.ca.

Hope to see you at the beer and brainstorming event on July 15th,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant

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SWITCH thanks the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**

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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!