



SWITCH

The Sustainable Energy People

SWITCH news, March 9th, 2010

This week's edition sponsored by:



Greetings Everyone!

The next SWITCH Open Meeting **will take place on Friday, April 9th, 8 am, at a soon to be announced location**. Ben Bowen from Seaway Document Solutions Inc., an Authorized Xerox agent, will be speaking about Sustainable Manufacturing.

If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments for an Open Meeting, at a cost of \$30, or sponsoring an e-newsletter, at a cost of \$60, please contact Catherine or Ted, info@switchkingston.ca. The refreshments for the April open meeting will be sponsored by SWITCH member **CPE Division-L Inc**. The May open meeting will be sponsored by NEDCO, and June, July and September will be sponsored by **Kingston Solar Installations**.
Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!

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 and badge you in. **Parking is available in the WEST parking lot.**

SWITCH News & Announcements

1. A big welcome to new members **Nature's Powers, Greg Sagam, The Living Energy Lab, and Michael Scott**.
2. SWITCH meeting in Napanee, April 16th, Strathcona Paper Centre, 16 McPherson Drive, 2nd floor lounge, 8 am. Guest speaker Kathy Wood of Natural Capital Resources will discuss how Lennox and Addington County's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can benefit from new supply chain opportunities in solar and wind energy. For more information, <http://www.switchontario.ca> or email register@switchontario.ca.
3. There will be a free public screening of *In Transition*, a documentary about the Transition movement around the world, on Tuesday, March 23rd, 6:30 pm, St. Lawrence College Lecture Hall. SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, will be introducing the film. "The Transition movement is about communities around the world

responding to peak oil and climate change with creativity, imagination and humour, and setting about rebuilding their local economies and communities.”

4. Promote your product to an audience “in the dark”! For Earth Hour, Kingston UNPLUGGED 2010 (March 27, Springer Market Square, 7-10 pm) is seeking fantastic prizes to raffle and is asking for donations. If you would like to contribute an item to this event that is gearing up for over 1000 people attending, contact Jennifer Kiwala, jkiwala@switchontario.ca or 613-547-6700 x130 . **Kingston Unplugged is looking for sponsorships**. Please see the attached support form.
5. ***How your rooftop and land can make you money: The new Green Energy Act and your business***, March 10th, 7:00 pm, Rideau Canal Museum, 34 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls. Launched on October 1st, 2009, the new Green Energy Act will enable Ontario businesses to unlock their rooftop and land assets and earn revenue by generating solar energy and feeding it back into the grid. There are also incentives for your business to become part of the quickly growing renewable energy market by diversifying your products or processes. RSVP to register@switchkingston.ca.
6. At the March 5-6 Commerce and Engineering Environmental Conference (CEEC 2010) organized by students at Queen's University, SWITCH executive director, Ted Hsu, was awarded a Green Globe Award for having a positive impact with environmental initiatives within the Kingston community.
7. **Calling All Editors and Knowledgeable Readers:** Our Energy Digest is being read by more and more people as the Internet search engines discover us...and that means we have an even greater need for high quality, up-to-date information. This is currently the most complete source of reliable information on the FIT and microFIT program. SWITCH now needs you to share your expertise by editing the Energy Digest: simply go to www.switchontario.ca/wiki, and when you see something that you think should be different, log in (very easy) and make the changes. SWITCH staff will monitor all changes and ensure accuracy, style and correct spelling, so don't be shy! Call Mark at 613-532-7220 if you have other ideas or want help connecting.
8. **“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. **ELORIN** is part of the organizational team behind the 2010 Sustainable Living Symposium, taking place on March 20th at Loyalist College, Belleville. With interactive workshops and featuring 50 local businesses, organizations and products, the focus is on local services and solutions. You can register online, <http://www.quintesustainability.ca/> or by calling Quinte Conservation, (613) 968-3434 x131. The trade show will be followed by a Green Homes Bus Tour by the County Sustainability Group on March 21st.
2. **Event:** The 3rd Annual Conference on Biomass for Energy, May 30-31, Queen's University, *The Great Lakes Bio-Region: Market Opportunities and Carbon Pricing*. From SWITCH member **QIEEP**: “Demands for low-carbon sources of energy mean that governments are crafting policy and committing funds to biomass, and businesses are

making decisions and allocating their resources. The biomass industry is changing as quickly as it grows, and it therefore remains crucial to share information and to highlight best practices, challenges and successes." Online registration now available, <http://www.queensu.ca/qieep> or contact Lisa Doulas, ldoulas@cogeco.ca, 613-539-2482.

3. If you operate a business or farm in Frontenac County, please contact SWITCH member **Frontenac CFDC** to find out if you are eligible to receive an interest free loan for the purchase and installation of alternative energy where the energy will be used for the operation of the business. For more information, contact the Frontenac CFDC at 613-372-1414 or toll free 1-888-372-9962.
4. SWITCH member Ed Peterson, **Ontario PV Power** has produced a short video on the benefits of installing solar PV on new homes for builders/developers, <http://www.ontariopvpower.com/builderdeveloper.html>
5. **Queen's** School of Business Innovation Summit, March 20th, 8 am to 6:30 pm, Goodes Hall. **The registration fee for SWITCH members is waived until March 12th.** To register, please go to http://events.sps.queensu.ca/cgi/page.cgi?event_id=41&_id=3&action=viewdetail. The attached document contains more details about the QSBIS Innovation Summit.
6. SWITCH member **Parteq Innovations**, their spinoff Integran Technologies and GreenCentre Canada, are featured in a special section on campus research in *The Globe and Mail* <http://www.globecampus.ca/in-the-news/globecampusreport/commercializing-research-weve-got-the-brains-now-we-need-some-brawn/>.
7. SWITCH member **Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative**, will be holding an information session on federal and provincial grants available to homeowners to help offset the cost of retrofitting their home to reduce energy consumption. The information session will be held at the **Kingston Sustainability Centre**, 193 Princess Street, on **Tuesday, March 9th, from 7 to 9 pm**. Homeowners are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in combined federal and provincial grants until March 31st, 2011.
8. **Update:** Brant Peppley, Director, **Queen's-RMC Fuel Cell Research Centre** provided the following fuel cell updates: FCRC is part of a consortium with Brazilian companies and ElectricHydrogen (Burlington, ON) that has submitted an ISTP proposal for strategies to reduce the cost of PEM electrolyser technologies. FCRC has bought two autorickshaws from an Indian-based company. Queen's engineering students will design a fuel cell hybrid power system to replace the current 5 kW diesel engine. Several Canadian companies A(Hydroigenics and Ballard) and the Ontario government are looking with the FCRC at engaging this foreign company in fuel cell technology for their rickshaw products.
9. SWITCH member **AEPAY Global Energy** is looking for large commercial rooftop space for lease for the installation of solar panels. AEPAY plans on having several 250 kW arrays in place by the summer. Any inquiries can be directed to SWITCH member **Chris Morris**, sales representative with RealtySource Inc., brokerage. (613) 546 4208 (office), (613) 539 8438 (cell), chris@chris-morris.ca. Please see the attached for more information.

Local non-member News & Announcements

1. EnerQuality free seminar, *Learn how effectively managing air and moisture can benefit homeowners*, March 24, 8:30 to 11:30 am, Peachtree Inn, 1187 Princess St., <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e2rqt4r208049908>.
2. FOCUS Kingston is currently seeking feedback for the 2nd draft of Sustainable Kingston, An Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, via their website, <http://www.sustainablekingston.ca/>. Click on the blue circular icons. **Comments will be collected from March 10 to 24.** This will be the last opportunity to provide input before the draft is finalized and presented to Council. **The public is invited to attend a meeting on March 10th**, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour in the Press Lounge, to join in the conversation and offer suggestions.
3. There will be a local showing of the webcast of a policy session on "Energy, Environment, Economy, Growth and Responsibility in 2017", Saturday, March 27, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm at Sutherland Hall 202 (Queen's University School of Policy Studies). There are five speakers chosen from leaders in the business and NGO sectors. This is part of the non-partisan "Canada at 150" policy conference in Montreal organized by the Liberal Party of Canada. Following the webcast there will be a discussion amongst local attendees. The event is free and open to all.
4. **Event:** Innovation 2010, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, 53 Yonge St., March 25th, 8 am to 5 pm. Please go to <http://www.innovation2010.ca/> for more information and to register.
5. **Event:** Earth, Body, Spirit Expo, June 5-6, Invista Centre. There will be opportunities for exhibitors, workshop presenters, demonstrations, sponsorships, and volunteers to participate. For more information go to www.EarthBodySpiritExpo.com, or call 613-767-9721, info@withinkingston.com. The application deadline is April 10th. **A 10% discount is available to all SWITCH Members.**

Non-local News & Announcements

1. To read about the 2010 Federal budget from an energy perspective, please go to this site, <http://www.thestar.com/business/cleanbreak/article/776536--hamilton-federal-green-strategy-goes-from-bad-to-worse>.
2. To learn about Equilibrium, a national Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative from the CMHC (Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation) and the 15 demonstration homes being built across Canada, please go to <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/su/eqho/>
3. The OPA is working with the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI) to ensure stakeholders are able to comment on domestic content interpretations before they are finalized. Please go to these two sites for more information, <http://microfit.powerauthority.on.ca/Program-resources/Domestic-content.php> and http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=10598&SiteNodeID=1054&BL_ExpandID=262
4. The latest edition of Electricity Conservation on Ontario Farms is now available through the OPA website, http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=924&SiteNodeID=296&AA_SiteLanguageID=1&AA_SiteLanguageID=1.
5. A new study in the United Kingdom is asking what the best approach to greening a building is, <http://www.green-business.ca/Green-Building/News/building-efficiency-whats-the-best-approach-to-take.html>.
6. Schuco Canada is offering a series of training sessions for solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal starting in March and April. Please go to their website for full details of

each course,

http://www.schueco.com/web/ca/commercial/trainings_events/solar_trainings_events.

7. Clean Tech Funding is available through SDTC (Sustainable Development Technology Canada). SDTC is accepting statements of interest from **February 24 to April 21, 2010**. "The SD Tech Fund™ invests in late-stage development and pre-commercial demonstration of clean technologies by Canadian companies." Please visit their website for more information, http://www.sdtec.ca/en/funding/NextGen_Biofuels_Fund/index.htm
8. **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 event,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Mark Gibson, Green Energy Business Consultant; Jennifer Kiwala, Outreach & Event Coordinator; Pierre Nadeau, Sustainable Energy & Internet Communications Assistant; Catherine Humphreys, Administrator

SWITCH

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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!

SWITCH often provides services, or is available for consultations, on a confidential basis. We would be happy to accept any request that you have to keep certain information confidential. However, one of SWITCH's main activities is networking services. Unless otherwise requested, you should expect that information which the SWITCH staff learns in communications with you might be used to make progress on our mission of making the Kingston region a centre for sustainable energy.