



SWITCH news, brought to you by the members of SWITCH!
June 9th, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be this **Friday, July 3rd, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The guest speaker will be announced soon. **There will be no Open Meeting in August.** The September meeting will be on Friday, September 4th.
Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!

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. You must sign this sheet as you enter and exit. **If you will be staying past 10:00 am, please notify either of the SWITCH staff. You will need to wear an identification badge and be accompanied by a tenant of Innovation Park.***

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 **Digigraphics** and the **Queen's Solar Design Team** and to new trial member **WindFinite Turbine Inc.**
2. A special thank you to noted author of the recently published *Kingston and Frontenac County*, Alec Ross, for volunteering his time and expertise to film the SWITCH Open Meeting last Friday. We look forward to seeing the finished product!
3. SWITCH would like to welcome our summer intern, Alexander Mataseje. Alexander is presently working on upgrading the SWITCH website. He will be entering his 4th year of Engineering Physics at Queen's this fall.
4. The 3rd instalment of the *Renewable Energy Workshops for Homeowners* ends tonight. Home Power will be the focus of this evening's session, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at St Lawrence College. The workshops will be repeated again this fall. You can register for free at <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop>. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity.
5. 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 the partnership and how to donate will appear soon on the SWITCH and CFKA websites.
6. **Update on the City of Kingston's new official plan:** SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu, attended the open house on the new official plan. City planners have decided not to make as many changes to section 6.2 of the plan (which deals with renewable energy) as we would like

because they feel that it would all be overruled by the province following passage and implementation of the Green Energy Act. However, Ted will be submitting a last brief request to make some wording changes just in case the province does not remove certain restrictions on renewable energy in section 6.2 that we feel are unnecessary.

7. **Reminder:** If you weren't able to attend the open house yesterday, the proposed plan will be presented by City staff at a **public meeting on June 18th at 6:30 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall**. The public is invited to comment on the plan after the presentation. You can read a copy of the plan by going to <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/development/officialplan/draftplan.asp>. Hard copies are available at Kingston Frontenac Public Libraries (Central, Isabel Turner and Pittsburgh), City Hall, and 1211 John Counter Boulevard.
8. SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, will be presenting a 20 hour Green Building course to the United Association of Pipefitters, Plumbers, Sprinklerfitters and Service Technicians in August. Michael also spoke about *Greening Your Home* at the Kiwanis Club's monthly meeting last night. Thank you for keeping us updated about all your activities! SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu, will be telling the Kiwanis Club about SWITCH at their weekly luncheon next week.
9. You are invited to come to Kingston's technology networking event of the year, co-sponsored by SWITCH, KTC, ELORIN, PARTEQ, Innovation Park, and KEDCO. Come to the "Kingston Technology Partners Mix-and-Mingle", Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, Harbour restaurant. It's free! Munchies & finger foods will be served, Cash Bar, Wednesday, June 17th 4:30 - 7:00pm Please **RSVP to...Darlene Kirkpatrick 613-544-6920 ext 246** kirkpatrickd@limestone.on.ca. Last December's event was a great success.
10. **Green Energy Act update:** We hear that the implementation of the new feed-in tariffs of the Green Energy Act will be ready to go in late July or August. Installers are getting busy though and we recommend that you beat the rush and place your orders to get in line for installations and start talking to Utilities Kingston or Hydro One Networks about connecting to the grid. **A lot of connection issues can be dealt with before actually signing a feed-in tariff contract.**
11. Nate Preston, of SWITCH member, the **Queen's Solar Design Team** sent in the following information regarding a collaboration opportunity: *"The Queen's Solar Design Team hopes to build a sustainable, intelligent, and healthy home to compete in the 2011 US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. This world renowned competition pushes engineers, business students, and architects to develop ultra-efficient, marketable, and innovative homes. We are fortunate to have so many resources in Kingston to draw from, and we invite SWITCH members to give as much input as possible. The competition will be an opportunity to showcase Kingston's innovation, and we are excited to work on a project with such great opportunities to give back to our community. Stay tuned for further info regarding a QSDT collaborative session, where we will invite SWITCH members to give input and provide ideas for the project."* You can learn more about QSDT by visiting their website, <http://www.qsdt.ca/>.
12. The SWITCH Board has adopted the following definition of Sustainable Energy: "The provision of energy through the use of *renewable energy* technology and the principles of *energy conservation* and energy efficiency, in a manner that minimizes long-term damage to the environment, such that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This definition is from the City of Kingston's Official Plan, Recommended Draft 2009. **Please feel free to send in your thoughts and comments.**
13. 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.

14. If anyone would like to chair an Open Meeting or lend a hand by volunteering, please get in touch. If you think you might have some time at the end of the meeting to help stack chairs or rinse and recycle cups, please contact Catherine Humphreys, cbumphreys@switchkingston.ca.
15. **Local Event:** Jackie St. Pierre of SWITCH member **KEDCO** told us about the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters *Energy Conservation and Demand Management Forum* at the Invista Centre, Kingston on June 25. For more information and to register, see http://www.cme-mec.ca/pdf/2009%20Energy%20Forum%20_Kingston.pdf
16. Canadian Hydro has launched a photography contest for the best pictures of the Wolfe Island Wind Project. The deadline is June 15th. The winner will be announced at the Project opening. You can learn more by going to http://www.canhydro.com/images/pdf/Wolfeliland/UpdateNewsletters/wi_community_update_29may09.pdf. Photos can be emailed to Trudy at the Canadian Hydro Office, tdruiter@canhydro.com.
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. **Event:** 7th Annual ELORIN Conference, August 12-13, Holiday Inn, Kingston. This year's conference is all about sustainable building and design. Please go to <http://www.elorin.ca> for more information.
19. **Event:** A Clean Tech Gathering, June 19th, 7:30 am (networking breakfast start), Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham. Please visit <http://www.iscm.ca/cleantech/> to find out more and to register.

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!