



Greetings Everybody!

**Reserve the Date:** Our next Open Meeting will be held on **Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 8:00 am** in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. SWITCH member **Burt's Greenhouses**, will be speaking about Biochar, and showing a film made by Alec Ross about the biomass heating system they use for their greenhouses.

1. A big welcome to new member **Pierre Nadeau**.
2. **New 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 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.
3. Thank you to everyone who attended the Ontario Green Energy Act Events last week. On Feb. 4, SWITCH held a special technical consultation session between interested SWITCH members and representatives of the Green Energy Act Alliance. **Minutes have been written up and will be made available to members.** These GEA Alliance representatives will be taking our comments, following the legislative process, and providing input to the ministers involved. To read Premier Dalton McGuinty's News Release on the Green Energy Act please go to <http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/news/Product.asp?ProductID=2840> Google Alerts noted an article written about the events hosted by SWITCH. To read more, please go to <http://www.exchangemagazine.com/morningpost/2009/week6/Thursday/0205012.htm>.
4. The "How To" Workshop Series on Home Renewable Energy developed by a group of SWITCH members, will have a kick-off and introductory session on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kingston City Councillor Dorothy Hector will be the keynote speaker. Please go to <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/> for more information and to register. **Tell your friends and neighbours to register!**
5. **Employment Opportunity:** SWITCH member **Gord McAlary** has a client who needs the services of a Financial Analyst, preferably in a consultant type role. 5 years experience in the alternative energy field is desired. Please contact Gordon McAlary, P. Eng., by calling 613-384-7911 or 613-583-4673 (cell), or by email [gmcalary@kos.net](mailto:gmcalary@kos.net)
6. Welcome to **Mark Gibson**, who attended the SWITCH Open Meeting for the first time last Friday. Mark may be moving to Kingston and is looking to make connections within the renewable energy field.

*"An experienced renewable energy manager and start-up organizer is considering moving to Kingston if the right opportunities present themselves. Mark Gibson, MBA, currently works in Montréal for a solar thermal reseller and national product distributor as the manager of sales and distribution, including responsibility for installer training and support. He adds creative thinking and a results-oriented approach to a friendly, supportive attitude, and works hard to motivate and empower others as members of a cooperative team. Mark has accumulated a wealth of experience providing leadership in several distinctly different industries, and hopes to contribute to the renewable energy*

roll-out in the Greater Kingston Area. Please contact him at [markagibsoncan@gmail.com](mailto:markagibsoncan@gmail.com) or 514-971-6810 for detailed information.”

7. **Discussion Group:** SWITCH member **Ben Kenney** is looking for people to discuss the City of Kingston's Draft Official Plan. He has set up an online discussion website to discuss this topic, and other energy related topics at <http://www.energy-eh.ca/forum/showthread.php?t=512>. A reminder to everyone that comments about the City's Draft Official Plan can be made until **February 27, 2009**. Comments can be made in person, by mail, by email, or by phoning. Please go to <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/development/officialplan/consultation.asp> for more information.
8. **Attendance Record:** The Feb. 6, 2009 SWITCH Open meeting set an attendance record with 56 attendees!
9. SWITCH, and a number of its members, were interviewed for a *Globe and Mail* insert called "Perspectives Kingston 2009". The insert is scheduled for delivery on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Check your mailboxes!
10. **'Alternative Energy in our Backyards':** Napanee High school students will be making a presentation about their Sterling Engine at the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club in Belleville, on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Representatives from Skypower will also be giving a presentation. Tickets are \$5 and space is limited. Contact George Knight 613-476-5326 to reserve a ticket or to learn more about the Sterling Engine project. Thank you to ELORIN for mentioning this event.
11. **RETScreen Training Workshops:** Natural Resources Canada is providing Clean Energy Training with more than 40 different workshops on how to use RETScreen in a wide variety of renewable energy, energy efficiency and cogeneration applications across Canada and around the world. For more information please go to [http://www.retscreen.net/ang/11\\_form1.php](http://www.retscreen.net/ang/11_form1.php). For anyone unable to attend the RETScreen workshops, or for those who prefer to learn online, please go to <http://www.retscreen.net/ang/home.php>.
12. **Workshop:** *What's Stopping Us From Making the Residential Sector totally Green?* February 23, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa. For more information, please go to <http://www.telfer.uottawa.ca/content/view/1458/1/lang,en/>. Thank you to SWITCH member **Michael Tiffe, TAB Mechanical**, for mentioning this event.
13. **Event:** Bridges to Better Business Conference, February 24, 2009, Davies Hall, St. Lawrence College. The conference provides an opportunity for small businesses to learn from the experience of successful entrepreneurs and network with their peers. SWITCH member, **Betty-Anne Howard**, Certified Financial Planner, IPG Kingston Inc., will be speaking. To register, please call 613-544-2725 x222 or email [entrepreneurship@kingstoncanada.com](mailto:entrepreneurship@kingstoncanada.com). The registration fee is \$50 before 13 Feb and \$70 after.
14. **Workshop Series:** ELORIN is running a series of Spring Training Workshops for Entrepreneurs. The workshops were developed with the support of PARTEQ Innovations, KEDCO and the Kingston Technology Council. Please go to <http://www.elorin.ca/> for more information. Workshops will be held at Innovation Park from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on the following dates:
  - Mar 05 - Workshop #1 - The Plan
  - Mar 12 - Workshop #2 - Intellectual Property
  - Mar 18 - Workshop #3 - The Pitch
  - Apr 05 - Workshop #4 - The Money
  - Apr 09 - Workshop #5 - Strategic Marketing and Sales (SWITCH Board Member, **Theresa MacBeth, Boom Strategy**, will be speaking).
15. **Event:** Janine Benyus will be speaking about her book, *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature* on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 pm, Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University. The book seeks

sustainable solutions by studying nature's designs and processes. For more information please go <http://provost.syr.edu/provost/Provost/lectures/current.aspx>

16. **A Reminder** to read up on the Frontenac County Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) from time to time. Go to <http://www.directionsforourfuture.ca/> for more details.
17. **Event:** SWITCH will be exhibiting at the Quinte Conservation Sustainable Living Symposium on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> in Belleville. If SWITCH members would like the SWITCH staff to take some of your product and services literature to display at the SWITCH booth, please let us know. The event is usually quite well attended. For more information see <http://www.quintesustainability.ca/>

Hope to see you at our next Open Meeting!

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