



SWITCH

The Sustainable Energy People

SWITCH news, August 11th, 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. The title of their talk is *Queen's University: Energy Management*.

The September 4th Open Meeting will also 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.

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.

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

The next Open Meeting will be held in the Conference Room attached to the main entrance to 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. Congratulations to SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co.** for winning 3 awards at the American Cheese Society Competition. Fifth Town's Lighthall Tomme came first in the Aged Goat Cheese Category, Cape Vessey came second in the Goat Washed Rind category, and their Premium Goat Milk Cheddar won third place in the Goat Cheddar category. Fifth Town's Premium Goat Milk Cheddar is made in partnership with the Black River Cheese Company.
2. Kingston's growing green economy is featured in a special report supplement to *Trade & Commerce* magazine. SWITCH members **Parteq Innovations, QIEEP, Anchor Concrete, Joshua Pearce, Queen's, Utilities Kingston** (who manage the assets for Kingston Hydro), **KEDCO** and SWITCH's Executive Director, Ted Hsu,

- are featured, pictured or advertised in the magazine. Copies will be made available at the next SWITCH open meeting.
3. A section of our website will now be devoted to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on renewable energy in the Kingston region <http://www.switchkingston.ca/FAQ.php> . If you have any ideas for questions, please email them to info@switchkingston.ca.
 4. Updates on the progress of SWITCH members Steven and Susan Moore's, **Moore Partners**, earth-sheltered home is now available on the SWITCH website. Please go to our "Resources" page and look under 'Recent Releases and Announcements', <http://www.switchkingston.ca/resources.php#buildings>.
 5. Interested in volunteering some time to help out with the next SWITCH Open Meeting? Please email Catherine Humphreys, cbumphreys@switchkingston.ca. It won't be anything difficult or taxing, but it does involve getting up early.
 6. 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.**
 7. **Event Reminder:** Sundance Studio Tour, September 5 thru 7, Maberly, Ontario. Sundance Studio is located in the home of SWITCH member **All-Tech Consulting** (Cam Allen). Carmen Allen, Stained Glass Artist, will be exhibiting. SWITCH member **Hearthmakers Energy Co-op** will be available to answer questions regarding energy conservation in the home and garden, and to discuss the Eco-Energy Program and Well Aware. Please go to <http://www.sundancestudio.ca> for more information.
 8. **Grant Reminder:** Funding is available through the Yves Landry Foundation for grants of up to \$50,000 per project. Funding is targeted towards fostering training that leads to advancements in innovation in the Ontario manufacturing sector. The deadline for submitting a proposal is **September 30, 2009**. Please contact SWITCH if you would like a copy of the Request for Proposal.
 9. Community Challenge Day, organized by the Ontario Power Authority, will take place this **Friday, August 14th**, between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm. August 14th is the anniversary of the 2003 North American blackout. Kingstonians are being asked to compete with other municipalities to achieve the highest percentage drop in the consumption of electricity, and the highest per capita participation in the Count Me In! pledge drive. To participate and sign a personal conservation plan before that date please go to www.countmeinontario.ca – or go to SWITCH member, **Utilities Kingston**, www.utilitieskingston.ca and click on the Count Me In! icon. Ken Mundell, kmundell@utilitieskingston.com is the local contact. All Ontarians who take the Count Me In! pledge will have a chance to win one of three grand prizes and be eligible for the daily prizes being drawn from now until August 14th. Make your pledge today!
 10. David Suzuki hosted part of CBC Radio's "The Sunday Edition" over the weekend. Dr. Suzuki presented a program entitled *The Last Call*, about building a green economy. You can listen to the broadcast by going to <http://www.cbc.ca/thesundayedition/> and pressing play (it's in hour 3), or by waiting until it is available by podcast.
 11. The Toronto Transit Commission has installed an 835m² green roof at their Eglinton West station. An even larger one is planned for the station at Victoria Park. To read

all about the TTC's first green roof, please go to <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/675703>.

12. The County Sustainability Group of Prince Edward County, has lots of information on sustainability available on their website. Please go to <http://www.countysustainability.ca/Sustainability.htm> to read more.
13. **Event:** Green Energy Week, September 21 through to 25, Sheraton Centre, Toronto. Hosted by EUCI, Electric Utility Consultants Inc., Green Energy Week will examine the constraints and opportunities associated with the policies of the Green Energy Act. Attendees can choose to attend one or multiple conferences. Please go to <http://www.euci.com/conferences/0909-fit/index.php?ci=786> or call EUCI, 303-770-8800 for more information. The conferences are as follows (just click on the one you are interested in):
 - [Feed-in Tariffs](#), September 21 - 22
 - [Demand Response](#), September 22 - 23
 - [Distributed Generation/Energy Resources](#), September 22 - 23
 - [Energy Efficiency: Transitioning Customers](#), September 24 - 25
 - [District Energy/Combined Heat and Power](#), September 24 - 25
14. **Event:** Green Building Festival, September 23-24, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto. Go to <http://www.greenbuildingfest.com/> to find out more.
15. **Event:** Fostering Sustainable Behaviour, September 28-29, 9 am to 4:30 pm, The Faculty Club, University of Toronto. Please go to https://register.cbsm.com/workshops/?SKU=Toronto_Combo_2_09 for more information and to register.
16. The Rotary Club of Kingston-sponsored free Wolfe Island Wind Farm Walking Tours will continue until August 28th. Guides depart from the downtown Kingston tourist information centre at 11 am on weekdays and catch the 11:30 am ferry. Any interested tourists on Wolfe Island will be met at 11:50 am at the Wolfe Island tourist information centre. Guides provide a 45 minute presentation on the turbine project and then escort the participants back to the village to catch the 1:15 pm ferry, or to remain on the island to have lunch and explore. Guides finally depart from the island on the 2:30 pm ferry, and escort any visitors back to the Kingston tourist information centre, returning by 3:00 pm. **If you have guests visiting over the summer, consider suggesting a tour of the Wolfe Island Wind Farm.** If you have any literature, or other information available for their tour kiosks, please contact Charlene Fawcett, charlene.fawcett@rbc.com, 613-549-6484, for more information.
17. **"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.
18. 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.

19. If you liked the sustainably printed Open Meeting Agenda at our last meeting, please contact SWITCH member **Digigraphics** (Kingston's Most Sustainable Printer) who donated the FSC certified paper and printing to SWITCH and consider using their services.
20. **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.
21. 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.
22. **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>. To watch a slide show about Wintergreen on YouTube please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAwzuRWWJjg>

Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you at our Open Meeting on September 4th,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant
SWITCH

at Innovation Park, 945 Princess Street,
Kingston, ON K7L 3N6
613-547-6700 x 129

info@switchkingston.ca
<http://switchkingston.ca/>

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!