



SWITCH

The Sustainable Energy People

SWITCH news, January 12th, 2010

Greetings Everyone!

The next SWITCH Open Meeting will take place on Friday, February 5th, 8 am, Queen's Innovation Park, 945 Princess St. **SWITCH member Rob Christie, Cleave Energy will be speaking about the Solyndra PV system.**

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 February Open Meeting will be sponsored by SWITCH member **Nedco**, a Division of Rexel Canada Electrical Inc., with a featured cheese donation from SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese**. March will be sponsored by John Marriott, OSIsoft Canada ULC, April will be sponsored by SWITCH member **CPE Division-L Inc.**
Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!

Open Meetings will be held at Innovation Park in the Conference Room attached to the main entrance to Novellis. Attendees of Open Meetings can 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 ask the receptionist to call the SWITCH office (dial 9+613-547-6700 x129). We will come and badge you in.

SWITCH News & Announcements

1. A big welcome to new members **Enfinity, The Mortgage Professionals, Kadra Branker, and Gavin Hutchison.**
2. SWITCH is offering a series of business presentations on *How your rooftop can make you money: The new Green Energy Act and your business* January through March 2010. **Stay tuned for updates.** Launched on October 1st, 2009, the new Green Energy Act will enable Ontario businesses to unlock their rooftop asset 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. **The following dates have been confirmed:**
January 24, 2-4 pm, Brockville Public Library
February 16, noon, Peterborough

February 16, 7 pm, Marble Church Arts Centre, Actinolite
February 17, 8 am, Bancroft
February 17, noon, Haliburton

3. **Financing for microFIT projects:** With assistance from **The Mortgage Professionals** (www.mortgageprokingston.com), SWITCH has clarified that most homeowners with equity in their homes should qualify to borrow against that at standard mortgage rates. As well TD Canada Trust has informed us that businesses may also qualify for a government-guaranteed loan. Full details are available in our Energy Digest (<http://switchontario.ca/wiki/doku.php?id=microfit:financing>)
4. Website feature:
http://switchkingston.ca/wiki/doku.php?id=general_information:energy_costs
5. SWITCH staff members Mark Gibson, Jennifer Kiwala and Pierre Nadeau are working to provide value added services to small and medium enterprises who are either in the supply chain or consumers of sustainable energy products and services over the next three months. If you know of an SME that we might not have thought of, please contact us.
6. SWITCH executive director, Ted Hsu, will be speaking at the next Kingston Technology Council luncheon on Friday, Jan. 15, at the Harbour Restaurant on **Cap and Trade for greenhouse gases: What is it? Why does it matter? How does it work?** *An introductory talk to explain why and what a citizen living in Kingston needs to know about Cap and Trade for greenhouse gases including a hands-on illustration of the ideas behind Cap and Trade.* Networking starts at 11:30 am. Pre-registration is required, \$35 or \$25 for students. Register (deadline Jan 13) by email by sending a message to hanley@kingstoncanada.com
7. If you have any leftover nametags that you have received from conferences, please consider donating them to SWITCH to reuse and recycle.
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

The ELORIN corner:

1. Biobreakfast, February 11, 7 – 9 am, Donald Gordon Conference Centre, 421 Union St. The speaker will be Lori Gadzala, the Executive Director of the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC), Ottawa Region, *Green Building and LEED 2010 – an update*. Lori Gadzala will be discussing the LEED Canada Initiative, green building projects in Eastern Ontario, and why people choose to build green. Tickets are \$30 (\$15 for full-time students). Registration and cancellation deadline is February 9, 5:00 pm, http://www.elorin.ca/site/index.php?method=public.eventDetail&event_id=157
2. SWITCH member **Enfinity** has launched a Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Lease Program for building owners in Ontario. Please read the attached press release for more details about the program.

3. Join SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co.**, for their Cheese Maker for a Day programs on Thursday, February 11th and Thursday, February 18th http://www.fifthtown.ca/artisan_cheese/visit/cheese_maker_for_a_day/. You can purchase Fifth Town's Cheese locally at Pan Chancho, Tara Foods, Pasta Genova, and Wendy's Mobile Market.
4. SWITCH member **KEDCO** is presenting a series of 5 seminars devoted to helping small businesses get the most out of their websites. Each session costs \$15, or you can register for all 5 for \$60. Please see the attached file for dates and times.
5. SWITCH member, the **Kingston Sustainability Centre** sent out their first newsletter today.
6. SWITCH member **Anton Driesse** gave a brief presentation on behalf of Sustainable Energy Technologies (SET) at a recent SWITCH meeting. Anton reported that SET will start manufacturing their 5kW inverters in Ontario soon, and they are looking for sites to carry out technology comparisons. The sites should be large enough to accommodate 2 or 3 systems of 5kW, side-by-side, with minimal shading (approx. 500-1000 sq m). Some low, flat, commercial roof space is needed, as well as open space for ground mounting. The systems could be owned either by SET or the host. Interested parties can contact Anton, anton.driesse@kos.net, (613) 546-3676 or Brent Harris of SET, brent.harris@sustainableenergy.com.

Local non-member News & Announcements

1. *Within Kingston* magazine is offering a **15% discount to SWITCH members** off of all print advertising in their upcoming February 1st eco-living issue. In addition, they are also offering free ad design. The deadline to submit an ad is **January 15th**. Please call (613) 767-9721 or email info@withinkingston.com, attention Kyle Hoobin, for more information.
2. Earth Hour is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 27th at 8:30 pm. You can read the City of Kingston's proclamation by going to http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/council/proclamations/Notice-100106_01.asp
3. The City of Kingston is seeking feedback for a draft Community Gardens Policy meant to structure collaborations between the City and other groups, <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/press/release.asp?mode=show&id=2768>. The **deadline to submit comments is January 14th**.
4. The official website for Sustainable Kingston (an ICSP from FOCUS Kingston), can be viewed by going to <http://www.sustainablekingston.ca/>. Comments on the plan are easy to make by clicking on the blue circular icons found throughout the website. **Comments will continue to be accepted for the future drafts.**
5. Wintergreen Studios, <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com/index.php>, an off-grid education and retreat centre located in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, offers meeting and retreat facilities, as well as one and two-day workshops at a 10% discount to SWITCH members. Please advise them you are a SWITCH member when registering in order to receive the discount.
6. **New Grant program:** The Community Energy Partnerships Program, <http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2009/09/ontario-supports-local-investments-in-green-energy.html> is offering one time financial assistance of up to \$200,000 for project planning, environmental and engineering studies. The program is open to community groups, including cooperatives, non-profit groups and local partnerships. Projects are

eligible to receive a graduated incentive, based on the percentage of local ownership, of up to 1 cent/kilowatt hour in addition to standard feed-in-tariff rates.

Non-local News & Announcements

1. To read an article on recommissioning, the process of ensuring a building and all of its systems are running as they were designed to, please go to this site, <http://www.energymanagementcanada.com/HVAC/-R/Features/recommissioning-the-best-kept-secret-in-reducing-operating-costs.html>.
2. Berkeley, CA, has developed a municipal low-interest loan program through the issuing of bonds to the private sector, <http://www.thestar.com/business/cleanbreak/article/748956--hamilton-berkeley-s-radicals-spreading-heat-light>.
3. The first biodigester in Ontario to be built by a municipality (1/3 municipal funding, 2/3 federal & provincial) has been approved for the Owen Sound area. Please go to <http://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2252331> to read more.
4. **Event:** A World Without Oil – Conversations in Design, January 21st, Design Exchange, Toronto. For more information, please go to http://www.green-business.ca/component/option,com_simplecalendar/controller,simplecalendar/id,9/view,detail/.
5. Construction of a 20 MW solar farm in Sault Ste Marie will begin this spring. A further 40 MW's are under development, <http://www.saultstar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2251247>.
6. **Employment Opportunity:** Schuco Canada Inc., is looking for an experienced PV Sales Representative and an experienced PV Engineer for their Toronto office (the Canadian market). If you are interested in applying for either of these positions, please contact Ron Mantay, General Manager, Solar, RonMantay@Schuco.ca.
7. The Ontario Government, through the Ontario Solar Thermal Heating Initiative (OSTHI), has increased the incentives available for solar hot water systems fivefold. OSTHI will now provide a maximum of \$400,000 per project. For more information, please go to <http://www.news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2009/12/solar-technologies-help-build-ontarios-green-economy.html>.
8. **Funding Opportunity:** Earth Day Canada is now accepting applications for the spring grant period of the Community Environment Fund. The deadline to apply is **February 28, 2010**. Please go to this site to learn more http://www.earthday.ca/pub/resources/media_releases/2009-12-03_cef_schools_engo_outreach/index.html.
9. **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

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!

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.