



# SWITCH

*The Sustainable Energy People*

*SWITCH news, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

*Greetings Everyone!*

The next SWITCH Open Meeting **will take place on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am, at the Royal Kingston Curling Club, 130 Days Road**. Dan Corbett will speak on how Sustainable Kingston can build community partnerships and citizen engagement to have clear measures of success in advancing Kingston as - Canada's Most Sustainable City. He will address in particular the parts of the plan relevant to SWITCH:

*"Establish Kingston as a leader in Green Technology (wind, solar, bio fuel)...  
...Reduce the amount of energy that residents and industry consume.  
Generate enough local renewable energy to meet all of our needs.  
Reduce and/or mitigate our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to become carbon neutral. "*

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](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca). The refreshments for the May open meeting will be sponsored by NEDCO. June, July and September will be sponsored by **Kingston Solar Installations**. October and November will be sponsored by **Air Liquide**.

*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.** Welcome to new members **Seaway Document Solutions Inc., Arthur Silver, Ralph Wirsig, and Kim Gratton**. Thank you to renewing members **Cruickshank Construction** and **Alan Gibson, Eco-Net Technologies**.
- 2.** SWITCH is hiring a part-time Challenge Coordinator for the "1000 Solar Rooftops Challenge". Please see the attached document for information about the position

and details on how to apply. **The deadline to submit an application is Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

3. 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 go to <http://www.switchontario.ca/> or [register@switchontario.ca](mailto:register@switchontario.ca). **This meeting will be webcast.** To watch, please sign in using your email address **at least one hour prior**, <http://www.switchkingston.ca#dimdim>.
4. If you wish to write to the government about the cancellation of the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program, attached to this newsletter is a Word document with pre-addressed sample letters and mailing labels. Just add your own name and address, and mail it off. Letters to the House of Commons do not require postage.
5. The Facebook group "Keep the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program alive" started by SWITCH executive director Ted Hsu, has surpassed 1000 members. **To join, learn more, and provide support**, go to <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=107621445935729>.
6. **Coming Soon: Carpooling** to SWITCH open meetings – stay tuned for updates.
7. Website feature: <http://switchkingston.ca/wiki/doku.php?id=biomass>
8. 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 <http://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!
9. "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 corner:** Market & Industry Intelligence for Entrepreneurs and Start-ups, May 20, 1:30 to 3 pm, Innovation Park, 945 Princess Street. As part of

ELORIN U, this seminar examines how market intelligence can make your business more profitable.

2. SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce** was interviewed last week about green energy in Ontario and the recently announced FIT projects  
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-takes-green-lead-with-record-8-billion-energy-investment/article1527080/>
3. **Axio Power Canada Inc.**, was awarded nine 10 MW applications through the Ontario FIT program.
4. SWITCH member **Darko Matovic** will be attending a Bioenergy Tour to Austria and Northern Italy, May 10-14. The agenda can be viewed by going to [http://www.canbio.ca/events/austria\\_italy/austria\\_italy\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.canbio.ca/events/austria_italy/austria_italy_agenda.pdf)  
Darko will also be visiting the National Research Council Institute of Biometeorology (Cnr-IBIMET) in Florence and the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE) in Rome. If anybody has a suggestion for Darko to snap a photo, ask a question or meet somebody they should contact Darko at [darko@me.queensu.ca](mailto:darko@me.queensu.ca), or 613-533-6824.
5. KTC luncheon, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, The Harbour Restaurant, 53 Yonge St. Students from the **Building Construction Internship Program**, and Don Voteary, will be speaking about Harvest House, Canada's first student built energy net-zero home. Tickets are \$35 and \$20 for students. Pre-registration by noon on April 14<sup>th</sup> is required,  
<http://www.kingstontechnology.net/publisher/articleview/frmArticleID/39/>.
6. **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." To register online go to <http://www.queensu.ca/qieep/events/biomass/2010/index.html> or contact Lisa Doulas, [ldoulas@cogeco.ca](mailto:ldoulas@cogeco.ca), 613-539-2482. **The Early Bird Rate of \$375 ends on April 16th.** Registration after April 16th is \$425.
7. To apply for and to learn about the Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP), go to SWITCH member **Frontenac CFDC's** website, <http://www.frontenaccfdc.com/services.cfm?topic=easternontariodevelopmentprogram>. If you operate a business or farm in Frontenac County, contact 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.

8. Correction Notice: **Nature's Powers**, <http://www.naturespowers.ca/>, held an open house over the Easter weekend, attracting about 90-100 visitors over the 3 day period (not each day as noted last week).
9. The **Living Cities Company** is holding a Spring Rainbarrel sale. Each rainbarrel costs \$60 and must be pre-ordered by April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attached for more details, or contact [rainbarrel@livingcitiescompany.ca](mailto:rainbarrel@livingcitiescompany.ca).

### ***Local non-member News & Announcements***

1. Paul Charbonneau, an energy consultant and facilitator of energy projects across Ontario gave a presentation on solar roof opportunities for non-profits last Saturday, <http://www.ckwstv.com/index.cfm?page=news&id=2265>. Mr. Charbonneau specializes in community energy projects for non-profits, schools and faith communities.
2. The Ontario Straw Bale Building Coalition Annual Tour of homes and other straw bale buildings takes place on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Admission is \$10 for the day. To learn more and to plan your route, go to <http://registry.osbbc.ca/page-annual-tour-5.html>.
3. Kingston Transit's Rack and Roll service began again earlier this month. Rack and Roll permits cyclists to store their bicycles on the front of Kingston Transit buses.
4. Brockville Climate Action Group monthly meeting, April 25, 2 to 3:30 pm, Brockville Public Library, 23 Buell Street, *Stoneleigh: The Economy Trumps Peak Oil and Climate Change*. Stoneleigh, editor of the financial blog The Automatic Earth, will discuss how the concepts of peak oil, empire and credit bubbles intersect, and how individuals can prepare for a different financial future.

### ***Non-local News & Announcements***

1. The Ontario government announced 184 large-scale renewable energy projects under the Feed-In Tariff program on April 8<sup>th</sup>. To see a list of the projects, go to [http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/Storage/101/11002\\_FITMap06.swf](http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/Storage/101/11002_FITMap06.swf).
2. Every Thursday night from 6 to 9 pm, April 8 to June 10, The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (O.I.S.E.) is hosting a series of seminars on *The Green Economy: Practical Strategies to Create Community-based Eco-economies*. O.I.S.E. is located at 252 Bloor St. West, just above the St. George subway. Workshops will take place on the eighth floor, 8-214. For more information, please visit this site <http://www.greeneconomics.net/GE2010-schedule.htm>.
3. Open house, Now House Windsor 5, a wartime bungalow retrofitted into a near zero energy home, April 17 and 18, as part of Enviro Expo in Windsor, <http://www.nowhouseproject.com/>. The Now House Project "...is a process for retrofitting existing older houses into net zero energy homes...."

4. **Event:** 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Canadian Cleantech Summit, April 27-29, Ottawa, <http://canadiancleantechsummit.com/>.
5. **Event:** Green Expo, April 24, 10 am to 4 pm, Evinrude Centre, Peterborough, <http://www.greenexpo.ca/index.html>.
6. The University of Wisconsin recently changed the default font used on their email system from Arial to Century Gothic to save money on toner. Currently, the University spends about \$100,000 per year on toner. Century Gothic uses about 30% less ink than their previous system. To read the full story, go to <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125639616>.
7. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, <http://www.earthday.org/>.
8. The Excellence in Education Award from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), honours secondary and post-secondary educators who have encouraged students in the development of sustainable communities by integrating sustainable concepts in housing and community development into their curriculum. For more information, please go to [http://www.cmhc.ca/en/inpr/su/su\\_002.cfm](http://www.cmhc.ca/en/inpr/su/su_002.cfm). **The deadline for nominations is May 31st.**
9. **Update:** Schuco Canada is continuing to offer a series of training sessions for solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal in **May, June & July**. Please go to their website for full details of each course, [http://www.schueco.com/web/ca/commercial/trainings\\_events/solar\\_trainings\\_events](http://www.schueco.com/web/ca/commercial/trainings_events/solar_trainings_events).
10. 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.sdtc.ca/en/funding/NextGen\\_Biofuels\\_Fund/index.htm](http://www.sdtc.ca/en/funding/NextGen_Biofuels_Fund/index.htm)

## Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you at the next SWITCH event,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrator

SWITCH

At Innovation Park, 945 Princess Street,  
Kingston, ON K7L 3N6

613-547-6700 x 129

[info@switchkingston.ca](mailto: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.