



# SWITCH

*The Sustainable Energy People*

*SWITCH news, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**, at **8:00 am**, at Queen's Innovation Park. The speakers will be SWITCH members Jeff Gibson, **jNetrix Systems Inc**, and **Aztech Associates**. They will be speaking about home electricity monitoring systems.

If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments for an Open Meeting, at a cost of \$30, please contact Catherine or Ted, [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca). The refreshments for the November 6th Open Meeting will be sponsored by **Brittania Construction**, <http://www.britanniaconstruction.ca/>.

*"Britannia Construction is a locally owned and operated family business that thrives on providing a positive and efficient home building experience...."*

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 down and badge you in.

## ***SWITCH News & Announcements***

1. A big welcome to new member **Lesley Rudy**. Lesley has volunteered to help organize the October 24<sup>th</sup> screening of "A Sea Change".
2. **SWITCH in Lennox & Addington County**: SWITCH will be co-hosting an early morning meeting in Napanee, at the offices of SWITCH member **Lennox & Addington County** on **Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**. The purpose of this meeting is to expand the SWITCH network and benefits to L & A County. The economic development office of L&A County will be inviting attendees from their area to come and meet SWITCH. **Several SWITCH Board members and SWITCH members are attending, as well as folks from the County Sustainability Group in Prince Edward County and the Tamworth switchgrass group**. It will be held at the Strathcona Paper Centre at 16 McPherson Drive, in the Goodyear Lounge on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor from 8 to 9 am. We will be organizing car pools from Kingston. **Please consider joining the Kingston contingent and please let us know if you are coming.**

3. SWITCH will be holding a free public screening of the new documentary, "A Sea Change", on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Climate Action. The screening will take place in the Large Lecture Theatre at St. Lawrence College. Doors will be open at 6 pm. The film will start at 7 o'clock. "A Sea Change" is about ocean acidification, caused by the same emissions of CO2 responsible for global warming. The film website is <http://www.aseachange.net/>. **We need volunteers to help advertise the screening.** If you are interested, please contact SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu, [thsu@switchkingston.ca](mailto:thsu@switchkingston.ca).
4. **"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. Join the Climate on the Line Campaign, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm, Kingston City Hall. Bring a piece of clothing and hang it on the giant clothes line, symbolic of the energy you can save by using a clothesline instead of a dryer. All clothing will later be donated to families in need. Clarke Mackey, Head of Film and Media at Queen's will be filming the event. The video will be sent around the globe to support the [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) campaign. At 5:30 pm, energy and environment expert Ralph Torrie will be speaking about climate change in Memorial Hall, Kingston City Hall. You can attend one or both events. Please contact Bridget Doherty, of SWITCH member **Sisters of Providence**, [bridget.doherty@providence.ca](mailto:bridget.doherty@providence.ca), (613)544-4525 x145 for more information.
2. If you are interested in joining the "Fill the Hill" campaign on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Climate Action, please get in touch with Bridget Doherty of SWITCH member **Sisters of Providence** (see above contact info). Buses will be departing from Sir John A. MacDonald and Bath Road at 9:00 am. Transportation costs are pay what you can.
3. SWITCH member **Betty-Anne Howard** sent a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) "Resource Kit on Sustainable Consumption and Production". Please go to [http://www.unep.org/PDF/sc/SC\\_resourcekit.pdf](http://www.unep.org/PDF/sc/SC_resourcekit.pdf) to download the file. See page 6 through 9 for information on energy.
4. **Event:** Cities Alive, World Green Roof Infrastructure Congress, October 19-21, Sheraton Centre, Toronto. Registration is \$249 for non-members and \$149 for members. Please go to <http://citiesalive.org/> for more information. Thank you to SWITCH member **Bardi Vorster** for mentioning this event.
5. The **Kingston Sustainability Centre (KSC)**, located at 193 Princess Street, is open to the public Monday to Saturday from 11am-6pm, with evening event availability. The KSC offers a platform for Kingston's youth, businesses, educational institutions, government, and not-for-profits to collaborate on delivering sustainable living programs that support the vision to become Canada's Most Sustainable City. Become a partner, be a volunteer, drop in and learn. Use the community classroom and share your passions, knowledge, ideas and solutions to inspire all Kingstonian's. To learn more contact Dan Hendry, [danieljameshendry@gmail.com](mailto:danieljameshendry@gmail.com), or Randy Cluff, [randycluff@msn.com](mailto:randycluff@msn.com), or call (613) 561-6500.
6. SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce** sent the following solar PV FAQ wiki for Kingston [http://www.appropedia.org/Solar Photovoltaic Cells for the Kingston Home FAQ](http://www.appropedia.org/Solar_Photovoltic_Cells_for_the_Kingston_Home_FAQ) Joshua noted that SWITCH members should feel free to use it as a resource and to edit the page (add any missed items, references, or correct any mistakes). You can edit the text by clicking

on any of the edit links on the page. **If you would like to start or add content to an appropedia section for other areas of sustainable energy information specific to Kingston, please let us know.**

- SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College's** Energy Systems Engineering Technician Technologists students are seeking renewable energy design projects in the Kingston area. They will work with their clients to develop a feasibility level investigation of the design required and the project economics for small wind, solar thermal, solar electric, hydro or biomass projects. Please contact Steve Lapp ([slapp@sl.on.ca](mailto:slapp@sl.on.ca)) for further information.

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

- 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.
- The Prince Edward County Sustainability Group will be presenting the film "Escape from Suburbia" at The Organic Underground Cafe on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The Cafe is located at 255 Front Street in Belleville. A discussion will follow the screening. Please contact Renia Tyminski, [renia@sympatico.ca](mailto:renia@sympatico.ca), of the County Sustainability Group, for more information.
- The Cansolair Solar Heater will be featured on "Daily Planet", the Discovery Channel, this **Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm. Thank you to Greg B. Dixon, Dixon Solar Heating, for sending this information.
- Event:** Join Mike Nickerson, author of Life, Money and Illusion; Living on Earth as if we want to stay for a discussion on sustainability in the Wilson Room, Kingston Central Library on Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 3:30. Please go to <http://www.flora.org/sustain/> to learn more about the project.
- Dr. Helen Caldicott, author of If You Love This Planet, will be speaking in Kingston on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The title of Dr. Caldicott's talk is "Nuclear Power is not the answer to Climate Change". The talk will be held at Etherington Auditorium, Queen's University, at 8:00 pm.
- Event:** Brockville Climate Action Group meeting, Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, Brockville Public Library, 23 Buell Street, Brockville. The speaker will be Charles Forman, of Switchgreen Inc., "Switchgrass-based pellet production."
- 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 listing of workshops for 2009/2010, including "Living Off the Grid" and "Cordwood Building", please visit <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com/SustainableBuildingandMindfulLiving.php>.

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

- Event:** 1<sup>st</sup> Annual OSEA Community Power Conference, November 15-16, Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Early registration ends October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please go to this site <http://www.cpconference.ca/> for more details.
- The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) is

currently accepting applications under the Southern Ontario Development Program (SODP) for "...projects that will stimulate local economies and enhance the growth and competitiveness of Southern Ontario businesses and communities." Applications will be accepted from October 2<sup>nd</sup> through to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Preference will be given to projects that can be started quickly and completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Please go to <http://southernontario.gc.ca/eic/site/723.nsf/eng/00128.html> for more information on how to apply.

3. The microFIT program was officially launched on October 1<sup>st</sup>. To read more about the FIT and microFIT program, please go to <http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca/>.
4. The Canada Small Business Financing Program seeks to "...increase the availability of loans for establishing, expanding, modernizing and improving small businesses...", by encouraging financial institutions to make financing available. To find out more information about this program, please go to <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/csbfp-pfpec.nsf/eng/Home> or call 1-866-959-1699 (toll-free) or email [CSBFA-LFPEC@ic.gc.ca](mailto:CSBFA-LFPEC@ic.gc.ca).
5. The Electricity Sector Council is offering a wage subsidy of up to \$10,000 (1/3 of the total salary over a maximum 12 month period) for every new technician, technologist and engineer hired. Please go to the following website to learn more about how you can qualify for the subsidy  
[http://www.brightfutures.ca/projects/electricity\\_first\\_work/2009\\_application\\_documents.html](http://www.brightfutures.ca/projects/electricity_first_work/2009_application_documents.html)
6. **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](mailto: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 Open Meeting,

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](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca)  
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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!

