



SWITCH news, brought to you by the members of SWITCH!  
June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The guest speaker will be SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce**. Joshua, and/or his students, will be speaking about *Making Photovoltaics Economically Viable*. **There will be no Open Meeting in August**. The September meeting will be on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.  
*Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!*

*Sign-in procedure:*

*All attendees of SWITCH Open Meetings can continue to enter through the West side doors (the entrance used previously) from 7:30 to 9:00 am. There will be a Sign-In and Sign-Out sheet available at the top of the stairs. You must sign this sheet as you enter and exit. **If you will be staying past 10:00 am, please notify either of the SWITCH staff. You will need to wear an identification badge and be accompanied by a tenant of Innovation Park.***

*All visitors to SWITCH must now 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. You are invited to come to Kingston's technology networking event of the year, co-sponsored by SWITCH, KTC, ELORIN, PARTEQ, Innovation Park, and KEDCO. Come to the "Kingston Technology Partners Mix-and-Mingle", Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, Harbour restaurant. It's free! Munchies & finger foods will be served, Cash Bar, Wednesday, June 17th 4:30 - 7:00pm Please **RSVP to...Darlene Kirkpatrick 613-544-6920 ext 246** [kirkpatrickd@limestone.on.ca](mailto:kirkpatrickd@limestone.on.ca) . Last December's event was a great success.
2. "Green Tech" columnist Cam Allen, of SWITCH member **All-Tech Consulting** is writing a 3 part article on why homeowners should consider solar hot water systems. You can read Parts 1 and 2 by going to <http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1599163> and <http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1609695> respectively. SWITCH member **Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow** were selected as the installers of the solar hot water system being installed on the Allen's home.
3. Steven and Susan Moore of SWITCH member **Moore Partners** are part of a Queen's group gathering useable computers, monitors, and keyboards to establish a student/staff computer centre at the University of Havana. Please call them at 613-379-5958 if you or anyone you know has computer equipment they no longer need. You can keep up to date on the progress of the Moore's earth-sheltered home (now under construction) by going to <http://www.moorepartners.ca/notes.cfm>.

4. You can now make a charitable donation to fund certain activities of SWITCH that are classified as charitable work in the environmental area. SWITCH has set up a charitable partnership with the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA). Details on the partnership and how to donate will appear soon on the SWITCH and CFKA websites.
5. The 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**
6. **Green Energy Act Update:** The Province of Ontario is asking the public to submit comments on approval requirements and setbacks for renewable energy projects. Information meetings will be held from 7 to 9 pm during the month on June. Comments can be submitted to the Environmental Registry. The next meeting nearest to Kingston will be in Toronto, on June 25<sup>th</sup>, at Ryerson University. Please go to <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/news/2009/060901.php> for more details.
7. Funding is available for electricity conservation projects through the Ontario Power Authority's Conservation Fund. The fund supports projects that help to build capacity for conservation programs in the marketplace and test new or unique conservation program elements. Please go to <http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/cfund/> for further information. **The next deadline for submitting an expression of interest is August 26.**
8. **Public Meeting Reminder:** The City of Kingston's proposed plan will be presented by City staff at a **public meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall**. The public is invited to comment on the plan after the presentation. You can read a copy of the plan by going to <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/development/officialplan/draftplan.asp>. Hard copies are available at Kingston Frontenac Public Libraries (Central, Isabel Turner and Pittsburgh), City Hall, and 1211 John Counter Boulevard.
9. Last week, the federal government released a draft set of guidelines for an offset system for greenhouse gases. You can read more by going to <http://www.torys.com/Publications/Documents/Publication%20PDFs/CC2009-4.pdf>
10. The SWITCH Board has adopted the following definition of Sustainable Energy: "The provision of energy through the use of *renewable energy* technology and the principles of *energy conservation* and energy efficiency, in a manner that minimizes long-term damage to the environment, such that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This definition is from the City of Kingston's Official Plan, Recommended Draft 2009. **Please feel free to send in your thoughts and comments.**
11. 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](mailto:ianrowberry@gmail.com) for more information.

12. **Event:** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ELORIN Conference, August 12-13, Holiday Inn, Kingston. This year's conference is all about sustainable building and design. Please go to <http://www.elorin.ca> for more information. **Steven Moore, of SWITCH member Moore Partners will be giving a workshop on the design and construction of his earth-sheltered home.**
13. **Local Event:** Jackie St. Pierre of SWITCH member **KEDCO** told us about the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters *Energy Conservation and Demand Management Forum* at the Invista Centre, Kingston on June 25. For more information and to register, see [http://www.cme-mec.ca/pdf/2009%20Energy%20Forum%20\\_Kingston.pdf](http://www.cme-mec.ca/pdf/2009%20Energy%20Forum%20_Kingston.pdf)
14. **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>. **Ian Kilborn from SWITCH member Quantum Renewable Energy will be teaching a Living Off the Grid course on July 16<sup>th</sup>.** To watch a slide show about Wintergreen on YouTube please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAwzuRWWJjg>
15. If anyone would like to chair an Open Meeting or lend a hand by volunteering, please get in touch. If you think you might have some time at the end of the meeting to help stack chairs or rinse and recycle cups, please contact Catherine Humphreys, [cbhumphreys@switchkingston.ca](mailto:cbhumphreys@switchkingston.ca).

Hope to see you at the Mix and Mingle and at the next Open Meeting,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant  
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SWITCH thanks the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**  
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For more information, go to our website: <http://switchkingston.ca/> or phone us!