



Greetings Everybody!

Reserve the Date: Our next Open Meeting will be held on **Friday, March 6th, 2009 at 8:00 am** in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. SWITCH member **Burt's Greenhouses**, will be speaking about Biochar, and showing a film made by Alec Ross about the biomass heating system they use for their greenhouses.

The new procedure for entering the building will be finalized soon. Stay tuned!

1. A big welcome to new member **David Sanscartier**, a student at R.M.C.
2. **Help us advertise** *The Renewable Energy "How To" Workshop Series for Homeowners* developed by a group of SWITCH members (**Al Gibson, Ben Kenney, Bardi Vorster, Joshua Pearce, Pierre Nadeau**, Karina McInnis and Ed Thomas (**Queen's University**)) and to be held at SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College**. A poster is attached to this email that you can forward to friends and neighbours who might be interested. Please go to <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/> for more information and to register. There will have a kick-off and introductory session at **St. Lawrence College** on March 3rd. Kingston City Councillor Dorothy Hector will be the keynote speaker.
3. **SWITCH staff is helping members** submit comments on the City of Kingston draft Official Plan. The draft Official Plan contains a long section on Energy and Environment and can potentially impact the activities of a number of SWITCH members.
4. **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.** The 2009 program list and rates can be found at <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com> . Please advise them that you are a SWITCH member when registering in order to receive the discount.
5. **GreenUP! 2009** is looking for help with fundraising, communications, site logistics, programming/workshops, entertainment, food and more. There are big plans for the event this year; a partnership is forming with the City of Kingston and the Whig Standard, with the intent of increasing our exhibitor turnout and encouraging involvement with the city's sustainability initiatives. The festival will be taking place Sunday, April 19th, at the K-Rock Center (KRC). The first volunteer meeting is Tuesday, February 24th, at 7pm, location TBD. We would like to hear from you ASAP if you'd like to attend/be involved as this will determine the meeting location. Please check out the GreenUP! website, at www.greenupfestival.ca , for more information.
6. SWITCH member Hearthmakers is still looking for members of its Board of Directors. Please see <http://www.switchkingston.ca/classifieds.php> for more details.
7. SWITCH members **Tackaberry Heating and Refrigeration, Quantum Renewable Energy, Hearthmakers, and Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow** are speaking on the Saturday Feb 28th, Seminar Day, at the Kingston Homebuilder's Association Home and Trade Show, Cataraqui Town Centre.
8. **Job Opportunity:** Think Energy Inc., a renewable energy consulting firm, is looking for Structural and Electrical Engineers with experience in Solar PV. Think Energy, is looking for a full-time

engineer to work in the Los Angeles area . If you are interested or know of a qualified engineer who is, please contact Nicole Marandino, nmarandino@thinkenergy.net or call 301-589-9522 x11. Contract work may be offered if a suitable full-time candidate cannot be found. To learn more about Think Energy, please to <http://www.thinkenergy.net>. This ad can also be found on the SWITCH *Classifieds* page.

9. **U.S. Stimulus spending:** SWITCH staff have found an online spreadsheet that details the \$71 billion on clean energy programs and \$20 in clean energy tax incentives in the recent U.S. stimulus bill. An excel spreadsheet with a breakdown is located here: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/energy_recovery_hse_senate_21309.xls and you can read the accompanying blog article here: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/recovery_plan_captures.html
10. **Wolfe Island Wind Project update:** A new target in-service date of June 30th, 2009 was announced by Canadian Hydro Developers. Some electricity will be connected to the grid in April and 45 out of the 86 turbines are now completely up. For the full story, please go to <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Canadian-Hydro-Developers-Inc-TSX-KHD-949570.html>
11. **Event:** Energy Matters 2009: Ontario's fifth annual public sector energy management conference, April 20-21, Mississauga, ON, see www.energymatterssummit.ca
12. **Event:** KTC luncheon: Friday, Feb. 20th, James Pagonis will present: "SkyPower" - Generating a Brighter Future Through Renewable Energy. Skypower is building the 19 MW solar farm in Napanee. Pre-registration (\$35) is required! For details see this page: <http://www.kingstontechnology.net/publisher/articleview/frmArticleID/39/>
13. **Event:** Bridges to Better Business Conference, February 24, 2009, Davies Hall, St. Lawrence College. The conference provides an opportunity for small businesses to learn from the experience of successful entrepreneurs and network with their peers. SWITCH member, **Betty-Anne Howard**, Certified Financial Planner, IPG Kingston Inc., will be speaking. To register, please call 613-544-2725 x222 or email entrepreneurship@kingstoncanada.com. The registration fee is \$50 before 13 Feb and \$70 after
14. **Workshop Series:** ELORIN is running a series of Spring Training Workshops for Entrepreneurs. The workshops were developed with the support of PARTEQ Innovations, KEDCO and the Kingston Technology Council. Please go to <http://www.elorin.ca/> for more information. Workshops will be held at Innovation Park from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on the following dates:
 - Mar 05 - Workshop #1 - The Plan
 - Mar 12 - Workshop #2 - Intellectual Property
 - Mar 18 - Workshop #3 - The Pitch
 - Apr 05 - Workshop #4 - The Money
 - Apr 09 - Workshop #5 - Strategic Marketing and Sales (SWITCH Board Member, **Theresa MacBeth, Boom Strategy**, will be speaking).
15. **Event:** SWITCH will be exhibiting at the Quinte Conservation Sustainable Living Symposium on Saturday March 28th in Belleville. If SWITCH members would like the SWITCH staff to take some of your product and services literature to display at the SWITCH booth, please let us know. The event is usually quite well attended. For more information see <http://www.quintesustainability.ca/>
16. **Event:** Energy Matters Summit 2009, April 20-21, Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre, Mississauga, Ontario. For more information and to register, please go to <http://www.peelregion.ca/finance/corp-energy/energy-matters09/summit-details.htm>. Thank you to Michael Tiffe, TAB Mechanical, for mentioning this conference.

17. Green Energy Act in the news: More information about the upcoming GEA. To read more, please go to the following articles

http://www.greenenergyact.ca/Page.asp?PageID=924&ContentID=1036&AA_SiteLanguageID=1

[http://www.greenenergyact.ca/Page.asp?PageID=924&ContentID=1035&AA_SiteLanguageID=](http://www.greenenergyact.ca/Page.asp?PageID=924&ContentID=1035&AA_SiteLanguageID=1)

[1](#)

Hope to see you at our next Open Meeting!

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant

SWITCH - The Sustainable Energy People

2nd Floor - 945 Princess Street

Kingston, ON K7L 5L9

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