



# SWITCH

*The Sustainable Energy People*

*SWITCH news, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am**, at Queen's Innovation Park. The guest speaker will be Aaron Ball, Sustainability Manager and Nathan Splinter, Energy Engineer, from the Queen's Sustainability Office. The title of their talk is *Queen's University: Energy Management*.

The September 4<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting will also be an **Interim Members Meeting** to appoint 2 new Board members and a few other matters. More details will follow closer to the date, but please mark your calendars.

If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments, at a cost of \$30, for one of our upcoming Open Meetings, please contact Executive Director, Ted Hsu, [thsu@switchkingston.ca](mailto:thsu@switchkingston.ca).

*Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!*

The next Open Meeting will be held in the Conference Room attached to the main entrance to Novellis. All attendees of Open Meetings should be able to 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 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. Thank you to renewing member **Axio Power Canada Inc.**
2. The refreshments for the September 4<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting will be sponsored by Wolfe Island Canadian Cargotechture Solutions Homes Inc. (W.I.C.C.S Homes Inc.). W.I.C.C.S Homes Inc. is planning to set up a manufacturing facility on Wolfe Island for the conversion of shipping containers into affordable housing units, and for other uses. *"Aligning new technologies, innovation and green abilities. Resulting in remanufactured, recycled shipping containers into affordable housing for our ever growing aging, homeless, Aboriginal and displaced population. W.I.C.C.S Homes Inc. feels confident that by reusing throw away containers we could pave a road to solutions for homelessness, disasters and despotic conditions throughout the world."* Thomas Mohr is President and CEO of W.I.C.C.S Homes Inc., and Judy

Greenwood-Speers is Co-CEO. Their website is currently under construction, but should be up and running soon. Stay tuned for more updates about W.I.C.C.S Homes Inc.

3. **Volunteer Needed:** SWITCH has held *Renewable Energy How-To Workshops for Homeowners* in the past few months and collected the presentations (powerpoint, video and audio) on our website. See this page [http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/workshop\\_content.php](http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/workshop_content.php). We need a volunteer who would contact all organizations who might benefit by making a link on their website to our content, and encourage them to do so. We believe that this content is a valuable resource, created through public funding, that therefore should be disseminated as widely as possible. We also need a volunteer to construct an html fragment that produces a little clickable graphic that attracts the eye and links to our workshop content, and makes it easier for other sites to link to SWITCH's. If you are interested, please contact Ted Hsu, [thsu@switchkingston.ca](mailto:thsu@switchkingston.ca).
4. Congratulations to Energy House, of SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College**, for receiving the Mayor's Choice Award and the District Award in the Public Garden category for Communities in Bloom. Energy House was also a 5-Bloom recipient (the highest rating) in the Public Gardens category. More points were awarded this year for environmental awareness/sustainability.
5. The results of the province-wide Community Challenge Day that took place last Friday, will be announced tomorrow at the AMO (Associations of Municipalities of Ontario) Annual Conference in Ottawa. Kingstonians were asked to compete with other municipalities to achieve the highest percentage drop in the consumption of electricity, and the highest per capita participation in the Count Me In! pledge drive. **Kingston reduced its energy consumption by 7.44% over the previous day.**
6. SkyPower, the developer of the Bryan Wind Project (which already has a power contract with the OPA) in Prince Edward County, and a partner in the Napanee solar farm (nearly finished), filed for court protection from creditors. SkyPower is majority owned by bankrupt Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. The two projects are not expected to be affected. As usual, *The Star's* Tyler Hamilton has the clearest coverage of the story: <http://www.thestar.com/business/article/681062> (except for "north of Kingston").
7. ELORIN is hosting a **LEED® for Homes workshop**, with Arborus Consulting, on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Innovation Park. Please visit [http://my.cagbc.org/courses.php?sbget=course,,13,,0,,,6,,,;courses\\_main,,6,,0](http://my.cagbc.org/courses.php?sbget=course,,13,,0,,,6,,,;courses_main,,6,,0) or email [jhamilton@cagbc.ca](mailto:jhamilton@cagbc.ca) for more information and to register. "*LEED® Canada for Homes is a comprehensive, voluntary, market-driven green building rating system for residential construction. It is based on the USGBC's LEED® for Homes rating system and it evaluates performance on a range of ecological and human health issues from a whole home perspective, providing a definitive benchmark for what constitutes 'a green home.'*"
8. *FOCUS Kingston* is asking for feedback on choosing a name and a position line for the sustainability plan. You can complete their survey by going to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=S8vcnmjKVQQvQYH0xeYQAg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=S8vcnmjKVQQvQYH0xeYQAg_3d_3d). Comments need to be submitted by **September 4<sup>th</sup>**.
9. From SWITCH member, **Queen's University**: Would your company like to make use of consulting resources from 4<sup>th</sup> year Queen's University students (Engineering, Law, Commerce, Science, Arts)? Then consider putting together a project for TEAM

(Technology, Engineering, And Management) students in the coming year. Coordinators are available to help you put together projects. For more information, visit their website: <http://team.appsci.queensu.ca/index.php> or phone Jason Munn, [jay.munn@gmail.com](mailto:jay.munn@gmail.com), 905.873.6792. **The deadline is September 11<sup>th</sup>. They are especially interested in projects related to sustainable energy.**

10. 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.**
11. Great Northern Hydroponics, the first North American "...GE-designed greenhouse cogeneration plant...", opened in Kingsville, Ontario, last month. It is powered by four GE Jenbacher gas engine cogeneration modules supplied by DDACE Power Systems. Jan Buijk, Vice President and General Manager of DDACE Power Systems, presented to SWITCH at the June Open Meeting. To read more about the cogeneration plant, please go to <http://www.energymanagementcanada.com/index.php/News/Onsite-power-project-showcases-GE-Energys-Jenbacher-technology-to-reduce-emissions-and-costs.html>.
12. Natural Resources Canada is looking for a Study Group Chairperson to oversee a Distributed Generation Study Group. Please go to [http://www.merx.com/English/SUPPLIER\\_Menu.Asp?WCE=Show&TAB=1&PORTAL=MERX&State=7&id=180617&FED\\_ONLY=0&hcode=cj55Yxb%2fP79ndgnCzes4Q%3d%3d](http://www.merx.com/English/SUPPLIER_Menu.Asp?WCE=Show&TAB=1&PORTAL=MERX&State=7&id=180617&FED_ONLY=0&hcode=cj55Yxb%2fP79ndgnCzes4Q%3d%3d) for more information. Thank you to SWITCH member **Amy Colebourne**, for mentioning this tender notice.
13. **Event:** APPrO 2009, The Power to Transform, November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Please go to <http://conference.appro.org/conference2009/> for more information.
14. **Event Reminder:** Sundance Studio Tour, September 5 thru 7, Maberly, Ontario. Sundance Studio is located in the home of SWITCH member **All-Tech Consulting** (Cam Allen). Carmen Allen, Stained Glass Artist, will be exhibiting. SWITCH member **Hearthmakers Energy Co-op** will be available to answer questions regarding energy conservation in the home and garden, and to discuss the Eco-Energy Program and Well Aware. Please go to <http://www.sundancestudio.ca> for more information.
15. The Rotary Club of Kingston-sponsored free Wolfe Island Wind Farm Walking Tours will continue until August 28<sup>th</sup>. Guides depart from the downtown Kingston tourist information centre at 11 am on weekdays and catch the 11:30 am ferry. Any interested tourists on Wolfe Island will be met at 11:50 am at the Wolfe Island tourist information centre. Guides provide a 45 minute presentation on the turbine project and then escort the participants back to the village to catch the 1:15 pm ferry, or to remain on the island to have lunch and explore. Guides finally depart from the island on the 2:30 pm ferry, and escort any visitors back to the Kingston tourist information centre, returning by 3:00 pm. **If you have guests visiting over the summer, consider suggesting a tour of the Wolfe Island Wind Farm.** If you have any literature, or other information available for their tour kiosks, please contact Charlene Fawcett, [charlene.fawcett@rbc.com](mailto:charlene.fawcett@rbc.com), 613-549-6484, for more information.

16. A section of our website will now be devoted to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on renewable energy in the Kingston region <http://www.switchkingston.ca/FAQ.php> . Please email any ideas for questions to [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca).
17. **"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.
18. You can now make a charitable donation to the **SWITCH Sustainable Energy Future Fund** to help fund certain activities of SWITCH that are classified as charitable work in the environmental area. Full details will appear on the SWITCH and Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA) website shortly, but you can make a donation today by donating to CFKA and making note of the name of our fund.
19. **Grant Reminder**: Funding is available through the Yves Landry Foundation for grants of up to \$50,000 per project. Funding is targeted towards fostering training that leads to advancements in innovation in the Ontario manufacturing sector. The deadline for submitting a proposal is **September 30, 2009**. Please contact SWITCH if you would like a copy of the Request for Proposal.
20. If you liked the sustainably printed Open Meeting Agenda at our last meeting, please contact SWITCH member **Digigraphics** (Kingston's Most Sustainable Printer) who donated the FSC certified paper and printing to SWITCH and consider using their services.
21. **For any companies that may be interested in Green IT/S** please read the following announcement sent by Jacqueline Corbett: *"Is your company interested in improving your IT environmental sustainability but not sure how to get started? As part of a multi-disciplinary SSHRC-funded research project, Queen's engineering students, under the direction of SWITCH member, Dr. Joshua Pearce, will be performing information systems and technology energy audits for interested organizations. At the conclusion of the audit, organizations will receive a list of green IT and IS initiatives ranked according to the potential to reduce the ecological impact. Additionally, a cost-benefit analysis of the recommendations will also be prepared by Queen's managerial economics students, under the direction of SWITCH members, Dr. Jane Webster and Dr. Tracy Jenkin, enabling the organization to see not only the environmental, but also the financial benefits of changes."* For more information, please contact Jacqueline Corbett: [JCorbett@business.queensu.ca](mailto:JCorbett@business.queensu.ca) .
22. 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.

23. **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>. To watch a slide show about Wintergreen on YouTube please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAwzuRWWJjg>

## Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you at our Open Meeting on September 4th,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant  
SWITCH

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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!