



SWITCH news
May 19th 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Reserve the Date: Our next open meeting will be **Friday, June 5th, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be Jan Buijk, Vice President and General Manager of DDAE Power Systems. His group covers Eastern Canada for GE Jenbacher gas engine applications. The title of the talk will be, **Innovative use of gas engines for renewable energy projects.**

The presentation will discuss Canadian project examples of biogas, landfill gas, wood gas and syngas applications, while also addressing the role of high efficiency combined heat and power (CHP) in facilitating the maximum implementation of intermittent renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar photo voltaic.

New 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.

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. A big welcome to new member the **Building Construction Internship Program (B.C.I.P.)** of the Limestone District School Board.
2. The Ontario Green Energy and Green Economy Act received Royal Assent last week. The minister can now issue a directive to the OPA to implement the new Feed-In tariffs (FITs) for renewable electricity generation. The OPA has to finish its consultations. According to a contact at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, the earliest date the new FITs could begin is June.
3. 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 how to donate will appear soon on the SWITCH and CFKA websites.
4. SWITCH will be running the 3rd instalment of the *Renewable Energy Workshops for Homeowners* on June 3, 4, 8 and 9 from 6pm-8:30pm at St Lawrence College. If you missed the first two workshops or have friends that might be interested, you can register for free at <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop>. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity.
5. 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 for more information.

6. After the announcement in last week's SWITCH e-newsletter, SWITCH has connected an investor, SWITCH member **John Johnson**, with a project at SWITCH member **Queen's University** (under Prof. Jordan Morelli) to build a prototype solar powered water purifier. We understand that contract negotiations are under way and we wish them good luck!
7. This week is Energy Conservation Week in Ontario. Learn more at www.energyconservationweek.ca
8. **Funding Opportunity:** The Community Adjustment Fund, developed by the Government of Canada, funds community transition plans and other measures that promote economic diversification. Preference will be given to projects in rural areas hard hit by layoffs that can start quickly, generate immediate employment, build upon existing partnerships, and provide a legacy of longer term ecological and/or economic benefits. The deadline for applications is June 12th. Not for profits, small and medium sized enterprises and municipalities may be eligible. **Activities supporting green strategies and technologies, including ecological restoration, protection of habitat, use of new environmental processes and alternative energy sources may be eligible to apply.** For more information about the fund please go to http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/713.nsf/eng/h_00005.html.
9. The May/June issue of *Kingston Life* features a feature length article by *Kingston and Frontenac County* author Alec Ross about Kingston's new vision statement, "Canada's Most Sustainable City". It contains a nice section about SWITCH.
10. Kingston's Sustainability Summit takes place May 25 thru 29. This summit is part of the process for developing Kingston's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. SWITCH will be participating in the Environmental and Economic pillar discussions.
11. In their Spring 2009 newsletter, SWITCH member **Burt's Greenhouses** discusses their experiments with making Biochar (and the presentation they gave to SWITCH).
12. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has just finalized its *Watersense*[®] product certification system that will promote water-efficient products and practices. This means that you can look for a *Watersense*[®] label to signify, for example, certified high-efficiency faucets, toilets, and urinals. Thanks to SWITCH member **Mike Tiffe (TAB Mechanical)** for bringing this to our attention.
13. Canadian Hydro Developers Inc., have completed their Post Construction Follow-up Plan for Bird and Bat Resources for the Wolfe Island Wind Project. The Final Plan is available for viewing on the Project website, http://www.canhydro.com/index.php/EN/Operations/Wolfe_Island.html. Copies are also available at the public library, and the Township of Frontenac Islands office on Wolfe Island. The plan will be implemented once the turbines are operational. **The target date is the end of June.**
14. **Funding Opportunity:** Funding is available through the Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) to support economic development projects that will benefit communities and businesses in Eastern Ontario. For more information, please visit their website, <http://www.eodp.ca/>. The EODP will be delivered by 15 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) in rural Ontario. The Frontenac CFDC will be hosting information sessions about the program in general,

and in particular, about the potential opportunities it creates for Frontenac County businesses, not-for-profits, and municipalities. The sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

May 19 – 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm, Wolfe Island Business and Tourism Meeting, United Church Hall

May 21 – 8:00 am, Business Over Breakfast, Maples Restaurant, Sharbot Lake

June 9 – 6:00 pm, Business Advancement Group meeting, Bishops Lake

15. **Contest Reminder:** SWITCH member **John Johnson** and Mary Anne Higgs have donated "The Power Cost Monitor" by Canadian company Blueline Innovations. It hooks onto your external electricity meter and connects to an indoor monitor by radio so that you can have real time feedback on your home electricity consumption. SWITCH will be giving away "The Power Cost Monitor" (It's like new and these things usually cost about \$100 or more) to whoever submits the best proposal for using it. Please write one paragraph and send it along with your contact information to info@switchkingston.ca. **Contest ends May 31. Please pass this on to anybody you think might be interested - especially anybody with connections to local schools. Send in your proposal today!**
16. **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 16th.** To watch a slide show about Wintergreen on YouTube please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAwzuRWWJjg>.
17. **Event Reminder and update:** The 2nd Annual Biomass Conference, May 31 and June 1, Ban Righ Hall, Queen's University *Energy from Biomass in Ontario: Getting Beyond the Promise*. Hosted by SWITCH member, **QIEEP** and the Sustainable Bioeconomy Centre (SBC). For more information please go to www.queensu.ca/qieep or contact Lisa Doulas: 613-539-2482 ldoulas@cogeco.ca or Tom Carpenter: 613-533-6000 Ext. 74710 tom.carpenter@queensu.ca. **The Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources will be speaking.**
18. **Event:** 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.
19. **Event:** 2009 Agri-energy Producers Association of Ontario, Annual General Meeting & 3rd Annual Agrienergy Workshop (organized by ELORIN): **The Continuing Development of Ontario's Biogas Industry**, May 22nd, 2009, Four Points Sheraton, Kingston, Ontario. For more information, [click here](#)
20. **Event:** GREEN BUILDINGS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, Monday May 25th, 7-9pm at Miller Hall, Room 105, Queen's University, Speakers: Steve Vardy, RMC "Green Team", design and construction of green buildings and their importance in progressing towards a sustainable built environment; Colin MacDougall, Queen's Civil Engineering Department and a member of Straw

Bale Building Coalition, design and construction of straw bale buildings. Hosted by the Kiwanis Club.

21. Event: [Canada Green Building Council National Summit: Every Building Can Be Green](#), June 9-11, Montreal, Quebec
22. Event: [Energy Excellence, ENEX: Best Practices in Energy Management & Efficiency](#), an annual learning and networking conference and exhibition, September 22-23, 2009

Hope to see you at the 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**

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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!