



SWITCH news  
April 21st

Greetings Everybody!

**Reserve the Date:** Our next open meeting will be **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be Kent Novakowsky, acting head of Civil Engineering at Queen's University. Kent is an expert in groundwater flow in fractured rock which is very relevant to geothermal heating and cooling systems. The title of Kent's talk will be: *Ground Source Heat Pumps and Aquifer Thermal Energy Systems*.

*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 until 9:00 am. There will be a Sign-In and Sign-Out sheet available at the top of the stairs. Please remember to 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. Congratulations to everyone who participated in and helped to organize GreenUP! which took place on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the K-Rock Centre. Special congratulations to SWITCH members **Caitlin Newey** and **Louise Cooper** who did a terrific job of putting the event together and should have the last words: "This year's GreenUp festival was a success, with 53 exhibitors, just shy of 1,200 visitors, and several well-attended workshops. Thanks to all who participated!"
2. Congratulations to SWITCH members **Al Gibson, Ben Kenney, Bardi Vorster, Joshua Pearce, Pierre Nadeau**, Karina McInnis and Ed Thomas (**Queen's University**), for winning a grant to fund the *Renewable Energy "How To" Workshop Series for Homeowners* from the Community Go Green Fund through the Ministry of the Environment. The Honourable John Gerretsen, M.P.P. and Minister of the Environment, made the announcement on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Energy House, **St. Lawrence College**. Thank you to all SWITCH members for taking time out of their work day on Friday to attend the announcement. CKWS Newswatch filmed the announcement, which you can watch by going to <http://www.ckwstv.com/index.cfm?page=news&id=527>. The April workshops continue this week. The summer and fall dates have been tentatively scheduled for June 3, 4, 8 and 9 and September 29, 30 and October 5, 6, respectively. More information will be posted on the SWITCH website shortly, <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/>.
3. The Eastern Ontario Sustainable Building Centre (EOSBC) developed by SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical** opened to the public on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The Centre, located at 67 Plant Street in Batawa, offers seminars and workshops and serves as the home base for [www.greenmechanicaleducation.com](http://www.greenmechanicaleducation.com), which provides web-based sustainable construction

information. Congratulations Mike! Mike also ran a well-attended green building workshop at GreenUp!

4. **Contest:** 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](mailto: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!
5. SWITCH helped to organize a tour of Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow, The Miller-Cameron Home, and Energy House for the Ontario Electrical League (OEL) last week. A big thank you to **Steve Sottile**, of SWITCH member **Utilities Kingston**, for helping to lead the tour.
6. SWITCH members were invited to attend a reception for George Smitherman, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, last Thursday at the University Club, Queen's University. Minister Smitherman spoke about the Green Energy Act and answered questions from SWITCH members about the implementation of the Act. Minister Smitherman mentioned that legislation will be passed by June and the new Feed-In-Tariffs should be ready to go by July. He also said that there would be some provision to even the playing field for solar thermal energy. We've heard that the announcement in the Toronto Star about the province matching a big hike (\$750) in the federal ecoENERGY grant for solar domestic hot water was premature, but something is coming down the pipeline.
7. SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu, travelled to Ottawa last week to give an oral presentation about the Green Energy Act to the standing committee of the Ontario legislature that's considering this legislation. The presentation was based on comments collected from SWITCH members, by email and from the technical consultation session we held in February. Bridget Doherty of SWITCH member, the Sisters of Providence, also presented.
8. Congratulations to SWITCH Board Member, **Rob Miller**, of SWITCH member **Axio Power Inc.**, for the article about the 2008 Livable City Design Awards in the *Kingston Life Interiors* magazine. The Miller-Cameron home won in the Sustainability and the Environment Category.
9. Earth Day takes place tomorrow, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
10. **New speaker series reminder:** SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce** and SWITCH President **Don Young** will be speaking about *Alternative Energy Opportunities for Kingston* at the first Kiwanis Community Lecture Series on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 pm. The theme of the series is Kingston: Present, Future and Past. Admission is free. The lectures will be held in Room B201 in Macintosh-Corry Hall from 7 to 9 pm. Refreshments will be served between lectures.
11. To learn more about the ecoENERGY Retrofit grants and other programs available through ecoACTION, you can go to <http://www.ecoaction.gc.ca/index-eng.cfm>.
12. **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. **Ian Kilborn from SWITCH member Quantum Renewable Energy will be teaching a Living Off the Grid course on July 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**13. Event:** Organic Fruit, Nut and Berry Growing Workshop, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm, St. Lawrence College. Ken Taylor, of Windmill Point Farms will be leading the workshop. There will be a fruit, nut and berry tree auction included with the workshop. Participants have the opportunity to indicate what trees they would like to have at the auction and what topics of interest they would like covered in the workshop. This information can be found on the registration form. Please go to <http://uakingston.webs.com> to learn more and to register.

Hope to see you at our 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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Please consider becoming a member or a sponsor of SWITCH.

For more information, go to our website: <http://switchkingston.ca/> or phone us!