



SWITCH news, brought to you by the members of SWITCH!
July 21th, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, September 4th, 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 4th 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.
Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!

Sign-in procedure:

The next Open Meeting will probably be held in the Conference Room attached to the main entrance of 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.

1. A big thank you to renewing SWITCH members **Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow** and **Utilities Kingston**.
2. **Event Report:** Beer, snacks, and brainstorming on the Solar Decathlon: About 30-35 people attended an enjoyable evening hosted by SWITCH and SWITCH member, the **Queen's Solar Design Team**, about QSDT's entry into the 2011 Solar Decathlon competition. The event lasted over 2 hours and conversations spilled out onto the street where SWITCH member **Al Gibson** showed off his solar thermal demo unit. QSDT was happy with the input they received. Now let's help them get into the competition so they can build their house!
3. **Market value of Canadian renewable energy assets jumps:** Many of you may have heard yesterday about the hostile takeover bid by TransAlta (an Alberta Utility, mostly coal fired electricity generation) for the Wolfe Island Wind Farm's Canadian Hydro Developers. The bid was a 30% premium to the CHD's stock price and the stock is trading another 10% higher than that. Your editor thinks that this will support the market value of all Canadian renewable energy assets. Toronto Star reporter Tyler Hamilton has a nice article about the bid: <http://www.thestar.com/business/article/669198>. It will be interesting to see if anybody else comes in to make a higher bid.
4. The 4th 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.**

5. SWITCH member **Nedco, a division of Rexel Canada Electrical**, is a contractor in the Electricite de France-Energies Nouvelles Canada 20MW solar farm in the Ottawa (West Carleton) area. See this article <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Ottawa+track+break+trail+green+power/1784591/story.html> for more details.
6. From SWITCH member, **Queen's University**: Would your company like to make use of consulting resources from 4th 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, see the attached .pdf file, their website: <http://team.appsci.queensu.ca/index.php> or phone Jason Munn, jay.munn@gmail.com, 905.873.6792. The deadline is the end of July. **They are especially interested in projects related to sustainable energy.**
7. **"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.
8. Please send a photo of yourself to SWITCH. With your permission, we would like to attach them to your contact information on the SWITCH website.
9. The upgraded SWITCH website also includes an improved photo gallery. We are in the process of uploading photos. SWITCH members are encouraged to email in their photos (with captions) for inclusion in the gallery. To see the photo gallery, go to this page: <http://www.switchkingston.ca/pictures.php>
10. The Kingston Sustainability Centre, a collaboration between Browns Fine Foods and Reduce The Juice Kingston, is now open and located at 193 Princess Street. You or your organization may be interested in opportunities available at the Centre, including display space, a free community classroom, and volunteer opportunities. For more information, please see the attached file.
11. The Stone Herron Gallery on Wolfe Island, a minute from the ferry terminal just behind town hall, will be hosting a table top model of a container home, this Saturday, July 25, starting at 10:00 am. A company called Wolfe Island Canadian Cargotecture Solutions wants to bring a new manufacturing base to Wolfe Island of converting shipping containers into affordable housing units and shelters for disaster relief and other purposes. Debra Krakow's work is also on display at the Gallery.
12. If you brought a travel mug to the Open Meeting on Friday, July 3rd, and you are now missing it, please get in touch because we have two. Both are of the stainless steel variety.
13. 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.
14. **Reminder Notice**: The Rotary Club is looking for literature, and any other information you'd like to get in front of people, for their kiosks for the participants of the Rotary Club organized Wolfe Island Wind Farm tours. Please contact Charlene Fawcett, charlene.fawcett@rbc.com, 613-549-6484, for more information
15. **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.

16. **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.
17. LEED Canada for Existing Buildings will be launched on August 3. Read this article for more details: <http://www.green-business.ca/CaGBC-intros-existing-building-certification-new-construction-changes-and-accreditation-updates.html>
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. **Event:** Community Challenge Day, August 14th. Organized by the Ontario Power Authority, communities will compete on the total number of megawatts saved and conservation pledges made per capita. Please visit <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/June2009/26/c2189.html> to learn more.
20. 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.
21. **Event Update:** 7th Annual ELORIN Conference, August 12-13, Holiday Inn, Kingston. This year's conference is all about sustainable building and design. **Steven Moore**, of SWITCH member **Moore Partners** will be giving a workshop on the design and construction of his earth-sheltered home. Ian Pritchett, Lime Technology, and Wayne Trusty, President of the Athena Sustainable Materials Institute, will be the keynote speakers. To see the agenda, please go to http://elorin.ca/site/index.php?method=public.eventDetail&event_id=155.
22. **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>

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

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant

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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!