



SWITCH

The Sustainable Energy People

SWITCH news, December 22nd, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next Open Meeting will include the Annual General Meeting on **Friday, January 8th**, at **8:00 am**, at Queen's Innovation Park.

If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments for an Open Meeting, at a cost of \$30, or sponsoring an e-newsletter, at a cost of \$60, please contact Catherine or Ted, info@switchkingston.ca. The refreshments for the January Open Meeting and AGM will be sponsored by **The Kiwanis Club**. February will be sponsored by SWITCH member **Nedco**, a Division of Rexel Canada Electrical Inc., with a featured cheese donation from SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese**. March will be sponsored by John Marriott, OSIsoft Canada ULC, April will be sponsored by SWITCH member **CPE Division-L Inc.**

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

Open Meetings will be held at Innovation Park in the Conference Room attached to the main entrance to Novellis. Attendees of Open Meetings can 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 ask the receptionist to call the SWITCH office (dial 9+613-547-6700 x129). We will come and badge you in.

Holiday Greetings from the staff of SWITCH:

Andy Mills, Jennifer Kiwala, Pierre Nadeau, Ted Hsu, Catherine Humphreys, and Mark Gibson

Andy will be leaving SWITCH to take on a permanent position at Queen's University. He has done a great job with outreach and organizing SWITCH's roof-top solar energy workshops for small and medium enterprises. We wish him success in his new position and are very happy that he is staying connected to us by having become an individual member of SWITCH.

Please welcome *Jennifer Kiwala* who is now joining the SWITCH staff. Jennifer has extensive experience in project and event coordination, public relations, and corporate communications in England and Canada. She has also worked as a corporate social responsibility executive and consultant. We are very pleased to have Jennifer available to see that the SWITCH network reaches out to all those in South Eastern Ontario who might benefit from it.

Continuing into the *New Year* will be Mark Gibson, Green business consultant, Pierre Nadeau, Technical support, Catherine Humphreys, Administrator, and Ted Hsu, Executive Director.

Best wishes for a *happy and productive 2010!*

SWITCH News & Announcements

1. A big welcome to new members **Bar Electric**, and **Nature's Way Landscaping**.
2. **Financing for microFIT projects:** With assistance from The Mortgage Professionals (www.mortgageprokingston.com), SWITCH has clarified that most homeowners with equity in their homes should qualify to borrow against that at standard mortgage rates. As well TD Canada Trust has informed us that businesses may also qualify for a government-guaranteed loan. Full details are available in our Energy Digest (<http://switchontario.ca/wiki/doku.php?id=microfit:financing>).
3. SWITCH offered a series of business presentations on *How your rooftop can make you money: The new Green Energy Act and your business* in early December. **Stay tuned for upcoming dates in the New Year.** Launched on October 1st, 2009, the new Green Energy Act will enable Ontario businesses to unlock their rooftop asset and earn revenue by generating solar energy and feeding it back into the grid. There are also incentives for your business to become part of the quickly growing renewable energy market by diversifying your products or processes.
4. The workshops were featured in an article in the Frontenac EMC on December 17th. Please go to <http://www.emcfrontenac.ca/20091217/news/Sustainable+energy+association+offers+its+assistance> to read the article.
5. Website feature: <http://switchkingston.ca/wiki/doku.php?id=opportunities:oppintro>.
6. SWITCH staff members Mark Gibson, Jennifer Kiwala and Pierre Nadeau are working to provide value added services to small and medium enterprises who are either in the supply chain or consumers of sustainable energy products and services over the next three months. If you know of an SME that we might not have thought of, please contact us.
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.

SWITCH Member News & Announcements

The ELORIN corner:

- 1. Biobreakfast**, January 14th, SWITCH member **Julie Scarcella**, The "Six Ps" of Sustainable Building, Donald Gordon Conference Centre, 421 Union St., 7:15 to 9:00 am. The Ontario Green Building Centre is the place where building professionals, owners, government representatives and members of the general public can come and learn about the "six Ps" of sustainable building: products, practices, projects, policies, performance and service providers. The cost is \$30, and \$15 for full-time students. Registration (and cancellation) deadline is January 12th by 5 pm, http://elorin.ca/site/index.php?method=public.eventDetail&event_id=158. The January ELORIN Biobreakfast will be sponsored by SWITCH member **TAB Mechanical**.
- 2.** Starting in January, SWITCH member **KEDCO** is presenting a series of 5 seminars devoted to helping small businesses get the most out of their websites. Each session costs \$15, or you can register for all 5 for \$60. Please see the attached for dates and times.
- 3.** SWITCH member, the **Kingston Sustainability Centre** will be launching a website in January. Their community classroom should be available for use by February 1st. In addition, they will be developing a monthly newsletter in the New Year.
- 4.** This holiday season, SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co.**, is offering gift bags. Please go to their site http://www.fifthtown.ca/artisan_cheese/news/fifth_town_artisan_cheese/ for more information.
- 5.** SWITCH member **Anton Driesse** gave a brief presentation on behalf of Sustainable Energy Technologies (SET) at a recent SWITCH meeting. Anton reported that SET will start manufacturing their 5kW inverters in Ontario soon, and they are looking for sites to carry out technology comparisons. The sites should be large enough to accommodate 2 or 3 systems of 5kW, side-by-side, with minimal shading (approx. 500-1000 sq m). Some low, flat, commercial roof space is needed, as well as open space for ground mounting. The systems could be owned either by SET or the host. Interested parties can contact Anton, anton.driesse@kos.net, (613) 546-3676 or Brent Harris of SET, brent.harris@sustainableenergy.com.

Local non-member News & Announcements

- 1.** Event: Earth, Body & Spirit Expo, Invista Centre, June 5 – 6. Environmentally friendly products & services and educational demonstrations on alternative choices for going green, <http://www.earthbodyspiritexpo.com/>.
- 2.** The City of Kingston has launched a public transit trip planner on their website <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/transportation/transit/trip-planner/>. Simply enter the location where your trip starts, follow the prompts, and you will be provided with a detailed plan (including any walking time) to travel to your desired destination.
- 3.** Through the use of the Green Bin program, Kingstonians have diverted 6.5 million pounds of organic waste away from the landfill.
- 4.** The official website for Sustainable Kingston (an ICSP from FOCUS Kingston), can be viewed by going to <http://www.sustainablekingston.ca/>. Comments on the plan are easy to make by clicking on the blue circular icons found throughout the website.
Comments will continue to be accepted for the future drafts.

5. Wintergreen Studios, <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com/index.php>, an off-grid education and retreat centre located in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, offers meeting and retreat facilities, as well as one and two-day workshops at a 10% discount to SWITCH members. Please advise them you are a SWITCH member when registering in order to receive the discount.
6. **New Grant program:** The Community Energy Partnerships Program, <http://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2009/09/ontario-supports-local-investments-in-green-energy.html> is offering one time financial assistance of up to \$200,000 for project planning, environmental and engineering studies. The program is open to community groups, including cooperatives, non-profit groups and local partnerships. Projects are eligible to receive a graduated incentive, based on the percentage of local ownership, of up to 1 cent/kilowatt hour in addition to standard feed-in-tariff rates.

Non-local News & Announcements

1. Events: Toronto Green Roof Boot Camp, January 28 – 31, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Conference H, 123 Queen St. West, <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=3617fbd3-14e5-4466-9846-0d624849828f>.
2. Website: Green Roofs Tree of Knowledge Database, <http://www.greenroofs.org/grtok/>.
3. The Install TEAM is holding a Generac Generator 2009 Year End Event until December 26th. Please call them for more information **705-734-6258** or to place and order.
4. For any companies interested in finding out more about Ontario's Environmental Leaders Program, please go to <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/general/oel/index.php>. For assistance and information about the program, please call 416-327-8073 or email leadership.moe@ontario.ca.
5. To read an article about small wind from the current issue of Renewable Energy Focus magazine, please go to <http://e-conditionsbyfry.com/Olive/AM3/RRF/Default.htm?href=RRF/2009/11/01&ntp=2427@6821@1248296>
6. **Employment Opportunity:** Schuco Canada Inc., is looking for an experienced PV Sales Representative and an experienced PV Engineer for their Toronto office (the Canadian market). If you are interested in applying for either of these positions, please contact Ron Mantay, General Manager, Solar, RonMantay@Schuco.ca.
7. The Ontario Government, through the Ontario Solar Thermal Heating Initiative (OSTHI), has increased the incentives available for solar hot water systems fivefold. OSTHI will now provide a maximum of \$400,000 per project. For more information, please go to <http://www.news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2009/12/solar-technologies-help-build-ontarios-green-economy.html>.
8. Earth Day Canada is now accepting applications for the spring grant period of the Community Environment Fund. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2010. Please go to this site to learn more http://www.earthday.ca/pub/resources/media_releases/2009-12-03_cef_schools_engo_outreach/index.html.
9. The Yves Landry Foundation, through the AIME Initiative (Achieving Innovation & Manufacturing Excellence) is currently accepting applications for funding. Please visit their website, http://www.yveslandryfoundation.com/article/125/aime_initiative_feddev.html for more information. The Yves Landry Foundation will fund up to 75% of a project's total direct and indirect eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$50,000.

10. Funding Opportunity: Does your business have a need that could be met by a University researcher and a student? MITACS will find the researcher and student, match your dollars 1:1, with minimal paperwork on your part. It's not just limited to science and engineering. For more information on the program, contact SWITCH or contact MITACS directly: Alison Lee, alee@mitacs.ca, 416-650-8439 (bus.) and 647-519-1211 (cell).

Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you at the SWITCH Annual General Meeting in January,

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

At Innovation Park, 945 Princess Street,
Kingston, ON K7L 3N6
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
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!

SWITCH often provides services, or is available for consultations, on a confidential basis. We would be happy to accept any request that you have to keep certain information confidential. However, one of SWITCH's main activities is networking services. Unless otherwise requested, you should expect that information which the SWITCH staff learns in communications with you might be used to make progress on our mission of making the Kingston region a centre for sustainable energy.