



SWITCH news, brought to you by the members of SWITCH!
June 23rd, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, July 3rd, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The guest speaker will be SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce**. Joshua, and/or his students, will be speaking about *Making Photovoltaics Economically Viable*. **There will be no Open Meeting in August**. The September meeting will be on Friday, September 4th.
Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!

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. If you will be staying past 10:00 am, please notify either of the SWITCH staff. You will need to wear an identification badge and be accompanied by a tenant of Innovation Park.

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 **Blue Wilderness Management Group** (Julie Scarcella).
2. Refreshments for the next Open Meeting are courtesy of **ECO-NET Technologies**. ECO-NET Technologies is a new solar energy business started by SWITCH member **Alan Gibson**, with partners Read Kelly and Garth Kelly. As introduced by Alan Gibson: "*ECO-NET Technologies is open for business! We are a solar solutions company located in Kingston initially focusing on the promotion and sale of the CERCIS evacuated tube solar collector and providing full service turnkey installations of solar hot water systems to both residential, commercial and industrial customers.*" Please visit their website www.eco-net-tech.ca or call Alan at 613-545-5249 for more details.
3. Watch out for our improved SWITCH website next week. The upgraded website will feature a video about SWITCH made by author of the recently published *Kingston and Frontenac County*, Alec Ross.
4. You can read the final instalment of a 3-part series about solar hot water written by "Green Tech" columnist Cam Allen, of SWITCH member **All-Tech Consulting** by going to <http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1620068>. Part three focuses on the installation of the Allen's solar hot water system.
5. The City of Kingston and Loyalist Township won the national 2009 Sustainable Community Award – Water at the annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference for their support of the Well Aware program. Well Aware is delivered locally by SWITCH member **Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative**. Well Aware is a private-well stewardship program that

educates rural residential well owners. Please see the attached release to read more about Well Aware. **Congratulations HEC!**

6. GreenCentre Canada, founded by SWITCH member **PARTEQ Innovations**, announced their Board of Directors last week. *"GreenCentre Canada is dedicated to developing environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional chemical and manufacturing practices."* If you would like to read the full announcement, please contact SWITCH.
7. In last week's *Ontario Farmer* newspaper, farmer Frances Anderson wrote an article entitled "New solar program brings economic sense to barn roof rental[.] The program will almost double what will be paid for solar energy, especially for small projects". If you need help getting a copy, please contact SWITCH. And thank you to SWITCH member **John Williamson** for mentioning the article.
8. 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 the partnership and how to donate will appear soon on the SWITCH and CFKA websites.
9. SWITCH is looking for a volunteer to update our EPS logo files. If you, or anyone you know may be interested, please call 613-547-6700 x129 or email info@switchkingston.ca.
10. *Green Business* magazine wrote a report on the Canada Green Building Council Summit held in Montreal in early June. To read the full story, please go to <http://www.green-business.ca/Integration-key-to-making-green-buildings-work-CaGBC-Summit.html>.
11. 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.**
12. **Reminder Note:** Funding is available for electricity conservation projects through the Ontario Power Authority's Conservation Fund. The fund supports projects that help to build capacity for conservation programs in the marketplace and test new or unique conservation program elements. Please go to <http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/cfund/> for further information. **The next deadline for submitting an expression of interest is August 26.**
13. The SWITCH Board has adopted the following definition of Sustainable Energy: "The provision of energy through the use of *renewable energy* technology and the principles of *energy conservation* and energy efficiency, in a manner that minimizes long-term damage to the environment, such that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This definition is from the City of Kingston's Official Plan, Recommended Draft 2009. **Please feel free to send in your thoughts and comments.**
14. 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.

15. **Event Update:** 7th Annual ELORIN Conference, August 12-13, Holiday Inn, Kingston. This year's conference is all about sustainable building and design. Please go to <http://www.elorin.ca> for more information. **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, <http://www.limetechnology.co.uk/home/index.php> will be speaking.
16. **Local Event Reminder:** Jackie St. Pierre of SWITCH member **KEDCO** told us about the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters *Energy Conservation and Demand Management Forum* at the Invista Centre, Kingston on June 25. For more information and to register, see http://www.cme-mec.ca/pdf/2009%20Energy%20Forum%20_Kingston.pdf
17. **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>
18. **Event: Climate Change - Legislation, Regulation & Emissions Reporting,** September 21, Toronto, Ontario
19. **Event:** Canadian Brownfields, October 26-28, Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver. Please go to their website, <http://www.canadianbrownfields.ca/> for more information. Canadian Brownfields is a national conference and trade show that focuses on the redevelopment of under-utilized properties "*...as a catalyst for sustainable, vibrant and liveable communities.*" Thank you to ELORIN news for listing this event.
20. If anyone would like to chair an Open Meeting or lend a hand by volunteering, please get in touch. If you think you might have some time at the end of the meeting to help stack chairs or rinse and recycle cups, please contact Catherine Humphreys, cbhumphreys@switchkingston.ca.

Hope to see you at the 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!

