



Greetings Everybody!

Reserve the Date: Our next open meeting will be on **Friday, April 3rd, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be Tom Hewitt, Solar PV design engineer for Enfinity Canada, <http://www.enfinity.biz/EN/>. Tom will be talking about **large scale deployment of solar PV panels on roof-tops**. Come and find out about Enfinity, a solar energy developer headquartered in Belgium, with a Canadian office in Ottawa. They have about 120 MW in place and continue to add 4 MW every month, mostly on rooftops.

New sign-in procedure:

All attendees of SWITCH Open Meetings can continue to enter through the West side doors (the entrance used previously). 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. A big welcome to new member **Aztech Associates Inc.**
2. Congratulation to SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, for the development of the **Eastern Ontario Sustainable Building Centre** in Batawa. The Centre will offer sustainable building products, green training and workshop programs. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled to take place on April 18th. The EOSBC will serve as the home base for <http://tabmech.com/greenmechanicaleducation/index.htm> (web based sustainable construction information). The press release will be available tomorrow. Stay tuned!
3. The summer and fall dates for *The Renewable Energy "How To" Workshop Series for Homeowners* put together by SWITCH members **Al Gibson, Ben Kenney, Bardi Vorster, Joshua Pearce, Pierre Nadeau**, Karina McInnis and Ed Thomas (**Queens University**) are now available. The summer session will be taking place on June 3, 4, 8 and 9 and the fall session will be on September 29, 30 and October 5, 6. Tell all your friends and neighbours. The April session (April 16, 21,22,23) is full. More information is on the SWITCH website <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/>
4. Correction Notice: **Kingston Hydro** won the Environmental Excellence Award for their *Enabling Distributed Generation – Empowering Kingston* program (not Utilities Kingston as indicated last week). Kingston Hydro's assets are managed by Utilities Kingston. To read more about the award please go to <http://www.kingstonwhigstandard.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1490192>
5. **A Reminder** that SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College** will be holding a **CanSIA Solar Hot Water System Installer Workshop** on Saturday, April 18th from 8 am until 6 pm. Information and a printable registration form can be found on the SWITCH website

home page under *Announcements*. To learn more about the course please go to <http://www.cansia.ca/Default.aspx?pagelid=143389>

6. **GreenUP! 2009** is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th, at the K-Rock Center (KRC). **Interested exhibitors can still sign up. Please contact greenup.planning@gmail.com** to find out if spaces are still available. The cost is \$10 for non-profits, \$100 for small businesses, and \$200 for large businesses. **SWITCH members will receive a 10% discount. We encourage SWITCH members to be exhibitors at this event: you'll get to talk to a lot of green minded people. The organizers are looking for volunteers to help with tours explaining the LEED characteristics of the K-Rock Centre.** The organizers are also looking for help with fundraising, communications, site logistics, programming/workshops, entertainment, food and more. There are big plans for the event this year; a partnership has formed with the City of Kingston and the Whig Standard, with the intent of increasing our exhibitor turnout and encouraging involvement with the city's sustainability initiatives. Please check out the GreenUP! website, at www.greenupfestival.ca, for more information. . Kudos to SWITCH members **Louise Cooper and Caitlin Newey** for leading the organization of this annual event.
7. **Please help!** SWITCH is looking for the answer to this question: how exactly can an unincorporated homeowner take a depreciation and/or interest payment deduction (when filing his/her annual income tax return) against the income generated from rooftop solar PV? We don't want this to become a barrier to installing renewable energy in the home. We do know that Solar PV installations this year will qualify for the 15% home renovation federal tax credit and there is no PST charged on Solar panels, but whether or not a homeowner has to pay tax at the marginal rate on gross income from the feed-in-tariff is a bigger issue. According to a Toronto Star article yesterday, the Ontario Ministry of Finance is already looking dealing with the issue of property tax assessments going up.
See <http://www.thestar.com/article/606484> .
8. **If you would like to volunteer some time to help SWITCH, or if you have an idea for a potential financial sponsor of SWITCH, please contact the SWITCH staff.**
9. Homestead Land Holdings Ltd., received a large cheque from Kingston Hydro last week for completing energy efficiency retrofits. To read the full story please go to <http://www.intelligencer.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1483144>. Thank you to **Stephen Sottile, Utilities Kingston**, SWITCH Board Member for mentioning this article. To learn more about the Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program (for businesses and institutions) within the Kingston Hydro service territory please contact **Utilities Kingston** Demand Management Advisor, Ken Mundell.
10. The solar hot water heating system used by Kingston's Confederation Place Hotel was mentioned in an article in *Greener Buildings*. The system was installed by **Quantum Renewable Energy**. To read the full story please go to <http://www.greenerbuildings.com/feature/2009/03/18/solar-hot-water-heating-hotels>. Thank you to Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, for sending this article.
11. Steven (**Queen's**) and Susan Moore are building an earth-sheltered home along the Salmon River. To read their "Notes from the Underground" blog in *Kingston Life* please go to <http://www.kingstonlife.ca/sitepages/>.
12. The Canada Green Building Council will pilot the first LEED Canada-NC course for Universities and Colleges in May 2009. For institutions interested in bringing '*Building Green with LEED*' to their students, please contact Lynn Pfeffer, Manager of Higher

Education lpfeffer@cagbc.org for an information and application package. To read the full story please go to http://www.cagbc.org/cagbc/news/news_articles894.php.

Thanks again to Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, for this information.

13. **Correction Notice:** The Frontenac Federation of Agriculture meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm at Glenburnie United Church. **The meeting on March 26th is cancelled** as the directors will be serving supper at Martha's Table.
14. **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 16th.**
15. **New Membership Benefit Reminder:** Green Homes will be the focus of the May/June/July issue of *Within Kingston Magazine*. They are offering a **15% discount off of advertising to SWITCH members and a 10% discount to SWITCH e-newsletter readers.** Please contact info@withinkingston.com if you are interested in placing an advertisement. **The deadline for submissions is April 10th.**
16. **Display Opportunity Reminder:** SWITCH will be exhibiting at the Quinte Conservation Sustainable Living Symposium on Saturday March 28th in Belleville. **If SWITCH members would like the SWITCH staff to take some of your product and services to display at the SWITCH booth, please let us know.** The event is usually quite well attended. For more information see <http://www.quintesustainability.ca/>
17. **Event:** Earth Hour, March 28th, 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Please turn off your lights in support of Earth Hour on Saturday. There will be an Off-Grid Concert in Springer Market Square from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. SWITCH member Jeremy Neven, **Tackaberry Heating & Refrigeration Supplies**, and SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu will be speaking. To learn more please go to <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/press/release.asp?mode=show&id=2545>
18. The Kingston Technology Council's **Innovation 2009** will take place this Thursday, March 26th, at the Holiday Inn. A full day of professional development and networking for those in the technology industry. Please go to their website for more information: <http://www.kingstontechnology.net/publisher/articleview/frmArticleID/65/>
19. **Workshop:** Clean Energy Project Finance Using RETScreen, March 27th, Canadian Management Centre, 150 York St., Toronto. Natural Resources Canada added this workshop to their schedule to accommodate increased demand. Participants can bring their own laptops installed with the RETScreen software. For a free download please visit <http://www.retscreen.net>. For more information and to register please go to http://www.retscreen.net/ang/11_form1.php

Hope to see you at our next Open Meeting, and remember to enter via the West Entrance (the usual way) on April 3rd,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Catherine Humphreys, Administrative Assistant

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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!