



# SWITCH

*The Sustainable Energy People*

*SWITCH news, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

Greetings Everyone!

**The next SWITCH Open Meeting** will take place on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 8 am, Queen's Innovation Park, 945 Princess St. **SWITCH member Rob Christie, Cleave Energy will be speaking about the Solyndra PV system.**

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](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca). The refreshments for the February Open Meeting 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.

## ***SWITCH News & Announcements***

- 1.** SWITCH would like to welcome Michael Pathak as the student director on the SWITCH Board of Directors for 2010. We apologize for the delay in getting this information out to members and newsletter readers.
- 2.** SWITCH is looking for a recent graduate to make a joint application to NRC-IRAP's Youth Internship program for a 6 month placement at SWITCH working with the executive director. Please see the attachment for more details.
- 3. Calling All Editors and Knowledgeable Readers:** Our Energy Digest is being read by more and more people as the Internet search engines discover us...and that means we have an even greater need for high quality, up-to-date information. This is currently the most complete source of reliable information on the FIT and microFIT program. SWITCH now needs you to share your expertise by editing the Energy Digest: simply go

to [www.switchontario.ca/wiki](http://www.switchontario.ca/wiki), and when you see something that you think should be different, log in (very easy) and make the changes. SWITCH staff will monitor all changes and ensure accuracy, style and correct spelling, so don't be shy! Call Mark at 613-532-7220 if you have other ideas or want help connecting.

4. SWITCH is offering a series of business presentations on *How your rooftop can make you money: The new Green Energy Act and your business* January through March 2010. **Stay tuned for updates.** Launched on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. **The following dates have been confirmed:**
  - February 16, 7 pm, Marble Church Arts Centre, Actinolite
  - February 17, 8 am, Bancroft
  - February 17, noon, Haliburton**Update:** March 9, 8 am, Peterborough  
Please RSVP [register@switchkingston.ca](mailto:register@switchkingston.ca)
5. 52 people attended SWITCH's business presentation held in Brockville on Sunday, <http://www.emcstlawrence.ca/20100121/events/Learn+at+BCAG+meeting+how+to+earn+money+by+generating+solar+energy+on+your+roof>
6. Del Stowe and Rachel Quittkat from the City of Kingston Building department will be giving a seminar on permit requirements for solar panels, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 am, Innovation Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lecture room. A light breakfast will be provided courtesy of SWITCH member **KEDCO**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to [register@switchkingston.ca](mailto:register@switchkingston.ca)
7. Tony Fleming, from Cunningham Swan, will be discussing legalities for installers, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 am, Innovation Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lecture room. A light breakfast will be provided courtesy of SWITCH member **KEDCO**. Please RSVP to [register@switchkingston.ca](mailto:register@switchkingston.ca)
8. Hugh McLaughlin, Biochar, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 am, Wilton Women's Institute Hall, **Biochars - what we know, what we think we know and what we do not know**, see attachment for more details. *Ignore the time on the pdf file.* RSVP to [register@switchkingston.ca](mailto:register@switchkingston.ca). The venue for this event was arranged by SWITCH member **Burt's Greenhouses**. You can purchase biochar and other plants on Burt's Greenhouses e-commerce site <http://www.burtsgh.com/index.php/cre/>.
9. Can anyone identify the **Mystery House** in the attached photo (circa 1979).
10. Website feature: <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/files/Home-Power-June9-2009-p2.pdf>
11. 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 until the end of March. If you know of an SME that we might not have thought of, please contact us.
12. If you have any leftover nametags that you have received from conferences, please consider donating them to SWITCH to reuse and recycle.
13. **"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, February 11, 7 – 9 am, Donald Gordon Conference Centre, 421 Union St. The speaker will be Lori Gadzala, the Executive Director of the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC), Ottawa Region, *Green Building and LEED 2010 – an update*. Lori Gadzala will be discussing the LEED Canada Initiative, green building projects in Eastern Ontario, and why people choose to build green. Tickets are \$30 (\$15 for full-time students). Registration and cancellation deadline is February 9, 5:00 pm, [http://www.elorin.ca/site/index.php?method=public.eventDetail&event\\_id=157](http://www.elorin.ca/site/index.php?method=public.eventDetail&event_id=157)
2. SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce**, John Paul Shearer of **KEDCO**, and executive director Ted Hsu were interviewed about Kingston's potential as a site for a sustainable energy manufacturing plant <http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2274329>. The article was written in reaction to a deal between Samsung Group and the Ontario government to build 4 manufacturing plants in Ontario and develop 2500 MW of solar and wind projects <http://www.thestar.com/business/cleanbreak/article/755239--hamilton-samsung-deal-keeps-jobs-from-going-south>.
3. The Official Launch and Student Open House for The Harvesting House (aiming for Net-Zero!), of SWITCH member **B.C.I.P. (Building Construction Internship Program)** took place yesterday.
4. A CanSIA Solar Hot Water System Installer Workshop will be held on Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 to 5 (exam 3 – 5), at SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College**. The cost for CanSIA members is \$225, cost for non-members is \$275, the exam fee for both is \$75. Please go to <http://cansia.ca/training-employment/workshops> for more information about the workshop.
5. SWITCH member **AEPAY Global Energy** is looking for large commercial rooftop space for lease for the installation of solar panels. AEPAY plans on having several 250 kW arrays in place by the summer. Any inquiries can be directed to SWITCH member **Chris Morris**, sales representative with RealtySource Inc., brokerage. (613) 546 4208 (office), (613) 539 8438 (cell), [chris@chris-morris.ca](mailto:chris@chris-morris.ca). Please see the attached for more information.
6. **Update:** SWITCH member **Aim Energy Inc.** will be a key partner in the design, supply and building of a turnkey 2 MW (2000 kW peak capacity) ground mounted photovoltaic Energy Park in Brownsville, about 80 km east of Toronto on the outskirts of Newcastle. Hybridyne Power Systems Canada Inc., sold and will be installing the Energy Park. Hybridyne Power Systems is a partner with an OEM branding agreement with Aim Energy Inc.
7. SWITCH member **The Kingston Sustainability Centre** sent the following update: "The Kingston Sustainability Centre is proud to announce the Community Classroom is ready to be used. Sponsored by Xerox Canada and Seaway Document Solutions the classroom is equipped with a projector (donated by Future Shop and Green Scheme), tables, chairs and projector screen. **SWITCH members please be creative and use this space.** Renewable energies are the future. However, as early adopters we need to help others see the benefits and necessity of renewables. Use this space! Teach a workshop,

host a guest speaker, facilitate a debate, or sign up for a class! Contact us and let the KSC know how you can contribute to the classroom. For more information, contact Dan Hendry, [danieljameshendry@gmail.com](mailto:danieljameshendry@gmail.com) or Kelsey Jensen, [kelseyjensen@live.ca](mailto:kelseyjensen@live.ca) or you can reach the Centre at (613) 544-6660."

8. 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 file for dates and times.

### ***Local non-member News & Announcements***

1. The granting committee of the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area (CFKA) is currently accepting Letters of Intent for projects that "*...strengthen and enhance the quality of life within our community.*" The deadline to apply is 4:30 pm on February 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information please visit their website, <http://www.cfka.org/article/call-proposals-cfka-spring-2010-community-grants>.
2. GreenUp! 2010 is looking for volunteers to take a lead organizational role in helping to organize this year's event. SWITCH is helping the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area (CFKA) to solicit names of potential volunteers. Please email SWITCH, [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca) if you are interested.
3. The City of Kingston is holding two public workshops towards the development of Urban Design Guidelines for Low and Medium Density Residential Intensification and New Communities on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Memorial Hall. Please go to this link for more information and registration details <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/development/urbandesign/>.
4. **Event:** Queen's Commerce and Engineering Environmental Conference (CEEC): Exploring the Green Advantage, March 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. This conference brings together students from multiple disciplines of study and is a truly unique sponsorship opportunity. Significant exposure and promotion to students and the public is offered. For more information, please contact [andrew.mutrie@ceec.ca](mailto:andrew.mutrie@ceec.ca).
5. Kingston Unplugged, An Earth Hour Event, is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, Springer Market Square. You can visit the Earth Hour website by going to <http://www.earthhour.org>.
6. 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.**
7. 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.
8. **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. Event:** FIT Q&A session, MaRS Centre, 101 College St., Room #CR-1, Toronto, January 29, 12 - 12:45 pm. The event is free, but you must be a MaRS client to register - this involves filling out a simple form. Please contact Kevin Downing, [kdowning@marsdd.com](mailto:kdowning@marsdd.com) to register for the Q&A session. The information session is an adjunct event of the Green Energy Act Finance Forum taking place at MaRS.
- 2. Event:** Energy Conservation Initiatives in the Broader Public Sector, OPA Webinar, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 to 2 pm. To find out how to join in, go to this site, [http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/cfund/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=7144&SiteNodeID=457&BL\\_ExpandID=](http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/cfund/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=7144&SiteNodeID=457&BL_ExpandID=)
- 3. Event:** Energy Connections 2010 Summit, March 4<sup>th</sup>, International Centre, Mississauga, 8 to 4. Please go to <http://www.cme-mec.ca/on/events.asp?id=1943&date=1/3/2010> for more information.
- 4.** The Ontario Solar Academy, <http://www.solaracademy.ca/>, is holding a 5-day Solar PV Design and Installation Course, February 22-26, Toronto, Don Valley Hotel, 1250 Eglinton Avenue East. Enrolment is limited, please go to their website for more details on registration. If you register by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**, the total cost is reduced by \$500.
- 5.** 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>.
- 6. Funding Opportunity:** 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](http://www.earthday.ca/pub/resources/media_releases/2009-12-03_cef_schools_engo_outreach/index.html).
- 7. 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](mailto:alee@mitacs.ca), 416-650-8439 (bus.) and 647-519-1211 (cell).

## Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you at the next SWITCH event,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Mark Gibson, Green Energy Business Consultant; Jennifer Kiwala, Outreach & Event Coordinator; Pierre Nadeau, Sustainable Energy & Internet Communications Assistant; Catherine Humphreys, Administrator

SWITCH

at Innovation Park, 945 Princess Street,

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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!

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.