



SWITCH news
May 26th 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Reserve the Date: Our next open meeting will be **Friday, June 5th, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be Jan Buijk, Vice President and General Manager of DDAE Power Systems. His group covers Eastern Canada for GE Jenbacher gas engine applications. The title of the talk will be, **Innovative use of gas engines for renewable energy projects.**

The presentation will discuss Canadian project examples of biogas, landfill gas, wood gas and syngas applications, while also addressing the role of high efficiency combined heat and power (CHP) in facilitating the maximum implementation of intermittent renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar photo voltaic.

New 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.

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 members **Downunder Solar & Electrical** and **Graham Lodge**. Thank you to renewing member **Eco Alternative Energy**.
2. SWITCH will be running the 3rd instalment of the *Renewable Energy Workshops for Homeowners* on June 3, 4, 8 and 9 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at St Lawrence College. If you missed the first two workshops or have friends that might be interested, you can register for free at <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop>. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity.
3. **Event Reminder:** The 2nd Annual Biomass Conference, May 31 and June 1, Ban Righ Hall, Queen's University *Energy from Biomass in Ontario: Getting Beyond the Promise*. Hosted by SWITCH member, **QIEEP** and the Sustainable Bioeconomy Centre (SBC). For more information please go to www.queensu.ca/qieep or contact Lisa Doulas: 613-539-2482 ldoulas@cogeco.ca or Tom Carpenter: 613-533-6000 Ext. 74710 tom.carpenter@queensu.ca. **The Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources will be speaking.**
4. 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.

5. "Green Tech" columnist Cam Allen, of SWITCH member **All-Tech Consulting Group**, featured SWITCH in the Homes section of *The Kingston Whig Standard* on Friday, May 22nd. To read the full story, please go to <http://www.thewhig.com/media/homes/homes0522.pdf> (page 39).
6. To read an interesting article about building codes, green design and construction, please see the attached. The author, Michelle Hucal, is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council's Board of Directors. Thank you to Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, for sending this article.
7. 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 how to donate will appear soon on the SWITCH and CFKA websites.
8. **Funding Opportunity:** The Clean Energy Fund Program provides funding for the demonstration of promising technologies and renewable energy and clean energy systems demonstrations. Large-scale carbon capture and storage projects are included. To learn more please go to <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/eneene/science/ceffep-eng.php>.
9. Toronto Hydro is testing a new energy management tool developed by Google Inc. The Google PowerMeter shows homeowners their daily electricity consumption. The data is obtained from utilities that have installed smart meters outside customer's homes. To read more please go to <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/637236>.
10. **GEA Update:** The Ontario Green Energy and Green Economy Act received Royal Assent 2 weeks ago. The minister can now issue a directive to the OPA to implement the new Feed-In tariffs (FITs) for renewable electricity generation. The OPA has to finish its consultations. According to a contact at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, the earliest date the new FITs could begin is June.
11. To read an article about the facilities at SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co.**, "The Green Cheesemaker," please go to <http://www.thestar.com/article/636556>. Fifth Town is the first dairy in the world and the only industrial facility in Canada to qualify for LEED platinum status.
12. GreenUP! 2009 organizers and SWITCH members **Louise Cooper** and **Caitlin Newey** are both working in the community this summer. Louise is working as an intern at a local farm, Patchwork Gardens (they have a booth at the Kingston Farmers Market every Thursday and Saturday). The New Farm Project is a program developed by C.R.A.F.T. (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training). Caitlin is working for the City of Kingston, assisting with energy management.
13. If you would like to learn more about the New Farm Project, please go to <http://www.newfarmproject.ca/about>. The program is open to anyone who is interested in smaller scale, organic, farming. Thank you Louise for sending more details about the program.
14. **Bioremediation Workshop:** Saturday May 30th, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library. Learn how to remove soil pollutants and how to convert dead land into productive land. For more information please go to <http://cuspkingston.blogspot.com/> or contact CUSP directly, cusp.kingston@gmail.com. Registration is \$50-100, pay what you can. You

- can meet CUSP and hear about urban sustainability projects at the Sleepless Goat on Friday May 29th at 6:30 pm. There will also be a screening of *Flow* at The Artel, 205 Sydenham St., 9:00 pm.
15. The City of Kingston's Sustainability Summit takes place this week, May 25 thru 29. Information on the City of Kingston's Focus on Environmental Sustainability can now be obtained online by going to <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/sustainability/environmental/>.
 16. **Public Meeting:** The public is invited to attend two meetings to contribute to, and to participate in, Kingston's first Sustainability Summit. To read the full story, please go to <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/press/release.asp?mode=show&id=2607>. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Robert Sutherland Room, John Deutsch University Centre, 87 Union St. A wrap up session will take place on Friday, May 29, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Wallace Hall, John Deutsch University Centre. The wrap up session will discuss proposed ICSP priorities, communication and engagement strategies, and the next steps to be taken.
 17. **Contest Reminder:** SWITCH member **John Johnson** and Mary Anne Higgs have donated "The Power Cost Monitor" by Canadian company Blueline Innovations. It hooks onto your external electricity meter and connects to an indoor monitor by radio so that you can have real time feedback on your home electricity consumption. SWITCH will be giving away "The Power Cost Monitor" (It's like new and these things usually cost about \$100 or more) to whoever submits the best proposal for using it. Please write one paragraph and send it along with your contact information to info@switchkingston.ca. **Contest ends May 31. Please pass this on to anybody you think might be interested - especially anybody with connections to local schools. Send in your proposal today!**
 18. **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>.
 19. **Event:** Fostering Sustainable Behaviour Workshop, September 28th and 29th, Toronto. For more information and to register, please go to <https://register.cbsm.com/workshops/?site=Toronto>. SWITCH member **Betty-Anne Howard**, recently attended one of these workshops.
 20. If you would like to volunteer to chair a SWITCH Open Meeting, please get in touch.

Hope to see you at the next Open Meeting,

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