



# SWITCH

*The Sustainable Energy People*

*SWITCH news, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

*This week's edition sponsored by Canadian Hydro Developers*



Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am**, at Queen's Innovation Park. The guest speaker will be Aaron Ball, Sustainability Manager and Nathan Splinter, Energy Engineer, from the Queen's Sustainability Office. The title of their talk is *Queen's University: Energy Management*.

The September 4<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting will also be an **Interim Members Meeting** to appoint 2 new Board members and a few other matters. More details will follow closer to the date, but please mark your calendars.

**If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments, at a cost of \$30, for one of our upcoming Open Meetings, please contact Executive Director, Ted Hsu, [thsu@switchkingston.ca](mailto:thsu@switchkingston.ca).**

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

The next Open Meeting will be held in the Conference Room attached to the main entrance to Novellis. All attendees of Open Meetings should be able to 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 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 special thank you to Canadian Hydro Developers for sponsoring this week's newsletter. Over the coming year, every 4<sup>th</sup> newsletter, will be sponsored by CHD. If you, or your company, or institution, are interested in sponsoring a newsletter, please get in touch with SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu. The cost is \$60 for each weekly newsletter for staff time spent writing, reviewing and editing.
2. **Employment Opportunity:** SWITCH member, **Utilities Kingston**, is looking for a Utility Engineer (Electrical Distribution). The deadline to apply is **August 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please go to [http://www.utilitieskingston.com/jobs/job\\_UK-2009-024.html](http://www.utilitieskingston.com/jobs/job_UK-2009-024.html).
3. SWITCH's summer intern, Alexander Mataseje, is developing a section of our website that will be devoted to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on renewable energy in the Kingston region. If you have any ideas for questions, please email them to [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca).
4. The 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**
5. Community Challenge Day, organized by the Ontario Power Authority, will take place on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm. August 14<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the 2003 North American blackout. Kingstonians are being asked to compete with other municipalities to achieve the highest percentage drop in the consumption of electricity, and the highest per capita participation in the Count Me In! pledge drive. To participate and sign a personal conservation plan before that date please go to [www.countmeinontario.ca](http://www.countmeinontario.ca) – or go to SWITCH member, **Utilities Kingston**, [www.utilitieskingston.ca](http://www.utilitieskingston.ca) and click on the Count Me In! icon. Ken Mundell, [kmundell@utilitieskingston.com](mailto:kmundell@utilitieskingston.com) is the local contact. All Ontarians who take the Count Me In! pledge will have a chance to win one of three grand prizes and be eligible for the daily prizes being drawn from now until August 14<sup>th</sup>. Make your pledge today!
6. Yesterday, in the *Star*, columnist Tyler Hamilton wrote about the other half of the climate change equation: technologies being developed to help the globe adapt to a warming planet. Hamilton focused on the work that Kingston's Performance Plants is doing to develop plant species that are more adept to growing under harsh conditions and the biomass fuel trials being conducted by the Lafarge Cement Plant in Bath, Ontario. Please go to <http://www.thestar.com/sciencetech/article/672154> to read more. Tyler also reminded folks that even though we are having a cool wet summer, other parts of the world are hotter so that globally, the month of June had the second highest globally averaged temperatures ever recorded. Thank you to Rob Miller, of SWITCH member **Axio Power Canada Inc.**, for mentioning the article.
7. SWITCH Board member, Ian Rowberry, working as a Sustainability Intern for the City of Kingston is currently doing some work for the Kingston Sustainability Centre, 193 Princess Street. Ian has been answering lots of renewable energy questions from the public, and is looking for some assistance in answering a specific design problem: *Is there anyone with any experience in building a trombe wall between a sun room or porch, and the main house?* A visitor to the centre has a south-facing glass house on one side of his house and would like to use the solar gain to help heat his home, if possible. Please send your design ideas to [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca).
8. TD Canada Trust is offering consumer financing to CANSIA members. Please see the attached for more information.

9. **Event Reminder:** Sundance Studio Tour, September 5 thru 7, Maberly, Ontario. Sundance Studio is located in the home of SWITCH member **All-Tech Consulting** (Cam Allen). Carmen Allen, Stained Glass Artist, will be exhibiting . SWITCH member **Hearthmakers Energy Co-op** will be available to answer questions regarding energy conservation in the home and garden, and to discuss the Eco-Energy Program and Well Aware. Please go to <http://www.sundancestudio.ca> for more information.
10. From SWITCH member, **Queen's University**: Would your company like to make use of consulting resources from 4<sup>th</sup> year Queen's University students (Engineering, Law, Commerce, Science, Arts)? Then consider putting together a project for TEAM (Technology, Engineering, And Management) students in the coming year. Coordinators are available to help you put together projects. For more information, see the attached .pdf file, their website: <http://team.appsci.queensu.ca/index.php> or phone Jason Munn, [jay.munn@gmail.com](mailto:jay.munn@gmail.com), 905.873.6792. The deadline is the end of July. ***They are especially interested in projects related to sustainable energy.***
11. **"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.
12. If you liked the sustainably printed Open Meeting Agenda at our last meeting, please contact SWITCH member **Digigraphics** (Kingston's Most Sustainable Printer) who donated the FSC certified paper and printing to SWITCH and consider using their services.
13. **For any companies that may be interested in Green IT/S** please read the following announcement sent by Jacqueline Corbett: *"Is your company interested in improving your IT environmental sustainability but not sure how to get started? As part of a multi-disciplinary SSHRC-funded research project, Queen's engineering students, under the direction of SWITCH member, Dr. Joshua Pearce, will be performing information systems and technology energy audits for interested organizations. At the conclusion of the audit, organizations will receive a list of green IT and IS initiatives ranked according to the potential to reduce the ecological impact. Additionally, a cost-benefit analysis of the recommendations will also be prepared by Queen's managerial economics students, under the direction of SWITCH members, Dr. Jane Webster and Dr. Tracy Jenkin, enabling the organization to see not only the environmental, but also the financial benefits of changes."* For more information, please contact Jacqueline Corbett: [JCorbett@business.queensu.ca](mailto:JCorbett@business.queensu.ca).
14. **Reminder Notice:** The Rotary Club is looking for literature, and any other information you'd like to get in front of people, for their kiosks for the participants of the Rotary Club organized Wolfe Island Wind Farm tours. Please contact Charlene Fawcett, [charlene.fawcett@rbc.com](mailto:charlene.fawcett@rbc.com), 613-549-6484, for more information
15. Please send a photo of yourself to SWITCH. With your permission, we would like to attach them to your contact information on the SWITCH website.
16. The upgraded SWITCH website also includes an improved photo gallery. We are in the process of uploading photos. SWITCH members are encouraged to email in their photos (with captions) for inclusion in the gallery. To see the photo gallery, go to this page: <http://www.switchkingston.ca/pictures.php>

17. You can now make a charitable donation to the **SWITCH Sustainable Energy Future Fund** to help fund certain activities of SWITCH that are classified as charitable work in the environmental area. Full details will appear on the SWITCH and Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA) website shortly, but you can make a donation today by donating to CFKA and making note of the name of our fund.
18. 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](mailto:ianrowberry@gmail.com) for more information.
19. **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>. To watch a slide show about Wintergreen on YouTube please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAwzuRWWJjg>

## Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you at our Open Meeting on September 4th,

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

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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!