



# SWITCH

*The Sustainable Energy People*

*SWITCH news, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

*This week's edition sponsored by SWITCH member  
**Axio Power Canada Inc.***

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Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be this **Friday, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at **8:00 am**, at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be Jennifer Green of Ledgecroft Farms, near Seeley's Bay. Jennifer will be speaking about *Ledgecroft Farms Inc.'s bio-gas project*.

If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments for an Open Meeting, at a cost of \$30, please contact Catherine or Ted, [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca). The refreshments for the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Meeting will be sponsored by SWITCH member **All-Tech Consulting Group**, specializing in Residential and Commercial Property Inspections and Project Management for Buildings. All-Tech Consulting Group is a "LEED for Homes" Professional Member.

*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 down and badge you in.

1. A big welcome to new member **Kenneth Mak**.
2. The 4<sup>th</sup> and last instalment of the *Renewable Energy Workshops for Homeowners* will start tonight at St. Lawrence College in Room #00300. The workshops will be held on September 29-30 and October 5-6. You can get more information and register for free at <http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop>. **Please let your friends and neighbours know about this opportunity.**
3. **SWITCH in Lennox & Addington County:** SWITCH will be co-hosting an early morning meeting in Napanee, at the offices of SWITCH member **Lennox & Addington County** on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting is to expand the SWITCH network and benefits to L & A County. The economic development office of L&A County will be inviting attendees from their area to come and meet SWITCH. **Several SWITCH Board members are attending, as well as folks from the County Sustainability Group in Prince**

**Edward County and the Tamworth Group.** It will be held at the Strathcona Paper Centre at 16 McPherson Drive, in the Goodyear Lounge on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor from 8 to 9 am. We will be organizing car pools from Kingston. **Please consider joining the Kingston contingent and please let us know if you are coming.**

4. North America's first Feed-in Tariff  
<http://www.thestar.com/comment/columnists/article/700462> was officially announced last Thursday. To read an overview of the FIT program, please go to this site <http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/fit/>. **SWITCH is collecting detailed comments or criticisms of the domestic (Ontario) content requirements. Please send them in if you have any.**
5. **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.
6. **LEED Home Tour:** A SWITCH-organized tour of Kingston's first LEED home, built by CaraCo Development, and located at 1165 Crossfield Avenue (behind Rona), will take place on **Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 pm.** If you are interested in attending please feel free to show up at the appointed time.
7. **Event:** SWITCH received a license to hold a free public showing of the new documentary, "A Sea Change", on October 24, International Day of Climate Action. **We need volunteers to help organize it.** It's about ocean acidification, caused by the same emissions of CO2 responsible for global warming. The film website is <http://www.aseachange.net/>. If you are interested, please contact SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu, [thsu@switchkingston.ca](mailto:thsu@switchkingston.ca).
8. SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College's** Energy Systems Engineering Technician Technologists students are seeking renewable energy design projects in the Kingston area. They will work with their clients to develop a feasibility level investigation of the design required and the project economics for small wind, solar thermal, solar electric, hydro or biomass projects. Please contact Steve Lapp ([slapp@sl.on.ca](mailto:slapp@sl.on.ca)) for further information.
9. SWITCH member **Jennifer Roche** has launched a new website. Please go to <http://www.jrochecommunications.ca> to read about Jennifer's writing and editorial services.
10. SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce** sent the following solar PV FAQ wiki for Kingston [http://www.appropedia.org/Solar Photovoltaic Cells for the Kingston Home FAQ](http://www.appropedia.org/Solar_Photovoltaic_Cells_for_the_Kingston_Home_FAQ) Joshua noted that SWITCH members should feel free to use it as a resource and to edit the page (add any missed items, references, or correct any mistakes). You can edit the text by clicking on any of the edit links on the page. **If you would like to start or add content to an appropedia section for other areas of sustainable energy information specific to Kingston, please let us know.**
11. SWITCH member **Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Co.** will be offering Cheese Maker for a Day programs this fall on Friday, October 23rd and Friday, November 20th. You can register by calling Bonnie at 613-476-5755. The price is \$275 per person.
12. SWITCH member Cam Allen, **All Tech Consulting**, wrote about Wintergreen in the last two "Green Tech" columns. The first article focused on Wintergreen's external features. The follow-up article takes you through some of the key design aspects behind the off-grid lodge. Please go to <http://www.thewhig.com/media/homes/homes0911.pdf> (page 42) <http://www.thewhig.com/media/homes/homes0918.pdf> (page 37) to learn about Wintergreen's unique features.
13. If you have any nametags from conferences and events that can be reused and recycled,

please consider donating them to SWITCH and bring them to the Open Meeting this Friday.

14. **Talk:** Multi-Region System Dynamics Modeling of New Zealand's Energy Economy to 2050 using UniSyD", Dr. Jonathan Leaver, 2:30 pm Sept. 30, Sutherland Hall (policy studies), Rm 137, Queen's University.
15. **Event:** Brockville Climate Action Group meeting, Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, Brockville Public Library, 23 Buell Street, Brockville. The speaker will be Charles Forman, of Switchgreen Inc., "Switchgrass-based pellet production."
16. Hydro One will be implementing 20 transmission projects over the next 3 years to upgrade the transmission network and "...help ensure there is enough transmission capability for renewable generation resulting from the province's Green Energy Act." Please go to <http://www.green-business.ca/Legal-Regulatory/Features/new-transmission-projects-to-go-ahead-across-ontario.html> to read the full story.
17. In Coweta, Georgia in the US, Kill-A-Watt devices are available for loan from local libraries. Kill-A-Watt devices measure the electrical usage of any item plugged into them, and can tell you how much the item costs to run per hour, per day, per week, per month, or per year. To read the full article, please go to <http://www.times-herald.com/Local/Kill-A-Watt-can-help-you-save-energy-65756>. This news item was taken from the Brockville Climate Action Group's newsletter. Thanks BCAG!
18. **Local Event:** Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, The Entrepreneurship Centre of SWITCH member **KEDCO**, is hosting a Small Business Forum: *Going Green and Staying Profitable* to kick off Small Business Month. A full day of informational seminars, business to business networking, lunch and a tradeshow. Cameron Heaps, co-founder of the Steam Whistle Brewery, is the keynote speaker. Portsmouth Olympic Harbour from 9 am to 5 pm. **Admission is free.**
19. **Event:** Corporate Sustainability Program, St. Lawrence College, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 8 pm. Learn how to create a successful sustainability program in your workplace with a minimal or non-existent budget. This course is designed for professionals seeking to implement change in their workplace and will be taught by Jennifer Kiwala, a Corporate Social Responsibility Consultant, with experience in Canada & the UK. Please contact St. Lawrence College <http://www.sl.on.ca/parttime/documents/CE-Kingston.pdf> if you are interested in attending.
20. **Event:** Join Mike Nickerson, author of *Life, Money and Illusion; Living on Earth as if we want to stay* for a discussion on sustainability in the Wilson Room, Kingston Central Library on Sunday October 18th, from 1:30 to 3:30. Please go to <http://www.flora.org/sustain/> to learn more about the project.
21. **Event:** Ontario – France Virtual Trade Mission for renewable energy companies, October 1<sup>st</sup> (morning), Toronto. Hosted by the International Trade Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the program will bring together senior executives from Ontario and French companies for pre-arranged one-on-one business development meetings. Meetings will be held via videoconference (privacy ensured), for 15-20 minutes. If you are interested in participating, please contact Victor Miranda (416) 314-8231, [victor.miranda@ontario.ca](mailto:victor.miranda@ontario.ca).
22. **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).
23. The Electricity Sector Council is offering a wage subsidy of up to \$10,000 (1/3 of the total salary over a maximum 12 month period) for every new technician, technologist and engineer hired. Please go to the following website to learn more about how you can qualify for the subsidy  
[http://www.brightfutures.ca/projects/electricity\\_first\\_work/2009\\_application\\_documents.html](http://www.brightfutures.ca/projects/electricity_first_work/2009_application_documents.html)

24. Dr. Helen Caldicott, author of *If You Love This Planet*, will be speaking in Kingston on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for location updates.
25. **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).
26. **Grant Reminder:** Funding is available through the Yves Landry Foundation for grants of up to \$50,000 per project. Funding is targeted towards fostering training that leads to advancements in innovation in the Ontario manufacturing sector. The deadline for submitting a proposal is **September 30, 2009**. Please contact SWITCH if you would like a copy of the Request for Proposal.
27. **"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.
28. 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 at a later date, but you can make a donation today by donating to CFKA and making note of the name of our fund.
29. **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 listing of workshops for 2009/2010, including "Living Off the Grid" and "Cordwood Building", please visit <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com/SustainableBuildingandMindfulLiving.php>.

## Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you on Friday at the Open Meeting,

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!