



SWITCH news, brought to you by the members of SWITCH!  
June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be **Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The guest speaker will be SWITCH member **Joshua Pearce**. Joshua, and/or his students, will be speaking about *Making Photovoltaics Economically Viable*. **There will be no Open Meeting in August.** The September meeting will be on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.  
*Save a paper cup, bring a travel mug to the next open meeting!*

*Sign-in procedure (hopefully the last month we have to do this):*

*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. **If you will be staying past 10:00 am, please notify either of the SWITCH staff. You will need to wear an identification badge and be accompanied by a tenant of Innovation Park.***

*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. Beer, snacks, and brainstorming on the Solar Decathlon: July 15th, 5-6+ pm, Grad Club, Queen's University.**

SWITCH members are invited to attend an evening event hosted by SWITCH and the Queen's Solar Design Team about QSDT's entry into the 2011 Solar Decathlon competition. RSVP to [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca) For more information see the attached announcement.

**2. If you know, or have any contacts in the local banking sector, please encourage them to come to our Open Meeting on Friday because Joshua Pearce's group is very interested in approaching more lenders to help them create innovative financial products to finance solar panel installations.**

**3. Refreshments for the next Open Meeting are courtesy of ECO-NET Technologies.** ECO-NET Technologies is a new solar energy business started by SWITCH member **Alan Gibson**, with partners Read Kelly and Garth Kelly. As introduced by Alan Gibson: "*ECO-NET Technologies is open for business! We are a solar solutions company located in Kingston initially focusing on the promotion and sale of the CERCIS evacuated tube solar collector and providing full service turnkey installations of solar hot water systems to both residential, commercial and industrial customers.*" Please visit their website [www.eco-net-tech.ca](http://www.eco-net-tech.ca) or call Alan at 613-545-5249 for more details.

**4. Please take a moment to check out our upgraded website and preview the SWITCH video** made by author of the recently published *Kingston and Frontenac County*, Alec Ross; <http://www.switchkingston.ca/>

5. 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.
6. Our September 4<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting will include an **Interim Members Meeting** that is required to increase the size of the SWITCH Board to 9 members, and a few other matters.
7. 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.**
8. A synthesis report of a conference in Copenhagen in March, "the most important update of climate science since the [2007 IPCC report](#)" according to Real Climate, is available here: <http://www.pik-potsdam.de/news/press-releases/files/synthesis-report-web.pdf>
9. The Kingston Community Profile 2009 can be downloaded for free by visiting the Social Planning Council's website, <http://spckingston.ca/Resources.html>.
10. To keep on top of green building initiatives and legislative/policy changes happening south of the border, you can visit [http://www.architecture2030.org/2030\\_challenge/index.html](http://www.architecture2030.org/2030_challenge/index.html). Thank you to SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, for mentioning Architecture 2030 and the 2030 Challenge. Click on the globe to read articles about the building sector and the U.S. economy.
11. **Event:** Community Challenge Day, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Organized by the Ontario Power Authority, communities will compete on the total number of megawatts saved and conservation pledges made per capita. Please visit <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/June2009/26/c2189.html> to learn more.
12. **Reminder: Funding** is available for electricity conservation projects through the Ontario Power Authority's Conservation Fund. The fund supports projects that help to build capacity for conservation programs in the marketplace and test new or unique conservation program elements. Please go to <http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/cfund/> for further information. **The next deadline for submitting an expression of interest is August 26.**
13. The SWITCH Board has adopted the following definition of Sustainable Energy: "The provision of energy through the use of *renewable energy* technology and the principles of *energy conservation* and energy efficiency, in a manner that minimizes long-term damage to the environment, such that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This definition is from the City of Kingston's Official Plan, Recommended Draft 2009. **Please feel free to send in your thoughts and comments.**
14. 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.

15. **Event Reminder and Update:** Sundance Studio Tour, September 5 to 7, Maberly, Ontario. Located in the home of SWITCH member **All-Tech Consulting** ("Green Tech" columnist Cam Allen). **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. Go to <http://www.sundancestudio.ca> for more information. Well Aware, a private-well stewardship program that educates rural residential well owners is delivered locally by Hearthmakers. The City of Kingston and Loyalist Township won the national 2009 Sustainable Community Award – Water earlier this month at the annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference for their support of the Well Aware program.
16. **Event Update:** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ELORIN Conference, August 12-13, Holiday Inn, Kingston. This year's conference is all about sustainable building and design. **Steven Moore, of SWITCH member Moore Partners will be giving a workshop on the design and construction of his earth-sheltered home.** Ian Pritchett, Lime Technology, will be the keynote speaker. To see the agenda, please go to [http://elorin.ca/site/index.php?method=public.eventDetail&event\\_id=155](http://elorin.ca/site/index.php?method=public.eventDetail&event_id=155).
17. **Event:** Healthy Buildings 2009, September 13-17, Syracuse, NY. Early registration ends July 15<sup>th</sup>. Please visit their website at <http://www.hb2009.org/home> to learn more about the conference.
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 16<sup>th</sup>.** To watch a slide show about Wintergreen on YouTube please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAwzuRWWJjg>
19. TEAM (Technology, Engineering and Management), a final year interdisciplinary project open to students at **Queen's University**, is looking for projects for the 2009 to 2010 academic school year. To learn more about the project, please visit <http://team.appsci.queensu.ca/>.
20. SWITCH is looking for a volunteer to update our EPS logo files. If you, or anyone you know may be interested, please call 613-547-6700 x129 or email [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca).
21. If anyone would like to chair an Open Meeting or lend a hand by volunteering, please get in touch. If you think you might have some time at the end of the meeting to help stack chairs or rinse and recycle cups, please contact Catherine Humphreys, [cbhumphreys@switchkingston.ca](mailto:cbhumphreys@switchkingston.ca).

Hope to see you at our Open Meeting on Friday,

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