



Greetings Everybody!

Our next open meeting will be this **Friday, April 3rd**, at **8:00 am**, in the Lecture Room at Queen's Innovation Park. The speaker will be Tom Hewitt, Solar PV design engineer for Enfinity Canada, <http://www.enfinity.biz/EN/>. Tom will be talking about **large scale deployment of solar PV panels on roof-tops**. Come and find out about Enfinity, a solar energy developer headquartered in Belgium, with a Canadian office in Ottawa. They have about 120 MW in place and continue to add 4 MW every month, mostly on rooftops.

New sign-in procedure:

All attendees of SWITCH Open Meetings can continue to enter through the West side doors (the entrance used previously). There will be a Sign-In and Sign-Out sheet available at the top of the stairs. Please remember to 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+613-549-6700 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 trial member **Moore Partners**.
2. Last week, Everbrite Solar revealed their intention to locate a thin-film solar module manufacturing plant in Kingston. Congratulations to SWITCH member **KEDCO**. SWITCH did some work for KEDCO related to this and we can attest to all the hard work KEDCO has put in. Congratulations also to SWITCH members Professor **Joshua Pearce** and **Queen's University**. A research collaboration with Queen's University was mentioned in the Everbrite press release as an important reason for them to manufacture in Kingston. SWITCH played a role by contacting and then connecting an Everbrite principal to KEDCO last year and by connecting Joshua Pearce to KEDCO as the business plan was being developed. To read the press release, please go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2009/25/c3987.html>.
3. The opening of the **Eastern Ontario Sustainable Building Centre** in Batawa is scheduled to take place on April 18th. Developed by SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical Inc.**, the EOSBC will offer sustainable building products, green training and workshop programs and serve as the home base for <http://tabmech.com/greenmechanicaleducation/index.htm> (web based sustainable construction information). For more information, please read the attached press release.
4. The new generator license application forms were released today. Please go to <http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca/OEB/> to learn more.
5. **Job Opportunities:** Please go to <http://www.utilitieskingston.com/jobs/> to see the new jobs posted on the Utilities Kingston website.
6. **Event Reminder:** The summer and fall dates for *The Renewable Energy "How To" Workshop Series for Homeowners* put together by SWITCH members **Al Gibson, Ben Kenney, Bardi Vorster, Joshua Pearce, Pierre Nadeau**, Karina McInnis and Ed Thomas (**Queen's University**) are now available. The summer session will be taking place on June 3, 4, 8 and 9 and the fall session

will be on September 29, 30 and October 5, 6. Tell all your friends and neighbours. The April session (April 16, 21,22,23) is full. More information is on the SWITCH website

<http://www.switchkingston.ca/workshop/>

7. **A Reminder** that SWITCH member **St. Lawrence College** will be holding a **CanSIA Solar Hot Water System Installer Workshop** on Saturday, April 18th from 8 am until 6 pm. Information and a printable registration form can be found on the SWITCH website home page under *Announcements*. To learn more about the course please go to <http://www.cansia.ca/Default.aspx?pageId=143389>. **If you are thinking of registering for this course please send in your form. The college needs a certain number of participants to run the course.**
8. Congratulations to everyone for their involvement in Earth Hour which took place on Saturday, March 28th. There was an Off-Grid Concert in Springer Market Square. SWITCH member Jeremy Neven, **Tackaberry Heating & Refrigeration Supplies**, and SWITCH Executive Director, Ted Hsu spoke at the concert. Jeremy Neven's company, Outpost Alternatives, provided the power for the concert. To watch the interview on CKWS television please go to <http://www.ckwstv.com/index.cfm?page=news&id=443>.
9. **New Membership Benefit:** Childbirth Kingston's Spring Sale is featuring a "Green It Up" theme this year. Attendance last year was about 500. They are offering a \$20 discount to SWITCH members who would like to exhibit and extending the application deadline to April 10th. The cost of a booth (less the discount) is \$80. The show will be held on Saturday April 25th, from 9 am until 2 pm at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. Please email SWITCH if you would like a registration form.
10. **GreenUP! 2009** is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th, at the K-Rock Center (KRC). **Exhibitor space is very limited. If you are interested please contact greenup.planning@gmail.com** to find out if spaces are still available. The cost is \$10 for non-profits, \$100 for small businesses, and \$200 for large businesses. **SWITCH members will receive a 10% discount. We encourage SWITCH members to be exhibitors at this event: you'll get to talk to a lot of green minded people. The organizers are looking for volunteers to help with tours explaining the LEED characteristics of the K-Rock Centre.** The organizers are also looking for help with fundraising, communications, site logistics, programming/workshops, entertainment, food and more. There are big plans for the event this year; a partnership has formed with the City of Kingston and the Whig Standard, with the intent of increasing our exhibitor turnout and encouraging involvement with the city's sustainability initiatives. Please check out the GreenUP! website, at www.greenupfestival.ca, for more information. . Kudos to SWITCH members **Louise Cooper and Caitlin Newey** for leading the organization of this annual event.
11. *Vista* magazine, (the magazine for the seniors association in Kingston) advertised SWITCH in the "Thinking Green" section of their April issue.
12. A photograph of the Green Energy Act Event held at St. Lawrence College in February was published in the March edition of *HPAC* (Heating Plumbing Air Conditioning Magazine) along with a short overview of some of the goals of the Act.
13. SWITCH is still looking for the answer to this question: how exactly can an unincorporated homeowner take a depreciation and/or interest payment deduction (when filing his/her annual income tax return) against the income generated from rooftop solar PV? **Please help!** We don't want this to become a barrier to installing renewable energy in the home. We do know that Solar PV installations this year will qualify for the 15% home renovation federal tax credit and there is no PST charged on Solar panels, but whether or not a homeowner has to pay tax at the marginal rate on gross income from the feed-in-tariff is a bigger issue. To read more you can go to <http://www.thestar.com/article/606484>.

- 14. 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.** The 2009 program list and rates can be found at <http://www.wintergreenstudios.com> . Please advise them that you are a SWITCH member when registering in order to receive the discount. **Ian Kilborn from SWITCH member Quantum Renewable Energy will be teaching a Living Off the Grid course on July 16th.**
- 15. New Membership Benefit Reminder:** Green Homes will be the focus of the May/June/July issue of *Within Kingston Magazine*. They are offering a **15% discount off of advertising to SWITCH members and a 10% discount to SWITCH e-newsletter readers.** Please contact info@withinkingston.com if you are interested in placing an advertisement. **The deadline for submission is April 10th.**
- 16. April 9: ELORIN BioBreakfast, *Waste is a four letter word*, 7:15 to 9:00 am,** Donald Gordon Conference Centre, 421 Union St. Peter Jardine, CEO of World Bio Fibre Technology Inc. will be speaking. Peter Jardine will discuss the concept of waste and the potential for using certain waste materials as resources for building. The focus for the last part of the talk will be on a World Bio Fibre Technology Inc. project to manufacture medium density fibreboard (MDF) from a mixture of wheat, oat and barley straw. For more information, please go to <http://www.elorin.ca>.
- 17. Event:** Kingston residents are invited to help design Lake Ontario Park. Two design concepts for the park (one for an Enviro Park and one for an Art Park) will be presented at a public meeting on Wednesday, April 1st, 6:30 pm, Memorial Hall, City Hall, 216 Ontario St. The design concepts will be posted for comment on April 2nd at <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/lop/> Comments from the public will be accepted until April 13th. Thank you to Steve Sottile, Utilities Kingston, SWITCH Board member, for sending this announcement.

Hope to see you at our Open Meeting on Friday,

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SWITCH thanks the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**
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For more information, go to our website: <http://switchkingston.ca/> or phone us!