

**Subject:** SWITCH news March 23rd  
**From:** "SWITCH" <switchkingston@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, 23 Mar 2010 15:28:45 -0400  
**To:** <info@switchkingston.ca>



**SWITCH**

*The Sustainable Energy People*

SWITCH news, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

This week's edition sponsored by:

**SCHÜCO**

Schuco Canada directly supports Canadian solar installers with trusted advice and reliable support from our sales, engineering and operations staff located in our Mississauga office. Schuco is a \$3B global leader that designs, manufactures and distributes solar modules, solar inverters, solar thermal collectors, solar thermal packages and solar rack mount equipment. Having trouble finding solar PV racking equipment that meets domestic content? Schuco solar PV racking is made in Ontario, certified to meet Canadian and Ontario building codes and is now shipping in Ontario. Save money by purchasing modules, inverters and racking from one source. Solar installers are encouraged to enroll in one of our monthly NABCEP accredited solar training courses now offered in Mississauga, Ontario. Visit [www.schuco.ca](http://www.schuco.ca) for more details.

*Greetings Everyone!*

The next SWITCH Open Meeting **will take place on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 am, in the Press Lounge at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, 53 Yonge Street**. Ben Bowen from Seaway Document Solutions Inc., an Authorized Xerox agent, will be speaking about Sustainable Manufacturing.

If you are interested in sponsoring the refreshments for an Open Meeting, at a cost of \$30, or sponsoring an e-newsletter, at a cost of \$60, please contact Catherine or Ted, [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca). The refreshments for the April open meeting will be sponsored by SWITCH member CPE Division-L Inc. The May open meeting will be sponsored by NEDCO, and June, July and September will be sponsored by Kingston Solar Installations.

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

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 and badge you in. **Parking is available in the WEST parking lot.**

### **SWITCH News & Announcements**

1. A big welcome to new members **Geo Dynamics NextEnergy**, and **Global Point Energy**.
2. **Starting in May, SWITCH open meetings will now be held in the Royal Kingston Curling Club at 130 Days Road.**
3. **There will be a free public screening of *In Transition*, a documentary about the Transition movement around the world tonight at St. Lawrence College in the Large Lecture Hall.** Doors will be open by 6:30 pm and the movie will start by about 7:00 pm. SWITCH member Michael Tiffe, **TAB Mechanical**, will be introducing the film. "The Transition movement is about communities around the world responding to peak oil and climate change with creativity, imagination and humour, and setting about rebuilding their local economies and communities." Come to the main entrance and follow the signs.
4. ***How your rooftop and land can make you money: The new Green Energy Act and your business*, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 5 - 8 pm, Memorial Hall, 216 Ontario Street, Kingston.** Registration starts at 5 pm. Tickets are \$5, refreshments will be provided. The presentation starts at 5:30 pm. RSVP to [register@switchkingston.ca](mailto:register@switchkingston.ca). *Launched on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the new Green Energy Act will enable Ontario businesses to unlock their rooftop and land assets and earn revenue by generating solar energy and feeding it back into the grid. There are also incentives for your business to become part of the quickly growing renewable energy market by diversifying your products or processes.*
5. Promote your product to an audience "in the dark"! For Earth Hour, Kingston UNPLUGGED 2010 (March 27, Springer Market Square, 7-10 pm) is seeking fantastic prizes to raffle and is asking for donations. If you would like to contribute an item to this event that is gearing up for over 1000 people attending, contact Jennifer Kiwala, [jkiwala@switchontario.ca](mailto:jkiwala@switchontario.ca) or 613-547-6700 x130 . **Kingston Unplugged is looking for sponsorships.** Please see the attached support form.
6. To read the SWITCH 2009 Annual Report go to <http://switchkingston.ca/switchdocs.php>.
7. SWITCH meeting in Napanee, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Strathcona Paper Centre, 16 McPherson Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lounge, 8 am. Guest speaker Kathy Wood of Natural Capital Resources will discuss how Lennox and Addington County's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can benefit from new supply chain opportunities in solar and wind energy. For more information, <http://www.switchontario.ca> or email [register@switchontario.ca](mailto:register@switchontario.ca).
8. Website feature: <http://switchkingston.ca/wiki/doku.php?id=conservation:rainwater>
9. Please visit the SWITCH website, <http://switchkingston.ca/index.php> to watch two recent webcasts, Legalities for Installers and Solar Installations and the Building Code.
10. **Calling All Editors and Knowledgeable Readers:** Our Energy Digest is being read by more and more people as the Internet search engines discover us...and that means we have an even greater need for high quality, up-to-date information. This is currently the most complete

source of reliable information on the FIT and microFIT program. SWITCH now needs you to share your expertise by editing the Energy Digest: simply go to [www.switchontario.ca/wiki](http://www.switchontario.ca/wiki), and when you see something that you think should be different, log in (very easy) and make the changes. SWITCH staff will monitor all changes and ensure accuracy, style and correct spelling, so don't be shy! Call Mark at 613-532-7220 if you have other ideas or want help connecting.

- "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.

### ***SWITCH Member News & Announcements***

- ELORIN corner:** ELORIN is one of the supporters behind Innovation 2010, taking place this Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, 53 Yonge Street, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. "The premiere networking and professional development event of the year for Kingston and region."
- For a report of Hugh McLaughlin's visit to Kingston (Biochar – what we know, what we think we know and what we do not know), go to **Burt's Greenhouses** website, <http://www.burtsgh.com/index.php/environmental/biomass/biochar/>.
- SWITCH member **Enfinity** recently opened a headquarters in the U.S. in Atlanta, Georgia. The Atlanta headquarters will develop 70 MW in projects in 2010 and another 200 MW in 2011. To read more please go to <http://www.enfinity.ca/News-March18-2010.asp>.
- SWITCH member **Upper Canada Solar Generation** has posted a list of 12 questions to ask before investing in any solar system on their homepage, <http://ucsolar.com/>.
- Interested in attending a SWITCH meeting in the Ottawa area? If so, contact SWITCH member Ben Kenney, [bkenny@gmail.com](mailto:bkenny@gmail.com). If there is enough of a response, Ben might help to organize one.
- Fifth Town Artisan Cheese** will be participating in Maple in the County, March 26-28, offering goat cheese maple tarts.
- Event:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Biomass for Energy, May 30-31, Queen's University, *The Great Lakes Bio-Region: Market Opportunities and Carbon Pricing*. From SWITCH member **QIEEP**: "Demands for low-carbon sources of energy mean that governments are crafting policy and committing funds to biomass, and businesses are making decisions and allocating their resources. The biomass industry is changing as quickly as it grows, and it therefore remains crucial to share information and to highlight best practices, challenges and successes." Online registration now available, <http://www.queensu.ca/qieep> or contact Lisa Doulas, [ldoulas@cogeco.ca](mailto:ldoulas@cogeco.ca), 613-539-2482.
- If you operate a business or farm in Frontenac County, please contact SWITCH member **Frontenac CFDC** to find out if you are eligible to receive an interest free loan for the purchase and installation of alternative energy where the energy will be used for the operation of the business. For more information, contact the Frontenac CFDC at 613-372-1414 or toll free 1-888-372-9962.
- SWITCH member **AEPAY Global Energy** is looking for large commercial rooftop space for lease for the installation of solar panels. AEPAY plans on having several 250 kW arrays in place by the summer. Any inquiries can be directed to SWITCH member **Chris Morris**, sales representative with RealtySource Inc., brokerage. (613) 546 4208 (office), (613) 539 8438 (cell), [chris@chris-morris.ca](mailto:chris@chris-morris.ca). Please see the attached for more information.

### ***Local non-member News & Announcements***

- Earth Hour, a worldwide event acknowledging humanity's impact on climate change, takes place this Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. To take part, turn off and/or reduce your use of all electrical appliances, and register your participation on the Earth Hour website, <http://www.earthhour.org>. Remember to power down any office equipment before leaving work on Friday. Kingston Unplugged, a free, candlelit, community concert will be in Springer Market Square from 7 to 10 pm.
- Cam Mather, author of *Thriving During Challenging Times: The Energy, Food, and Financial Independence Handbook*, has a new website, <http://cammather.com>, featuring consulting services, retreats and workshops, books, dvds, and other services.
- 38 City-owned buildings are currently being retrofitted to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The program is part of the City's goal to reduce ghg emissions by 25% below year 2000 levels by 2014, <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/press/release.asp?mode=show&id=2821>.
- Public forum on Active Transportation in Kingston, March 24, 7 to 9 pm, Memorial Hall, City Hall. Speakers will discuss how "...the creation of more people-friendly streets promotes active transportation such as walking, cycling, and taking transit to get from one place to another."
- FOCUS Kingston is currently seeking feedback for the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of Sustainable Kingston, An Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, via their website, <http://www.sustainablekingston.ca/>. Click on the blue circular icons. **Comments will be collected from March 10 to 24. This will be the last opportunity to provide input before the draft is finalized and presented to Council.**
- There will be a local showing of the webcast of a policy session on "Energy, Environment, Economy, Growth and Responsibility in 2017", Saturday, March 27, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm at Sutherland Hall 202 (Queen's University School of Policy Studies). There are five speakers chosen from leaders in the business and NGO sectors. This is part of the non-partisan "Canada at 150" policy conference in Montreal organized by the Liberal Party of Canada. Following the webcast there will be a discussion amongst local attendees. The event is free and open to all.
- Event:** Earth, Body, Spirit Expo, June 5-6, Invista Centre. There will be opportunities for exhibitors, workshop presenters, demonstrations, sponsorships, and volunteers to participate. For more information go to [www.EarthBodySpiritExpo.com](http://www.EarthBodySpiritExpo.com), or call 613-767-9721, [info@withinkingston.com](mailto:info@withinkingston.com). The application deadline is April 10th. **A 10% discount is available to all SWITCH Members.**

### ***Non-local News & Announcements***

- The Ontario Electricity Board (OEB) has approved a fixed monthly charge of \$5.25 for all electricity distributors (microFIT generator rate class). The charge is province-wide and effective as of September 21, 2009.
- Northwest and Ethical Investments LP, is looking for a full-time Sustainability Analyst to work out of their Vancouver office, [https://www6.recruitingcenter.net/Clients/investinyourfuture/PublicJobs/controller.cfm?jbaaction=JobProfile&Job\\_Id=10132&esid=az](https://www6.recruitingcenter.net/Clients/investinyourfuture/PublicJobs/controller.cfm?jbaaction=JobProfile&Job_Id=10132&esid=az)
- TREC, the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative, is seeking a Solar Energy Communication and Technical Support person for Our Power's Residential Solar Program. The position is full time for 5 months, April to August, downtown Toronto, <http://www.goodworkcanada.ca/greenjobs.php?id=10621>
- Harvard Business School reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 29% and utility bills by 12% from 2006 to mid-2009, <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2010/03/bottom-line-gets-a-touch-of-green/>.
- Canadian Business for Social Responsibility Webinar, *Managing Water From Strategy to Supply Chain: Recognizing and Responding to Water-Related Risks and Opportunities*, April 8, <http://www.cbsr.ca/conferences-and-events/cbsr-events>
- Sustainability Leadership Exchange, April 1<sup>st</sup>, MaRS Discovery District Auditorium, Toronto, <http://www.slxtoronto.com/>. Registration ends March

30<sup>th</sup>.

7. The Excellence in Education Award from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), honours secondary and post-secondary educators who have encouraged students in the development of sustainable communities by integrating sustainable concepts in housing and community development into their curriculum. For more information, please go to [http://www.cmhc.ca/en/inpr/su/su\\_002.cfm](http://www.cmhc.ca/en/inpr/su/su_002.cfm). The deadline for nominations is **May 31<sup>st</sup>**. A nomination form is attached.
8. If you are interested in being considered for the OPA's vendor list, please go to <https://retvendorlist.powerauthority.on.ca/>. The list will be used by Ontario school boards and social housing providers to reduce energy costs by installing renewable energy technologies for heating, cooling or generating electricity through the Renewable Energy Initiative (REI) that was recently announced by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. **The deadline to apply is March 26<sup>th</sup>**.
9. Schuco Canada is offering a series of training sessions for solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal starting in March and April. Please go to their website for full details of each course, [http://www.schueco.com/web/ca/commercial/trainings\\_events/solar\\_trainings\\_events](http://www.schueco.com/web/ca/commercial/trainings_events/solar_trainings_events).
10. Clean Tech Funding is available through SDTC (Sustainable Development Technology Canada). SDTC is accepting statements of interest from **February 24 to April 21, 2010**. "The SD Tech Fund™ invests in late-stage development and pre-commercial demonstration of clean technologies by Canadian companies." Please visit their website for more information, [http://www.sdtec.ca/en/funding/NextGen\\_Biofuels\\_Fund/index.htm](http://www.sdtec.ca/en/funding/NextGen_Biofuels_Fund/index.htm)
11. **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).

## Bringing **new life** to energy

Hope to see you at the next SWITCH event,

Ted Hsu, Executive Director; Mark Gibson, Green Energy Business Consultant; Jennifer Kiwala, Outreach & Event Coordinator; Pierre Nadeau, Sustainable Energy & Internet Communications Assistant; Catherine Humphreys, Administrator

### 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!

SWITCH often provides services, or is available for consultations, on a confidential basis. We would be happy to accept any request that you have to keep certain information confidential. However, one of SWITCH's main activities is networking services. Unless otherwise requested, you should expect that information which the SWITCH staff learns in communications with you might be used to make progress on our mission of making the Kingston region a centre for sustainable energy.

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