

# SWITCH

## The Sustainable Energy People



### What is SWITCH?

**Mission:** To position the Kingston region as a centre of sustainable energy

Incorporated non-profit, grassroots, membership-based, also funded to 2009 by the Ontario Trillium Foundation



**Members include:** Businesses, Researchers, Educators, Students, Public organizations, Professionals, Consumers. **We are the sustainable energy community of the Kingston region.**

We provide contacts, networking opportunities, information, expertise. We start collaborations, help contact governments and funding agencies, maintain a database of the sustainable energy community, organize and participate in meetings.



### Sustainable Energy Includes:

Wind Energy

Solar Energy

Fuel Cells

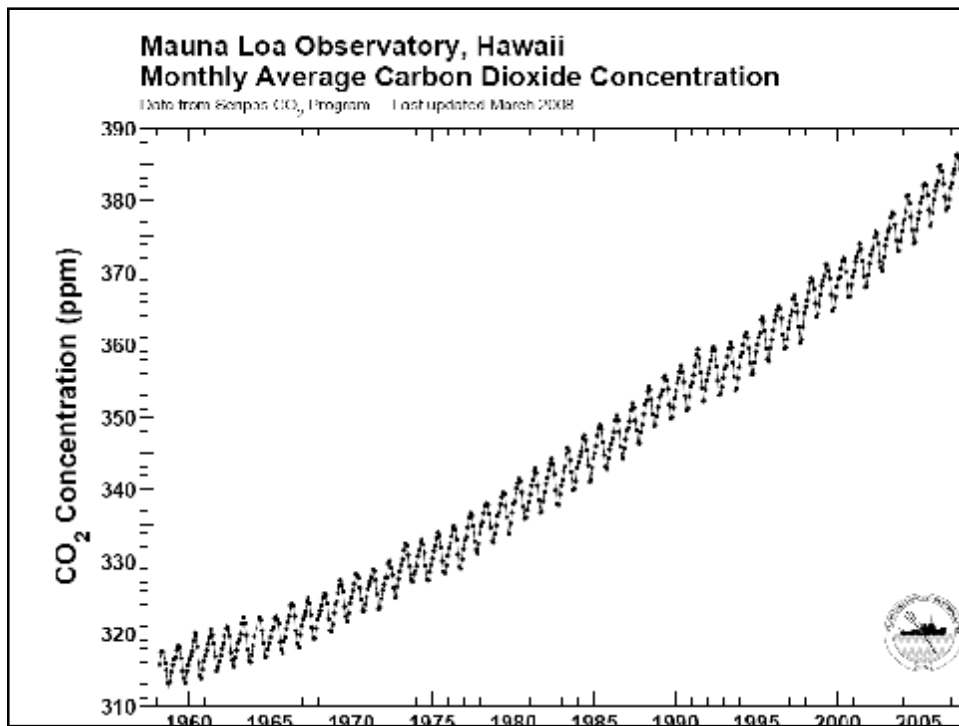
Bio-energy

Energy Conservation

Education and Training in technology, practices, and policies

What's the value of SWITCH  
to our community?





## Motivation

Because of Climate Change and our dependence on fossil fuels, there will have to be changes in our energy economy. This presents a lot of challenges, but also opportunities.



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**SWITCH members want to get together, work together, and help each other and the whole community to lead the country in getting our energy economy to where it has to go.**



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### **Change will touch society very broadly**

- Changes in energy
  - a. renewable energy
  - b. energy conservation
  - c. distributed generation
  - d. energy prices
- New technologies and practices to examine, adopt, disseminate
- Opportunities to save \$, to earn \$, financing barriers, risks to face
- Changes in building, transportation
- Changes in employment landscape, even for existing occupations
- Public Education, workforce training needs
- Changes in habits, institutional inertia to overcome
- New uses of land, farmland
- Changes in regulations, government programs, taxes



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## What SWITCH Does ( part I)

**Community building, Networking:** open roundtable meetings, social/educational events, maintain contact list and community database, (e.g. bio-diesel group)

**Economic development:** Help establish Kingston's green energy reputation, work closely with the Kingston Economic Development Corporation

**Training workers, finding existing talent:** Idea for St. Lawrence College Energy Systems Engineering Technician and Technologist program started at SWITCH, helping students connect, careers in alternative energy seminar

**Helping member businesses** connect with customers, promoting the sustainable energy economic sector

**Building:** referrals to help with home renovations, place to talk about energy retrofits (SLC Energy House, municipal buildings, green roofs, show off homes!



## What SWITCH does (part 2)

**Public information events:** Energy Conservation & Renewable Energy Fair, Solar Energy workshop

**Getting people in touch with expertise:** Fifth Town Artisan Cheese, grid connections, green roofs, information sheet on solar farms and list of solar farm companies

**Getting people in touch with government:** meetings arranged, information about funding programs

**Third party information source:** website, phone and email requests, electronic newsletter

**Brokering partnerships:** Local greenhouse gas offset project

