Screening at Carleton University
Event Report
November 8th, 2012

Ellen Burack (DG, Energy Initiative, Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation) began the evening by welcoming the audience and introducing the Let's Talk Energy initiative. She also extended her thanks to colleagues from the Canada Science and Technology Museum, Carleton Sustainable Energy Research Centre and Sustainable Prosperity at University of Ottawa who assisted in the organization of the screening.

Following the film, Professor James Meadowcroft facilitated a discussion amongst the audience members.

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR
Dr. James Meadowcroft, Canadian Research Chair in Governance for Sustainable Development, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University

During the discussion, a number of issues and questions were raised. These included:

- Europeans are more amenable to paying more than Canadians for their energy because they have always paid more than Canadians due to less supply and more demand
- What should governments do to affect the price of energy?
- Much energy is wasted in Canada in the form of waste heat – more study of how to capture and use this heat would be valuable
- Why was this movie called Switch? The movie does not deal with the impetus for the switch away from oil and coal, nor does it explore the policies that will be required to make the switch take place – there are a lot of assumptions that are not surfaced in the film
- There is no sense of urgency in the film – should there be? Also, 2064 seems too far away – how can this be accelerated?
- The approximately 5-fold growth in renewable energy seems low to enable the switch from oil and coal
- The role of new technology and "game changing" developments does not appear to have been considered
- The film did not show a clear way for people to have an impact on the energy system aside from personal conservation steps – was this light-handed approach the reason the film was liked by all?
- The film demonstrates the complexity of energy issues, and shows people where energy comes from and how we get it – this is valuable information for Canadians; the film is a good teaser for wanting to learn more about energy

- Nuclear energy appears very prospective – how expensive is the nuclear waste recycling technology presented in the film, and what research is being done to bring down the price? There was also no exploration of the transportation of nuclear waste which can be very difficult
- Why has there been so little attention to promoting energy efficiency in Canada? If it is so essential, why have many/most of the federal government's incentive programs been sunset?
- Hydrogen is a fuel that was missing from the film
- Tidal power is an electricity source missing from the film
- Electric vehicles – we must be careful in thinking these are always good; where electricity source is coal, for example, the switch is dubious