

News

Jun 15, 2011 **Engineering Excellence: Queen's TEAM Shines at FNO**



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By Holly Blair

Fort Saskatchewan Nitrogen Operations recently hosted a group of engineering students from Queen's University who completed a design project investigating potential water and energy conservation opportunities at FNO.

The students were part of a unique program at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario called Technology, Engineering and Management (TEAM). It's a fourth-year, industry-based, multi-disciplinary design course, where students are tasked with solving "real-world" engineering challenges. For some students it's often their first exposure to the working world outside of university, where problems don't necessarily have a single, straightforward answer.

The group was tasked with investigating opportunities for water and energy conservation within the nitrogen fertilizer production processes at FNO. They performed a thermal pinch analysis on the process and although the results were uncertain, they were able to demonstrate how this type of analysis can be applied to more appropriate situations and problems. In the end, the group was able to identify several energy conservation projects, including a jacket water recovery system and possible energy efficiency upgrades for the plant's instrument air compression system.

The students flew out to Edmonton from Kingston in mid-April to present their findings to the FNO site leadership team. They were also treated to a plant tour and dinner in downtown Edmonton. Thank you to everyone at FNO who was involved with hosting this group.

For more information on the energy conservation solutions proposed by the student group, please contact [Holly Blair](#). If you are interested in working on a future TEAM project with Queen's University, or for more information on the program, you can contact the TEAM course coordinator, [Dave Mody](#) at or visit the [TEAM website](#).

FNO team members involved: Holly Blair, Dave Eastham, Joel Hanson, Kevin Melnyk, Geoff McIlwraith, Chris, Morrison, Jerry Pyra, Doug Svarich

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