Ryerson students help Enbridge industrial customers get energy savvy

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Usually it is the students who gain real-life experience from on-the-job training. However, this fall, Ryerson University students will be teaching Greater Toronto Area industrial customers a valuable real-life skill: how to be more energy efficient.

Engineering and environmental management graduate students will visit small- and medium-sized industrial customers to carry out a free energy assessment to help owners find ways to save energy and improve their natural gas efficiency.

"It's a win-win situation," says Trevor Maclean, director of market development and sales for Enbridge Gas Distribution. "The business owners receive tailor-made information they can use to make informed decisions on how to reduce their natural gas consumption and implement energy efficiency programs in their operations, while the students receive real-world energy management experience."

During their visit to each business, students will examine energy utility bills to understand how much energy is being used, and then conduct an on-site energy assessment that involves looking at everything from steam-generation systems and process-and-heat recovery applications, to space heating and ventilation. After being reviewed by their professors and an Enbridge Gas Distribution energy solutions consultant, they will then present to the business owner their assessment and recommendations for energy savings.

To ensure the highest quality of work, students receive specialized training from Enbridge's energy management experts in energy assessment procedures, energy management tools and equipment, and most importantly, safety.

"Besides aligning with our commitment to conduct business in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, we hope the program will give students a positive experience and encourage them to consider a career in the growing field of energy management," says Maclean.

"Businesses are looking for ways to cut down on energy costs, but don't necessarily have the time or skills to perform these kinds of assessments," says Alan Fung, Associate Professor of Ryerson's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and faculty member at the University's Centre for Urban Energy (CUE). "Our students have done research on energy efficiency and can fill this void for Enbridge customers. In return, they get hands-on experience. The world becomes their classroom."

"This project is an excellent example of the applied research that has made Ryerson the go-to institution for collaborative work with industry," states Philip Walsh, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Strategy at Ryerson. "In return for working with our engineering, environmental and management students, Enbridge can provide its customers with a value-added

service. The results of this work give these students valuable insights that will enhance their future research capabilities in this field."

"This collaborative project is in the best interest of all parties involved. Everyone will come out to be a winner, from the industrial customers to the students, and even the environment," says Wey Leong, Associate Professor from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Ryerson. "I must applaud Enbridge for this industry-led initiative and thank their financial contribution and effort in providing energy-assessment training to Ryerson's students."

Ryerson is Canada's comprehensive innovation university. Grounded solidly in leading edge research and experiential learning, Ryerson faculty and students work with industry and community partners to find real world solutions to real world problems. The Enbridge program offers a great opportunity to work on important sustainability and energy challenges. Ryerson researchers will also participate, using the assessments to build algorithm models which can be used in assisting businesses in conserving energy.

Alan Fung, Philip Walsh and Wey Leong are researchers at CUE. Dr. Fung's work includes research on sustainable building integrated energy systems/net-zero energy buildings and fuel cell-based advanced power generation systems. Dr. Walsh is involved with the commercialization of innovation in energy technologies. Dr. Leong's expertise is in the area of thermofluids science and engineering, specifically focused on sustainable/renewable energy systems modeling and integration into buildings.

The Small Industrial Energy Assessment Program is only one of the many ways Enbridge is helping Canadians become more energy efficient. The company also supplies advice and incentives to large industrial customers to help reduce their energy costs, and for more than 15 years Enbridge has provided tips, information, rebates, and incentive programs to residential and business customers.

Between 1995 and 2010, Enbridge's energy efficiency programs have saved 6.1 billion cubic metres of natural gas or 11.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. This amount would be similar to taking about 2.2 million cars off the road for a year or serving the natural gas needs of about 1.9 million homes for a year.

Enbridge business customers interested in finding out more about this initiative can visit www.enbridgegas.com/industrial, phone 888-427-8888 or email energyservices@enbridge.com.

About Enbridge Gas Distribution

Based in Ontario, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. has a more than 160-year history and is Canada's largest natural gas distribution company. It is owned by Enbridge Inc., a Canadian-based leader in energy transportation and distribution and one of the 2012 Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations. Enbridge Inc. has been selected as one of Canada's Greenest Employers for 2012 and is one of Canada's Top 100 Employers. Enbridge Gas Distribution and its affiliates distribute natural gas to more than 1.9 million customers in Ontario, Quebec, New York State and New Brunswick. For more information about Enbridge Gas Distribution, please visit www.enbridgegas.com.

About Ryerson University
Ryerson University is Canada's leader in innovative, career-oriented education and a university clearly on the move. With a mission to serve societal need, and a long-standing commitment to engaging its community, Ryerson offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs. Distinctly urban, culturally diverse and inclusive, the university is home to more than 30,000 students, including 2,300 master's and PhD students, nearly 2,700 faculty and staff, and more than 140,000 alumni worldwide. Research at Ryerson is on a trajectory of success and growth: externally funded research has doubled in the past four years. The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education is Canada's leading provider of university-based adult education. For more information, visit www.ryerson.ca.

About the Centre for Urban Energy
The Centre for Urban Energy (CUE) is an academic-industry partnership that is exploring and developing solutions to urban energy issues, such as the advancement of clean energy technologies, energy conservation and demand management, energy storage and smart grids. CUE was founded by Ryerson with sponsorships from Hydro One, Toronto Hydro and the Ontario Power Authority. For more information, visit www.cue.ryerson.ca.

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