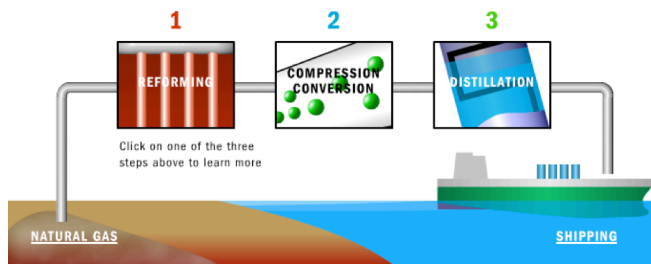


## Sunday, May 12: Travel to Wellington

My topics to research for today were methanex and offshore oil and gas in New Zealand. There are two methanex facilities in Taranaki, which produce 2.4 million tones of methanex per year. More than 90% of the methanol produced in New Zealand is sold for export to markets in Japan, Korea and

China. New Zealand is the world's largest supplier of methanol to international markets. The energy sector represents about 1/3 of methanol demand. Methanol is used in paint, polyester and nylon in carpets and furniture, DVDs and CDs, molded foam



pillows, silicone sealants, and windshield washer fluid and recyclable PET plastic bottles. It is also blended with gasoline, dimethyl ether, biodiesel and methanol- to-power. Methanol is a clear, biodegradable liquid petro chemical made from natural gas. There are 3 stages in production. In stage 1, reforming, natural gas is combined with steam under heat to produce synthesis gas, which consists of hydrogen, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. In stage 2, compression conversion, the synthesis gas is pressurized and reacted to form methanol. The last stage, distillation, heats the liquid mixtures to separate it.

There are four major offshore oil and gas fields in New Zealand. The Area oil fields, located in the offshore Taranaki basin, was the first stand-alone offshore oil development. The Maui Natural gas field, located in the Tasman Sea, is the largest natural gas, natural gas condensate and oil field in New Zealand, but its reserves are dwindling. It produces nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the country's hydrocarbons. The Pohokura oil and gas field is offshore, north of Taranaki. The Kupe natural gas field is located in the Tasman Sea. There is also newer development and exploration in the Great South Basin and offshore areas near Canterbury and Gisborne.

Today we spent the day traveling to Wellington and made a few stops along the way. We started out driving around the base of Taranaki Mountain to get a good few. All of us were excited to go to Wellington and be in a larger city. Along the way, we stopped at Maui Production site, and learned a lot about the off shore drilling that was going on. The next stop was in a town along the way to get lunch. Then we headed off again and passed by Otaki beach. We decided to stop to stretch our legs and have some more fun in the water. A few



students brought out the soccer ball that we had and were kicking it around on the beach. It was a pretty warm day so a few even went all the way into the sea. We eventually made it to Wellington after sitting in a bit of traffic driving into the city. Before going to the hostel, we stopped at the grocery store to get food to make grilled cheeses and personal pizzas. Then we got to the hostel and couldn't wait to finally make a meal.

Later that night, we all met up and played some games. Then we went out for a night on the town! Our first stop was Electric Avenue, where a bunch of us started out the night with Jaeger bombs. We tried to check out other bars, but there weren't many other good ones near where we were so we ended up back at the first one. They played a lot of good music, and we all had a great time!