



Information letter for those to whom fracking matters and (some) updates on the website  
FFI contact: [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org) visit: [www.frackingfreeireland.org](http://www.frackingfreeireland.org)

**Thanks to all for the contribution**

*Our friends teach us what we can do  
Our enemies teach us what we must do*

*This is not the fight of our lives  
This is the fight for our lives*

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

### Good Energies Alliance Ireland

In response to many requests for a national campaign led by a formal organisation, a number of people involved with the current campaign against fracking have come together to form Good Energies Alliance Ireland (GEAI).

GEAI forms a new layer of the campaign. It does not interfere or compete with the activities currently taking place, whether these are meetings, research, demonstrations or publicity. It will focus on supporting the work of local groups by bringing an awareness campaign to the whole island, and especially to the main centres of population. To achieve this, it aims to organise some major events this year, including a launch in Dublin, national poster campaign and an international conference.

GEAI is being set up as a formal constituted organisation. It can then be supported by statutory bodies and NGOs and will be eligible to apply for funding from various national and international sources. The committee can be contacted by email at [goodenergiesalliance@gmail.com](mailto:goodenergiesalliance@gmail.com).

GEAI does not claim to represent any network of groups and individuals that make up the

campaign at present. However, it hopes eventually to have members from every centre of campaign. An important aspect of GEAI is that its members cannot be involved in any activity that could be considered illegal (e.g. occupying private property) to protect the organisation against legal actions.

### Mission Statement of GEAI:

**Good Energies Alliance Ireland Ltd.** (GEAI) is an independent campaigning organisation that uses creative communication and awareness raising to animate a national campaign on the island of Ireland against shale gas extraction using hydraulic fracturing, and to promote ways in which the wise use of energy can be supported from sustainable sources and practices to protect the natural environment on which the well-being of our communities is based.

### Its aims are:

1. To raise public awareness of the process of shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and their consequences through information and dialogue;
2. To lobby nationally and internationally for a ban on hydraulic fracturing until independent scientific studies verify that it can be undertaken sustainably and will result in no environmental, social or economic harm;
3. To research and support ways in

which the wise use of energy can be supported from sustainable energy sources and practices;

4. By means of programmes and events, to raise the capacity of the group and support the personal development of members;

5. To use good community development practice to achieve all above aims.

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## CALL TO LINK UP – NORTH AND SOUTH

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### Meeting on Cross-Border Linkages

**Dear All,**

Given the recent announcement that Tamboran is now proceeding to the next phase of their plans, there is growing concern of the risk that Fracking is proceeding unabated in Fermanagh. In particular, people from outside the county are keen to play a role in activity on the ground here - as pollution knows no borders - and are keen to discuss how this can be taken forwards in an open and positive manner.

I have been contacted by people from across campaign groups in Ireland to organise a meeting where those with an interest in developing such linkages can meet together. Given the short time frame and the strength of the demand, I have arranged a meeting for **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February** in Enniskillen, Clinton Centre, between 3pm and 5pm (downstairs). I realise that this may not suit everyone or everyone's schedules but it is important that this meeting proceeds to allow people an opportunity to discuss ideas and any concerns they may have.

I want to make clear that this meeting is not being promoted by any structure, specifically Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network (FFAN), although I have invited all core FFAN members to attend.

Can you please forward on this invitation to others who you might consider to be interested in participating in this discussion.

Yours,  
Donal O'Cofaigh [donaloc@hotmail.com](mailto:donaloc@hotmail.com)

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## LETTERS to PAT RABBITTE and Senator QUINN

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From: **des guckian** [mailto:dgucks@yahoo.com](mailto:mailto:dgucks@yahoo.com)

Sent: 23 January 2012 19:32

To: [pat.rabbitte@oireachtas.ie](mailto:pat.rabbitte@oireachtas.ie)

**Subject: FRACKING IS NOT FOR LEITRIM.**

Dear Minister Rabbitte. Your Dept has issued an onshore Licencing Option to Tamboran in Co Leitrim. Should you grant a fuller licence you will be dicing with our health and environment. Tamboran admits that they will be using a lethal cocktail of chemicals and that that will remain as a threat to us all. Why has France banned fracking and the thinking people of New York question the wisdom of having it in their region??. To claim that Aberdeen University will provide you with INDEPENDENT advice is nonsense as they are very dependent on the oil & gas companies for their funding. You say you have no respect for the anti-fracking votes of Co Councils. That is not democratic. Sincerely. Des Guckian, Derrywillow, Dromod, Carrick-on-Shannon. Ph 0874124725.

Dear all. According to Shannonside Radio news today, Tamboran issued a statement attacking those who are opposed to what they want to do to us.

Perhaps, hitting the fracker through getting to investors (as suggested in Ineke's Newslettet) will be an effective way to improve Moorman's "humours".

Let's keep on their case . Des Guckian.

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A letter from **Caroline Kuyper** to Minister Pat Rabbitte. Read also the article she's linking at the end.

Rock'n'Roll, folks. Send your letter to the Minister too.

Cheers, Charlie

**Subject:** Democracy-County Council Decisions-Fracking

**Date:** Tue, 24 Jan 2012 12:46:55 +0000

**From:** caroline kuyper

To: <cmakuyper@hotmail.com>  
<minister.rabbitte@dcenr.gov.ie>,  
<pat.rabbitte@oireachtas.ie>  
<joe.mchugh@oireachtas.ie>, Pádraig  
MacLochlainn  
<padraig.maclochlainn@oireachtas.ie>,  
<charlie.mcconalogue@oireachtas.ie>,  
CC: <dinny.mcginley@oireachtas.ie>,  
<pearse.doherty@oireachtas.ie>,  
<thomas.pringle@oireachtas.ie>,  
<eamon.gilmore@oir.ie>,  
<enda.kenny@oireachtas.ie>

Dear Minister Rabbitte,

As a person residing in Donegal for many years I am writing to you to let you know how disappointed and annoyed I am at your disrespectful dismissal of the decision of Donegal County Council to put a ban on fracking in its forthcoming development plan. This motion was put forward by Fine Gael councillor Barry O' Neill, a party that you are in coalition with. However, this is not about party politics, this concerns all people in Donegal - as it does all people in Sligo, Leitrim, Clare, all of whose councils are against fracking, and beyond that, all people on this island, as the air we breathe, geology, faultlines, watertables, rivers etc do not concern themselves with man-made boundaries, whether of county or state.

Local press reported you or some one in your department as saying 'this motion isn't worth the paper it's written on'.

So are you telling me that local democracy can be totally ignored? That the wishes of the people as represented by all county councillors have no bearing on your decision?

That sounds like dictatorship to me, and I am sure you are a person committed to democratic processes, so I would really appreciate if you could answer me how you as Minister representing the people will act on the wishes of the people.

The arguments against fracking have been made to you before and I believe you are well up to date and I know you are considering the issue carefully. If you would like further information I would be happy to oblige. I would urge you to

have the bigger, long term picture in sight, not the short term one. Ireland's landscapes would be destroyed, agriculture and the food industry, at present the only sectors really doing well in the present difficult circumstances, would be ruined. The big companies would get the profits, not the state. Gas would be sold at the market rate - such are the rules of capitalism. The big Oil & Gas Companies globally have a disastrous record, both environmentally and concerning human rights in areas where they have their industries and have lied about it again and again.

The rapid end of fossil fuels is a reality the world has acknowledged and now needs to face, and Ireland could be bold and innovative in leading the way in sustainable, renewable energy sources, creating many more jobs in the process than would be created by fracking, instead of squeezing the last fossil fuel out with calamitous consequences for a long time, fracking is dangerous and unsafe!

One of the big urgent threats to humankind is climate change and the need to curb CO2. I am enclosing a link to recent report that highlights how fracking is a bigger emitter of CO2 than even oil and coal, so even on this level it's a bad idea. It's a bad idea in every respect, for the land, for people, for livestock, wildlife, for jobs, for the future.

<http://stephenleahy.net/2012/01/23/fracking-for-shale-gas-neither-clean-nor-green-making-global-warming-worse>

(with apologies for how I put the link I am not very computer savvy)

Please consider all the above carefully, looking forward to receiving a reply from you, both on the issue of democracy, as well as on the issue of fracking

Yours Sincerely,  
Caroline Kuyper  
County Donegal



## Respond from Senator Quinn to the letter of Saskia

From: Feargal Quinn  
[feargal.quinn@oireachtas.ie](mailto:feargal.quinn@oireachtas.ie)

Date: 24 January 2012 12:19  
Subject: Re: allow fracking in Ireland as a possible way to create jobs  
To: saskia de jong <saskiadj@gmail.com>

Dear Saskia,

Thank you for your email.

The stark fact is that energy imports constitute 90% of Ireland's total energy use. Should we start to diversify? Will renewables be enough in the future?

Ireland's current energy mix is 96% reliant on fossil fuels, the 4th largest fossil fuel dependency in the EU. Our energy imports come at an estimated cost of €6bn to the Irish exchequer annually and transported from Scotland via a single pipeline.

Oil and gas are by far the most dominant energy sources in Ireland of which almost 100% and 92% respectively are imported. Thus, Ireland is very heavily exposed to international oil and gas price fluctuations (gas being the predominant fuel used to produce electricity in Ireland). (Professor Elenor Denny)

Should there be an open debate if there is a potential to create hundreds of jobs, ensure our energy security while producing billions of euro in revenue in taxes and spur economic growth?

Time magazine called shale the "rock that will power the world". In the space of just a decade, the US has gone from being the biggest importer of natural gas to the biggest producer in the world. Poland, Germany, China and even Ireland have vast shale deposits that could be exploited. Poland, which may have Europe's largest deposits, has issued exploration licences to more than 20 firms.

In the US, a shale-driven glut of natural gas has cut electricity prices for their power industry by 50% and reduced investment in costlier sources of energy. (Bloomberg) What would happen if we were to exploit the energy source here? Would energy costs for consumers be slashed and would our businesses be able to become even more

competitive on the world stage?

Could Ireland become an exporter of energy? What would that do to the economy? Would it inject billions of euros?

Natural gas is used to generate 54% of our electricity, but 27% of our power is still generated using coal. If Ireland was to switch from coal to natural some estimates say that it would cut in half the amount of CO2 produced. Thus it could contribute to reducing our pollution.

In 2011, the UK Energy and Climate Change Committee of Britain's House of Commons said there was "no evidence" that fracking posed a risk to underground water aquifers—provided the wells are constructed properly. It said the risks of water contamination were due to issues of well integrity—whether the well casing was intact or not—and as such were "no different" to the concerns that arise in conventional oil and natural-gas production.

A panel of experts, set up by US president Barack Obama on hydraulic fracturing, concluded last month that fracking had "enormous potential" but also serious environmental impacts, and called for tighter regulation.

There are of course major environmental concerns, which must be addressed but how can we address them if there is no debate on hydraulic fracturing? This environmental impact is fundamental.

One view is from The Economist (26th Nov, 2011): "Environmentalists are probably worrying too much about the immediate consequences of fracking. The technique has been in regular use in the conventional oil and gas industry since the 1940s; and in all that time no aquifer is known to have been contaminated by fracking."

"It does appear that fracking can cause earthquakes. But so can geothermal energy production and other parts of the oil and gas production process. Wherever fluids are injected into deep wells, that is a risk. It warrants strict regulation and further study. It is not, however, a reason to shut down a promising industry."

Should we simply 'shut down' this 'promising industry' in Ireland before it starts?

How can we advocate for 'innovation' and fostering 'new technology' while at the same time time being 'anti-science' by dismissing fracking out of hand? The technique has been evolving for over 60 years. The Minister of State for Natural Resources, Fergus O'Dowd has said "if gas can be extracted without impacting on the environment and all the other issues are addressed, we have to consider that because of our energy deficit".

Should we open the debate on fracking given the enormous economic benefits, including the potential for massive job creation? Will Ireland be left behind (e.g. by countries like Poland) if we introduce a total ban on fracking? Technology changes, should we make a blanket decision or should we open up the debate on hydraulic fracturing?

I believe we should,

Feargal

### **LETTER from SASKIA to Senator QUINN**

Subject:  
allow fracking in Ireland as a possible way to create jobs

Dear Senator Quinn,

I read with dismay your suggestion in 2012 in a Seanad debate to allow fracking in Ireland as a possible way to create jobs.

I fully appreciate that you have the welfare of both the citizens of Ireland and the land at heart, and so do I.

The problem about fracking is that it is such a harmful, dangerous process with a disastrous track record wherever it has been allowed to proceed.

The facts about water & air contamination, damage to human and animal health, damage to/destroying parts of the the natural environment, setting off earthquakes, release of dangerous chemicals, pollution of ground and surface waters, lack of disclosure of the facts by the industry etc. are well documented and known, but if you would like me to provide you with independent respected research data please do not hesitate to ask!

The one area Ireland in the present dire economic circumstances remains successful in is food export and any contamination of water, grass, crops, animal feed etc., thus entering into the food chain would be disastrous and have a long term negative impact.

Another area considered promising for growth is Tourism.

It is in those areas that long-term jobs can be created and continued - Marketing healthy food and tourism, particularly the kind of tourism that makes use of our beautiful unspoilt landscape, walking, birdwatching etc. this would be totally undermined by any fracking development.

The era of fossil fuels is coming to an end, this is acknowledged globally by every expert in the field, and this is an opportunity for Ireland to lead the way in switching to promoting and using/developing sustainable and renewable energy technology now, instead of causing harm by fracking that will be felt for many generations in the short-sighted view of creating a few short-term jobs now, but sacrificing & harming so much more in the process, and in the knowledge that this is only postponing the inevitable - the depletion of fossil fuel is an inescapable reality.

i would like to keep this island in as good health as is possible, for my children and grandchildren and for all children of today and the future, and I urge you to carefully consider all the negative implications any fracking development would have.

This is a time to think big, be bold, promote innovative solutions for our country, not be used by a corrupt, dishonest industry that in its search for global profits has left a legacy of ruined, contaminated scarred landscapes, & countless dead and sick people and animals and polluted natural environments.

The study, "Impacts of Shale Gas and Shale Oil Extraction" from the EU Parliament comes to the following conclusions:

etc: Key findings as in the sample letter of Charlie

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## LETTER/respond to FF - FRACKING

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Below FF's respond to my query about TD Charlie McConalogue's stance concerning fracking in Ireland. It's not very satisfying that they're just putting Éamon Ó Cuív in the foreground now. They are seemingly winding themselves as they were positive towards fracking when previously in government. But read yourself.

Cheers,

Charlie

Re: Fw: Invitation to the free showing  
**Subject:** of GASLAND - ban hydraulic fracturing

**Date:** Mon, 23 Jan 2012 16:17:06 +0000

**From:** Paula OBrien  
<[Paula.OBrien@Oireachtas.ie](mailto:Paula.OBrien@Oireachtas.ie)>

**To:** Charlie Williams  
<[charlie2williams@gmail.com](mailto:charlie2williams@gmail.com)>

Please see below FF position on Fracking.

26 September 2011

### Ó Cuív gravely concerned by 'Fracking' in the Lough Allen Basin

Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Natural Resources Éamon Ó Cuív has expressed grave concern about the possible issuing of licenses to extract Shale Gas by Hydraulic Fracturing or 'Fracking' in the Lough Allen Basin.

Deputy Ó Cuív was commenting following a meeting with Senator Paschal Mooney and Fianna Fáil Councillors in the Leitrim area.

He said: "Local public representatives have stressed to me the importance of preserving the pristine nature of the ecology in this region, on which much of the local employment depends. They are justifiably concerned that it could be put at risk by any unproven method of gas extraction that may leave a negative impact on the area long after the last of the gas would be extracted.

"The Lough Allen Basin is one of our most ecologically sensitive areas, with some of the most beautiful lakes and waterways in the country. I am not convinced that it is possible

to extract the shale gas in this area without ecological and human risk. I am aware of the considerable steps that would have to be taken before gas could be extracted. However I am not satisfied that the environmental procedures in place were designed to deal with this type of extraction method.

"Before any licenses are issued by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to drill for this gas on an exploratory basis, it is important that the Minister outlines exactly how he intends to ensure that gas extraction in this area would be done in a safe way. He must also clarify what methods of extraction would be deemed suitable. It should not be left solely to the exploration companies to determine the method of extraction if gas is found. The Department has a role in ruling out unsuitable methods of extraction before exploration takes place.

"Along with my colleague Senator Paschal Mooney I will be raising this matter at the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. We will be looking for clear assurances Minister Pat Rabbitte. I will be asking him to ensure that any fracking north of the border in Fermanagh will not affect counties south of the border, as it could have serious ecological and human health implications over a wide area. We feel that the Minister should persuade his Northern counterparts not to allow drilling until an all-Ireland study is carried out into the possible negative effects of this method."

ENDS

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## PLEASE CORRECT

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### - photo shooting

**Apologise to all: the photo shooting I mentioned in the last newsletter has already taken place. So please do not contact the** Black Hole Studio for info

The project finished last year with the web-site [www.talkaboutfracking.ie](http://www.talkaboutfracking.ie) which was supposedly set-up to show off the portraits. (Ineke)

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## FEARGAL QUINN

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- **Correct email address** for Feargal Quinn  
[feargal.quinn@oireachtas.ie](mailto:feargal.quinn@oireachtas.ie)

- **Ocean fm responses to Feargal Quinn**

Received from: [terryathome@gmx.ie](mailto:terryathome@gmx.ie)

Hi Ineke,

myself and Mary Rose were on Ocean FM this morning (Jan. 23) soon after 9am,

we were asked to respond to Fergal Quinn's comments.

I think we both made good points, and indeed a Labour Party senator (?) who was on just after us, to talk on some other subject, also spoke in agreement with points I had just made, so in that sense it was better than planned.

I don't know if it'll be on their podcasts later <http://oceanfm.ie/page/podcasts> but listen out.

Pass this on.

Regards and best wishes to all,

Terry MacDermott

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## TAMBORAN

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- **planning application**

**The following comment was posted on [PoliticalWorld.org](http://PoliticalWorld.org):**

**Tamboran Planning Application in Fermanagh**

The Application has not gone in yet - neither Belfast, Fermanagh district council or the western local planning office have received an application yet.

When they do get the application in it will go to the Minerals Division based at the

Planning and Local Government Group in

Millennium House  
17-25 Great Victoria Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7BN

Tel: (028) 9041 6700

Textphone: 028 9054 0642

Fax: (028) 9041 6802

email: [planning@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:planning@doeni.gov.uk)

I spoke to them today and there will be 4 weeks to object - it will take a week or so for them to scan and upload the application onto the website.

You can actually gather a lot of information from this discussion =>

<http://www.politicalworld.org/showthread.php?t=8095> (Fracking and the Environment: Exploration licenses granted to search for shale gas in Lough Allen area).

Charlie

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- **CER and submissions**

Received from Meg [youthmardingo@gmail.com](mailto:youthmardingo@gmail.com)

Dear all,

I phoned the CER today, re: Tamboran Resources meeting with them on

Oct 20th, and the last paragraph in their minutes, namely,

"Implementation Project and outlined the process by which the

Consultation Response Paper and Draft Decision Paper would be

published. The Consultation Response Paper and Draft Decision Paper

are expected to be published before

Christmas 2011"

The short answer is that the Draft Decision Paper has not been

published, and that they received 79 submissions, (they usually

receive 10 or thereabouts). I have attached the web link to the

submissions, which can be accessed on their website, [www.cer.ie](http://www.cer.ie) (go

through Petroleum) and apparently the draft paper will be published

soon, and then the consultation process will begin again. We need at

least ten times the amount of submissions next time around, because

all those links in the chain matter, so will keep in touch, and if

everyone else could as well, so that as soon as

the submissions open, we can start a concerted group effort to put in good, strong submissions against the process of hydraulic fracking. Another good idea is to ring the CER, 01 400 0800 and ask to be put onto their mailing list (sorry if you all know all of this already, dont want to re-invent the wheel) under gas, and petroleum, and renewables.  
<http://www.cer.ie/en/petroleum-safety-current-consultations.aspx?article=57170b43-6dee-433a-b7b3-63dc68cb680f>

best regards

Meg Rybicki  
North West Network against Fracking  
0863840254

From: ga-eska <[gajesia@gmail.com](mailto:gajesia@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sun, 22 Jan 2012 22:29:39 +0000  
Subject: Re: CER/Tamboran Resources Meeting minutes  
To: mardingo youth  
<[youthmardingo@gmail.com](mailto:youthmardingo@gmail.com)>

CER/Tamboran Resources Meeting  
Tuesday, October 20  
th  
2011  
Location: CER Offices  
Time: 14.15  
Attended by: Richard Moorman Tamboran  
Tony Bazley Tamboran  
Karl Prenderville Tamboran  
Paul McGowan CER  
Eamonn Murtagh CER  
Róisín Cullinan CER  
Kieran Walsh CER  
Theresa Reddy CER Consultant, GL Noble  
Denton

Meeting requested by Tamboran Resources

Minutes:

1. Introduction

The meeting was opened by CER and all attendees were introduced.

2. Project update from Tamboran

Tamboran gave a historical overview of shale gas extraction in the US and the process changes which have occurred since 2005. Tamboran outlined their plans for shale gas extraction in Ireland:

- Tamboran currently hold an onshore licensing

option in the Lough Allen Basin;

- If the shale gas find is commercially viable Tamboran expect to apply for an exploration licence for early 2013;

- Exploration activities under this licence will include the fracking process.

The CER notes that the details of the planned development (number of wells, well pad dimensions, area to be developed, provisions for environmental monitoring) provided by Tamboran to the CER have already been made publicly available via their website.

Tamboran noted that incidents of ground water contamination in the US associated with shale gas extraction have been the result of a lack of regulation and that proper testing (cement logging) of the wells would have identified the potential for contamination of ground water. Tamboran stated that the integrity of all its wells will be tested for their proposed Irish development. Any well that is found to have integrity issues which could result in ground water contamination will be abandoned. Tamboran described the likely infrastructure and resources required to develop the Lough Allen prospect. These are subject to the granting of applicable licences and permits.

3. CER update on the Petroleum Safety Framework Implementation Project

The CER provided a background to the Petroleum Safety Framework Implementation Project and outlined the process by which the Consultation Response Paper and Draft Decision Paper would be published. The Consultation Response Paper and Draft Decision Paper are expected to be published before Christmas 2011

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**NGO MEMBER (list serv Lisette van Vliet)  
add to our list**

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Hi all,

I have just joined the listserv and wanted to introduce myself. My name is Jenny and I recently joined the Climate and Energy campaign at Friends of the Earth, England Wales and Northern Ireland.

I look forward to being in touch with you about all things shale gas related!

Thanks,

Jenny

Jennifer Rosenberg

Climate and Energy Campaign,  
Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and  
Northern Ireland)

26-28 Underwood Street, London, N1 7JQ

0207 566 1679

[jennifer.rosenberg@foe.co.uk](mailto:jennifer.rosenberg@foe.co.uk)

[www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

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## US – HOUSTON CONFERENCE

Received from our campaigner

Here is an interesting PDF file below from the recent World Shale Gas Conference that was held in Houston recently. The file is quite big, 4.5mb

This will give people an insight into the World shale gas industry as a whole, it will probably madden quite a few people when they read it also (24 pages):-)

[http://www.worldshalegas.org/CWCFiles/MicroSite\\_Files/WSG\\_10/Event\\_Content/WorldShaleGas2011%20low%20res%20July.pdf](http://www.worldshalegas.org/CWCFiles/MicroSite_Files/WSG_10/Event_Content/WorldShaleGas2011%20low%20res%20July.pdf)

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## PEOPLE TO THE POWER

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Just saw this on Alternet

[http://www.alternet.org/story/153853/fracking%27s\\_%22little\\_revolution%22%3A\\_how\\_a\\_people-powered\\_movement\\_fights\\_big\\_business\\_for\\_clean\\_water/](http://www.alternet.org/story/153853/fracking%27s_%22little_revolution%22%3A_how_a_people-powered_movement_fights_big_business_for_clean_water/)

Beir bua  
Seán

Fracking's "Little Revolution": How a People-Powered Movement Fights Big Business for Clean Water

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Dear European friends,

Yesterday, 23 January, many hundreds of New York anti-fracking activists rallied at the state

capitol in Albany and then met with their state senators and assembly members.

These kinds of rallies and lobby days have been going on periodically for the past three years here in New York, as the state government continues to consider whether or not to lift our de facto state moratorium.

Yesterday's event was notable for two reasons.

First, the message of the anti-fracking groups here in NY has shifted more firmly toward demanding an outright ban. As one of the speakers at the rally, I echoed this message in my own remarks, which are attached here. (Feel free to circulate.)

My intent was to connect anti-fracking efforts with New York's proud tradition of uncompromising abolitionism regarding slavery. One of our state's historical heroes is the escaped slave Harriet Tubman who served as a spy for the Union army during the Civil War and secretly helped other slaves to escape from the South, conducting them via the Underground Railroad, to safety in Canada. (Many people here in New York are very proud to live in old homes that once served station stops on the underground railroad and which contain secret rooms where runaway slaves were hidden.)

Many speakers, including me and filmmaker Josh Fox, referenced the happy victory of anti-fracking efforts in Bulgaria.

Second, a highlight of the day was our "bread parade." For this, we were directly inspired by our counterparts in Bulgaria. We closely watched the protest videos and public service announcements that preceded the good news from that nation and decided to replicate the march of the bread loaves.

Our breads were carried in a lively procession--led by New York farmers--that wound through the corridors and stair wells of the Legislative Office Building and into the great rotunda outside the Governor Cuomo's offices. There, the loaves were ceremoniously piled on a white cloth as a gift to the governor and as a symbol of the abundance of New York agriculture and all that we seek to protect through a ban on fracking.

After much chanting--"break bread! not shale!"--a staff member came out of the governor's inner offices, accepted a loaf of

bread, and listened to our concerns.

The baker, miller, and farmer all involved in the creation of these bread loaves were present, and baker Stefan Senders spoke at the rally.

Thank you for the inspiration, Bulgaria, the Harriet Tubman of fracking. May your success be replicated here and everywhere.

Gladly,

Sandra Steingraber [ssteingraber@ithaca.edu](mailto:ssteingraber@ithaca.edu)

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## REPORTS – update Tyndall

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### **Shale gas: an updated assessment of environmental and climate change impacts**

*A report by researchers at the Tyndall Centre University of Manchester*

Please cite this report as: Broderick. J., et al: 2011, *Shale gas: an updated assessment of environmental and climate change impacts*. A report commissioned by The Co-operative and undertaken by researchers at the Tyndall Centre, University of Manchester

November 2011

<http://www.co-operative.coop/Corporate/Fracking/Shale%20gas%20update%20-%20full%20report.pdf>

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## US – news

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A remarkable interview with Robert Redford done by [DemocracyNOW!](#), an independent US on-line TV channel which is worth to subscribe if you are interested in US politics.

=> [Robert Redford Praises Rejection of Keystone: We Can't Afford To Be at the Mercy of Big Oil](#)

We're broadcasting from Park City, Utah, home of the Sundance Film Festival, the nation's largest festival for independent cinema. Over the weekend, we spoke with Robert Redford, the founder of Sundance. He's well known as an actor, a director, a producer, but part and parcel of who he is is an activist. I asked him about President Obama's decision last week to reject the proposal for the Keystone XL tars sands oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. "Oil, coal, and gas still dominate in terms of control, because of their relationship with members of Congress, [whom] they give a lot of money to," Redford said. "But because times have changed so drastically, and I don't think we can be at the mercy of what big oil wants to do anymore."

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## FRACKING WITH PROPANE

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<http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/News/2011/November/15111102.asp>

NOTE: propane is flammable . Could rupture seismic faults if used in high volumes