



Information letter for those to whom fracking matters and updates on the website FFI

contact: ineke@frackingfreeireland.org

visit: www.frackingfreeireland.org

facebook: [NO FRACKING IRELAND](#)

[fracking ireland google groups](#), apply for membership: charlie2williams@gmail.com

BAN FRACKING IN IRELAND!

For an overview of all groups and contact details visit:
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/contact-local-groups/>

EVENTS and other CAMPAIGN news

The campaign is steaming up,

A huge international lobbying is taken place at present to the MEP's re. the voting on the Sonic (ENVI – environment) and Tzavela (ITRE – industry) report, on Wednesday 22 November in the EU Parliament in Strasbourg.

The Irish MEP's received letters, recommendations and comments on the Sonic report. Sonic is a pro fracker MEP and he wrote a draft a few months ago. MEP's managed to get a lot of amendments passed to improve the draft. The latest amendment is a calling for a moratorium on exploration and exploitation (they wish to call for a ban but they know for sure that that will never pass). And upcoming week will be voted on that amendment and the full report.

Tzavela a pro fracker as well, who wrote the draft for the ITRE report now tries to put the two reports together. (and that will weaken the ENVI report)

Please find an update and the letters: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/fracking-in-ireland-update/>

All MEP's received a link with the **scanned petitions** of ROI, a hard copy of the [letter](#) and [recommendations](#) and I (Ineke) enclosed the [Keep Ireland Fracking Free postcard](#) to it with a personal note.

(On the internet, I deleted the names of the campaigners who signed the letter for privacy reasons)

For an idea of the position on fracking/ENVI/ITRE reports by our politicians
visit: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/letters-to-irish-politicians/>

Excerpts from emails to Ineke:

Pat the Cope Gallagher: 'I will be reflecting this position when I vote in Strasbourg next week.'

Nessa Childers: 'For sure Nessa will be working towards a strong environmental report at the European Parliament's Plenary session in Strasbourg next week '

Marian Harkin: 'I have co-signed an amendment which calls on every EU Member State to put in a place a moratorium on fracking as long as EU and national rules are insufficiently developed to ensure complete environmental and human safety. I will be lobbying my fellow MEPs to co-sign this amendment in the coming days and of course to vote for it in the Parliament Plenary Session in Strasbourg. '

PETITIONS:

Here an [itemised overview](#) of the number of signatures.

Later I received another 49 by Ron Beemster and a copy of the collected signatures on her walk to the Dail from Cecily (93)

A total of **6372** signatures we can use on a international level (we need the original signatures or a kind of certificate/stamped document if issued already to local/national government) (numbers of the online petitions were in the letter as well)

I received hard copies calling for a Ban on HF from:

ROI

Rachel/Leah, Joan Walsh, Niamh, Arnott, Mary Rose, Bridget Foy, Charlie Easterfield, Martina (co. Clare) Dervilla, Meg, Ron and Brigit Beemster, (copy of sign. From Cecily)

NI

FFAN: Tanya, Carroll

Awaiting to receive: Michael McEvoy

I wish to thank you all for sending the hard copies to me and they are safe in our safe!

What next?

The **EU WILL CALL FOR A BAN ON FRACKING**. It will be organised by the international campaigners (I met in Brussels during the conference). There are various options available and at present we are discussing which might be the best.

Ireland (ROI and NI?!) didn't still have issued their petitions to the PETI committee (9 other countries did) and I need the hard copies for that.

SO: PLEASE SENT THE PETITIONS YOU HAVE to ineke@frackingfreeireland.

I WILL SCAN THEM and KEEP THEM SAFE. (and I will return them if you need them, don't worry!)

SO THAT WE CAN ISSUE OUR PETITIONS TO THE PETI COMMITTEE and LATER CAN USE IT FOR THE EU PETITION.

The people who signed the petitions have the right that they are heard and that their signatures don't get lost!

Photographer Gearóid Ó Lóinsigh, a member of the Anti Fracking (Hydraulic Fracturing)

movement NO FRACKING IRELAND talked (last Thursday) in Dun Laoghaire about Hydraulic Fracturing.

Dublin group – first meeting on 13th November, Fergal reports

Hi All,

had the first official meeting last night of the Dublin group and we had a great turnout of about 15 folk and agreed to meet every two weeks at 7.30pm in seomra so next meeting is the 27th.

One thing that we noticed was a lot of us are not really sure where the campaign is at right now in terms of what research has been done , what lobbying etc.. We are concerned that we will be duplicating work already done by other groups more established.

We would like to invite someone involved with the campaign to come and give us a talk on the campaign to bring us up to date and maybe we could have a discussion on where to focus the dublin groups activities best.

If anyone could do this in the near future we would be delighted and we could put you up and cover some expenses. Could you e-mail nofrackingdublin@gmail.com and let us know. Sometimes its hard to keep up with this group e-mail so best to e-mail us directly.

thanks and regards

Fergal

Great results for NO FRACKING IRELAND

<http://www.leitrimobserver.ie/news/local/leitrim-council-asked-to-follow-donegal-and-prohibit-fracking-1-4450597>

On Saturday, September 22 as part of a co-ordinated, global day of protest, hundreds of people in Leitrim came out in support of a ban on 'fracking' in Ireland. As part of this day of protest, campaigners from No Fracking Ireland wrote to the various County Councils that have vast areas of land zoned for fracking, asking them to insert a clause into their County



Development Plans clearly stating that hydraulic fracturing (fracking) would not be permitted within their respective counties.

In response to this request Leitrim County Council Manager, Jackie Maguire recently told the Leitrim Observer that "she had previously advised that councillors could not amend the plan to put in place an outright ban and that situation remained unchanged. Ms. Maguire noted that any change in the County Development Plan had to be made in accordance with Government Policy."

Anti-fracking campaigners believe that this advice and information from the County Council Manager is in fact incorrect. **After seeking legal advice on the issue campaigners now fully understand that there is in fact nothing stopping the elected members of Leitrim County Council from amending the County Development Plan to prohibit 'fracking'.**

In response to the same request to Donegal County Council, No Fracking Ireland are delighted to have received the following letter from Denis Kelly, Senior Executive Planner in Donegal County Council –

"I refer to your correspondence received 25th September 2012 in respect of your concern regarding the potential impact that shale gas extraction may have upon the environment and the need to ban it. I am to advise that this issue formed part of the consideration of the County Development Plan 2012-2018, whereby a list of policies and objectives have been incorporated into the plan that provide for the protection of the environment. I can also confirm that policy E-D-8, (section 7.2.3 of the plan) states 'It is a policy of Donegal County Council that the process of Hydraulic Fracturing (or Fracking) will not be permitted in the County of Donegal. Therefore, this council will not allow the intrusive shale gas extraction practices."

Campaigners involved in the grassroots network No Fracking Ireland congratulate Donegal County Council for taking the necessary steps on this serious issue and respectfully ask public representatives in Leitrim County Council to follow suit.

"We hope politics, money or misinformation does not get in the way of protecting the most important natural resources we have, our air, land and water and most importantly the health of our children for generations to come, we should be doing everything we can to ensure fracking which has been proven to be detrimental on many levels, never takes place here. We better speak up now before it's too late."

CORRESPONDENCE – LETTERS

One of the campaigners wrote to the Taoiseach re his visit to Pennsylvania

Question

I wrote a letter to Enda Kenny:

"I'm kindly asking you to answer me two questions:

1) Is it true that when you and Mr Corbett discussed the fact both Ireland and Pennsylvania have shale gas resources, you said,

the Republic of Ireland is 'keen to emulate Pennsylvania's success in developing these resources' ?

2) If so, does that mean that the government has already come to decisions if and how shale gas mining will take place in Ireland, despite the fact that the EPA and the Oireachtas Committee on Transport and Communication have not come to final conclusions about the feasibility of such undertaking?"

Answer

In a letter from his Private Secretary I got this answer:

"The Taoiseach has asked me to thank you for your recent email.

During a recent visit to Pennsylvania the Taoiseach met with Governor Corbett and

engaged into a productive meeting covering a wide range of issues.

In relation to shale gas in Ireland Minister Rabbitte has confirmed that no decision will be made until the results of the second stage EPA research have been considered,"

As Taoiseach Enda Kenny did NOT answer my first question, but therefore the second one, we can expect that he means it like he said it in Pennsylvania:

Ireland is "keen to emulate Pennsylvania's success in developing these resources".

So get prepared, folks. This government is very obviously PRO fracking!

And comment/request from another campaigner:

Surely the people with Fine Gael connections in the campaign should be trying to get to the bottom of this. They must have some opportunity to catch Enda Kenny out on the spot!

One of our campaigners sent a letter to the EPA

Here the answer

14 November 2012

Re: Hydraulic Fracturing

I would like to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your letter dated 29 October 2012 addressed to Laura Burke, regarding the above matter. I would like to confirm that the Environmental Protection Agency will be consulting with the public on the Terms of Reference of the proposed comprehensive study on Hydraulic Fracturing, to be commenced in co-operation with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR). Your letter has been passed to the Environmental Research Unit to ensure that your views form part of the consultation process.

Details of the consultation process will be posted on the EPA website www.epa.ie in due course.

Yours sincerely,
Tom O'Reilly
Office of Director General
Environmental Protection Agency



THOUGHTS – OPINION - STATEMENT



WWF supports IEA conclusion: two thirds of fossil fuel reserves must be left underground

Gland, Switzerland - Two thirds of all proven fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground if the world is serious about avoiding dangerous climate change, according to the International Energy Agency in its *World Energy Outlook 2012* report released today.

"The IEA's conclusion reflects sound science. CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels are destabilizing our climate. We cannot burn fuels like coal and oil indefinitely without paying the

price in the form of climate instability, droughts, heat waves and super storms. The IEA has done the only responsible thing by prominently highlighting this in its report," says WWF's Global Climate and Energy Initiative leader Samantha Smith.

"This scientific and blunt assessment should be clearly heard by all countries, investors and the fossil fuel industry itself. This is not only about stopping all new large-scale fossil fuel exploration, such as those in the Arctic; this is about retiring existing dirty energy infrastructure as well, and it is the price to pay to avoid global climate disaster. We quickly needed to transition our energy economies if we are to avoid a climate catastrophe," she says.

Three years ago, the world's governments committed to staying well below 2 degrees global warming (compared to pre-industrial temperatures) in order to limit dire climate change impacts on biodiversity, food security and poor and vulnerable communities. Already today, with global warming still below 1 degree Celsius, freak weather events such as super storm Sandy are creating havoc with coastal communities; record droughts this year have severely impacted yields of essential food crops and led to food crisis; and the Arctic Ocean has seen yet another record low in sea ice cover, from which it is unlikely to recover.

Smith says that governments, investors and industry must heed the warning by the IEA. "The IEA is clearly saying it is not too late for climate action, and its strong message to all of us is that we need to act right now," she says.

WWF is calling for massive new, global investments in clean renewables and a corresponding phase out of investment in fossil fuel projects. "We fully support the IEA's finding that investments in clean renewables and energy efficiency must expand substantially in nations that have already joined the renewable energy journey, and must start immediately in those nations that are lagging behind," says Smith. WWF notes that a few developed countries, such as Germany and Denmark, are already doing their part. Others need to both radically increase their domestic investments and invest in a fair transition to renewables in low income countries.

WWF's global director of energy policy, Dr Stephan Singer, says the call by the IEA to cut fossil fuel subsidies and redirect the cash into clean renewables, clean energy access and energy conservation is absolutely essential.

WWF shares the fundamental concern of the IEA that recent commitments to curb fossil fuel subsidies were just empty words by the G20, the club of the world's mighty nations. In 2011, fossil fuel subsidies grew by 30% compared to 2010 and now amount to more than half a trillion USD, or the equivalent of more than twice the GDP of Indonesia, he says.

"If those subsidies were redirected into pro-poor programs or renewable energy access, world governments could still stay below 2 degrees warming and provide access to clean and sustainable energy for the three billion people worldwide who have no or only dirty energy," says Singer.

Immediate actions and policies are needed before 2017 to prevent dangerous lock-in of global fossil fuel infrastructure, otherwise all the allowable CO2 emissions will be locked-in by the existing energy infrastructure, making the 2 degree objective unachievable. "On this we agree with the IEA," he says. Fossil fuel infrastructure includes new fossil-based power stations and continued exploration of unconventional fossil resources such as shale gas and shale oil, tar sands and deep sea oil.

WWF also supports the IEA warning of the danger of using freshwater for fossil fuel production in a world where many countries are already experiencing droughts and water scarcity. The IEA notes that freshwater use for energy production is likely to double in the next 20 years unless fossil fuels - particularly shale gas development - and unsustainable biofuel uses are curbed substantially.

ends

For more information please contact

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About WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

The Global Climate & Energy Initiative (GCEI) is WWF's global programme addressing climate change, promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.

panda.org/news **for latest news and media resources**

Read The Energy Report at

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/energy_solutions/renewable_energy/sustainable_energy_report/

MOVIES- SONGS

Dear All,

I recommend you a great film of shale gas situation in Poland made by a friend of mine - Ronan Lynch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxO8IfWerU0>

Best wishes,
Marek Kryda

Anti-Fracking Coalition, Poland

IRISH NEWS

[Comiskey welcomes Taoiseach's commitments on fracking](#)

<http://www.sligotoday.ie/details.php?id=22737>

(please read also letters/comments)

Tamboran director ceases safety work in caves due to time constraints-

<http://www.anglocelt.ie/news/roundup/articles/2012/11/13/4013262-tamboran-director-ceases-safety-work-in-caves-due-to-time-constraintsbr/>

Leitrim council asked to follow donegal and prohibit fracking -

<http://www.leitrimobserver.ie/news/local/leitrim-council-asked-to-follow-donegal-and-prohibit->

EU -NEWS

Latest news on Sonic and Tzavela reports/upcoming voting

1. a **number of amendments from a far right Polish MEP** (member of EFD group - same as ITRE rapporteur Niki Tzavela!!! Coincidence? I think not!) **including one to delete the motion for a blanket ban in sensitive areas**
2. **amendment on moratorium from Rivasi + others :))**

Small but significant last minute changes!

Amendment By Tadeusz Cymański {EFD} on behalf of the EFD Group

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34. Calls for a blanket ban on hydrofracking in ~~deleted~~ certain sensitive and particularly endangered areas, such as in and beneath drinking water protection areas and in coal mining areas;

Amendment By Michèle Rivasi, Carl Schlyter, Corinne Lepage, Sabine Wils, Alfreds Rubiks and others

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 3 a new

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3a. On the basis of the precautionary principle and on the principle that preventive action should be taken, taking into account the risks and the negative climate, environmental and health impacts involved in hydraulic fracturing and the gaps identified in the EU regulatory regime for shale gas activities, urges Member States not to authorise any new hydraulic fracturing operations in the EU;

Environmental impacts of shale gas and shale oil extraction activities

Hi there,

Thought you might be interested in our latest report, released today, which shows that the industry's speaking point about a 100 year supply of natural gas for the US is bogus. This report questions the assumptions behind the 100 year claim.

<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/reports/us-energy-insecurity/>

It shows that shale gas is not a panacea for transitioning to a zero-carbon energy mix, quite the contrary: It locks us into a continued reliance on fossil fuels for decades to come.

Enjoy!

Geert

Geert Decock

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GLOBAL NEWS

Canada

[PM Group, Mercury Engineering seek refuge in Alberta oil](http://www.albertaoilmagazine.com/2012/11/european-construction-firms-look-for-refuge-in-albertas-oil-patch/)

<http://www.albertaoilmagazine.com/2012/11/european-construction-firms-look-for-refuge-in-albertas-oil-patch/>

Australia

reporter Geralyn

A bit has been happening in Australia, Southern cross university have released data on a study showing high levels of methane in the gas fields, three times higher than that from around land fills, abattoirs, and higher than over the gas fields in Siberia. And the fingerprint of the gas is that it is from the coal seam.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-14/study-suggests-coal-seam-gas-dirtier-than-industry-claims/4372410>

The premier got pushed into making a comment.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/newman-concerned-by-csg-methane-report/story-e6frf7kf-1226517455696>

And this is from beyond zero emissions

Yesterday The Australia Institute released our most recent research paper on the economic impacts of the mining boom **"Beating Around the Bush: The impact of the mining boom on rural exports"**. The full report is available [here](#)

Some of the headline figures are that last financial year the rise in the Australian dollar as a result of the mining boom has **cost Australian farmers \$43.5 billion in export income, including \$14.9 billion in 2010-11 alone.**

This represents a decrease of 41 per cent in export income because of the high exchange rate attributable to the mining boom. This cost the beef industry \$2b last year alone, and the sugar industry over \$500m.

These same effects are also impacting the **tourism, manufacturing and education industries**.

The issue was reported widely in the media, including;

[The Weekly times](#)

[Queensland Country Life](#)

[The Brisbane times](#)

[The Mackay Mercury](#)

[The Toowoomba Chronicle](#)

[The Morning Bulletin \(Rockhampton\)](#)

[TradingCarts.com](#)

US to become world leader in oil and gas thanks to fracking

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/us-to-become-world-leader-in-oil-and-gas-thanks-to-fracking-8307372.html>

The United States will leapfrog Saudi Arabia and Russia to become the world's biggest producer of oil and gas in the next five years as the controversial practice of "fracking" for hydrocarbons contained in shale rocks has enabled the country to increase production massively, according to an authoritative new report.

REPORTS - RESEARCH

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Risk and Responsibility: Farming, Food and Unconventional Gas Drilling (November 12th, 2012)

(Michelle Bamberger and Robert E. Oswald)

is published today by *Independent Science News*

<http://independentsciencenews.org/health/risk-and-responsibility-farming-food-and-unconventional-gas-drilling/>

Synopsis: Potentially, large portions of the globe could be drilled for unconventional gas deposits. Such unconventional gas drilling (Hydraulic Fracturing, fracking) poses potential threats to the food supply in such areas. Threats include leaks from impoundment ponds, from damaged or defective well casings, and from illegal dumping resulting in potentially uncontrolled spread of synthetic fracturing chemicals, radioactivity and other waste fluids. If irrigation and animal drinking water supplies, or the soil itself, become contaminated then so will the animal or plant food chain. When the industry is using non-disclosure agreements to conceal harms, and the burden of proof lies with the public, how can science support food and farmer safety under such conditions? Michelle Bamberger and Robert E. Oswald call for hydraulic fracturing to be "severely limited or banned" until scientific and transparency issues can be resolved.

The authors are a former Veterinary Researcher and a Professor in the Department of Molecular Medicine at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Please post, tweet, forward, etc this important article.

Apologies for cross posting

yours sincerely

Jonathan Latham, PhD

Editor

Independent Science News

www.independentsciencenews.org

and

www.bioscienceresource.org

An Exploratory Study of Air Quality Near Natural Gas Operations

TEDX is pleased to announce that our paper "An Exploratory Study of Air Quality Near Natural Gas Operations" has been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication by *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*. [Click here to download the paper](http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/files/HERA12-137NGAirQualityManuscriptforwebwithfigures.pdf). (here the report <http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/files/HERA12-137NGAirQualityManuscriptforwebwithfigures.pdf>)

Abstract

This exploratory study was designed to assess air quality in a rural western Colorado area where residences and gas wells co-exist. Sampling was conducted before, during, and after drilling and hydraulic fracturing of a new natural gas well pad. Weekly air sampling for 1 year revealed that the number of non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) and their concentrations were highest during the initial drilling phase and did not increase during hydraulic fracturing in this closed-loop system. Methylene chloride, a toxic solvent not reported in products used in drilling or hydraulic fracturing, was detected 73% of the time; several times in high concentrations. A literature search of the health effects of the NMHCs revealed that many had multiple health effects, including 30 that affect the endocrine system, which is susceptible to chemical impacts at very low concentrations, far less than government safety standards. Selected polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were at concentrations greater than those at which prenatally exposed children in urban studies had lower developmental and IQ scores. The human and environmental health impacts of the NMHCs, which are ozone precursors, should be examined further given that the natural gas industry is now operating in close proximity to human residences and public lands.

More information on endocrine disrupting chemicals can be found at

www.endocrinedisruption.org.

[Endocrine Disruption, Chemicals Used in Natural Gas Operations](#)