

THE WEEKLY PROFIT

FROM THE SACRIFICE ZONE

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Without prejudice

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Courtesy Chris Whynot.

Fossil fuels are bad for your health and harmful in many ways besides climate change

<http://theconversation.com/fossil-fuels-are-bad-for-your-health-and-harmful-in-many-ways-besides-climate-change-107771>

The Conversation

February 7, 2019

Sacrifice zones

While conducting our research, we constantly encounter new evidence that depending on fossil fuels for energy harms people and communities at every point along fossil fuel supply chains, **especially where coal, oil and natural gas are extracted.**

Fossil fuels require what journalist Naomi Klein calls “**sacrifice zones**” – **places and communities damaged or even destroyed by fossil fuel drilling and mining.** But we have observed that **politicians** and **other decision-makers tend to overlook these harms and injustices** and that most energy consumers – meaning most people – are generally unaware of these issues.

We see no sign that decisions about new pipelines, power plants and other fossil fuel infrastructure account fully for the harms and **costs of these industries** to society and the toll taken on nature from pollution and other problems attributable to burning **fossil fuels.**

The coal, oil and natural gas industries are also major contributors to human rights violations, public health disasters and environmental devastation.

Natural gas

As coal plants shut down, more natural gas is being burned. That should be cleaner and safer – right? Not exactly.

First, the methane and other greenhouse gases that leak from natural gas pipelines and other infrastructure mean that using gas warms the climate nearly as much as coal does.

Second, fracking, horizontal drilling and the other so-called unconventional methods for extracting natural gas and oil are introducing new dangers. There is growing evidence that living close to fracking sites causes various public health complications including: increased risk of birth defects, certain cancers, asthma and other respiratory ailments, earthquakes, and occupational health and safety problems like exposure to crystalline silica, a type of sand used during fracking.

Many of the Pennsylvanians we interviewed for our study told us that they feared for their health due to their potential exposure to the chemicals and toxicants used in fracking. Other research indicates that living near fracked natural gas wells can increase the probability of skin and respiratory conditions.

At every stage, natural gas operations can pollute water, air and land, harming ecosystems



The Guardian

Court rules out Hunter Valley coalmine on climate change grounds

Michael McGowan and Lisa Cox 07.02.2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/feb/08/court-rules-out-hunter-valley-coalmine-climate-change-rocky-hill>

Judge rejects Rocky Hill mine near Gloucester, NSW, because of its impact on the town and ‘dire consequences’ of increasing emissions

Energy Live News

Is the tide of public opinion turning against fracking?

Jonny Bairstow 08.02.2019

<https://www.energylivenews.com/2019/02/08/is-the-tide-of-public-opinion-turning-against-fracking/>

The latest BEIS Public Attitude Tracker, which is now on its 28th wave, would seem to suggest so...

The public are becoming increasingly less supportive of fracking.

That’s according to the latest BEIS Public Attitude Tracker, which is now on its 26th wave of finding out what the UK public think about a variety of energy issues.

In the survey, 13% of Brits said they supported fracking, a decrease from 15% in September 2018.

Similarly, 35% told the government they oppose fracking, an increase from 31% – this follows on from a general downward trend in support of the controversial method of sourcing shale gas since the question was first asked in December 2013.

The most common reason given for opposing the practice was the loss or destruction of the natural environment, with 62% of people stating this is the reason they were against it.

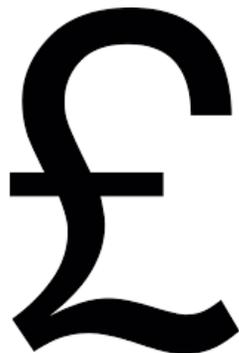
Around 40% said they were concerned it increased the risk of earthquakes, up from 26% in the last round of the tracker.

DeSmog

Finances of Fracking: Shale Industry Drills More Debt Than Profit

<https://www.desmogblog.com/finances-fracking-shale-industry-drills-more-debt-profit>

Since 2007, the oil and gas industry has lost **\$280 billion** betting on the shale boom, which has been made possible by hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and Wall Street financing, and these companies are still borrowing heavily. But even as the industry struggles to recoup costs — much less profits — by continuing to borrow and drill, the great promise of the shale revolution is also threatened by another specter: declining production at each well.



Fracking in 2018: Another Year of Pretending to Make Money

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/12/18/fracking-finances-record-oil-production-fuzzy-math>

By Justin Mikulka • Tuesday, December 18, 2018 –

2018 was the year the oil and gas industry promised that its darling, the shale fracking revolution, would stop focusing on endless production and instead turn a profit for its investors.

But as the year winds to a close, it's clear that hasn't happened.

The Fracking Industry's Flaring Problem May Be Worse Than We Thought

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/01/29/fracking-industry-gas-flaring-problem>

By Justin Mikulka • Tuesday, January 29, 2019 –

Fracking's Many Climate Impacts

“[Drilling Towards Disaster](#),” a new report by Oil Change International, outlines how fracking is driving oil and gas production in America (and being exported to the rest of the world) and the dangers this poses by driving future climate impacts at a time when rapid decarbonization of the global economy is required.

Additionally, the methane that is [leaked in the supply chain](#), and in some cases intentionally vented into the atmosphere, adds to global warming. Methane traps more heat than carbon dioxide in the short term.

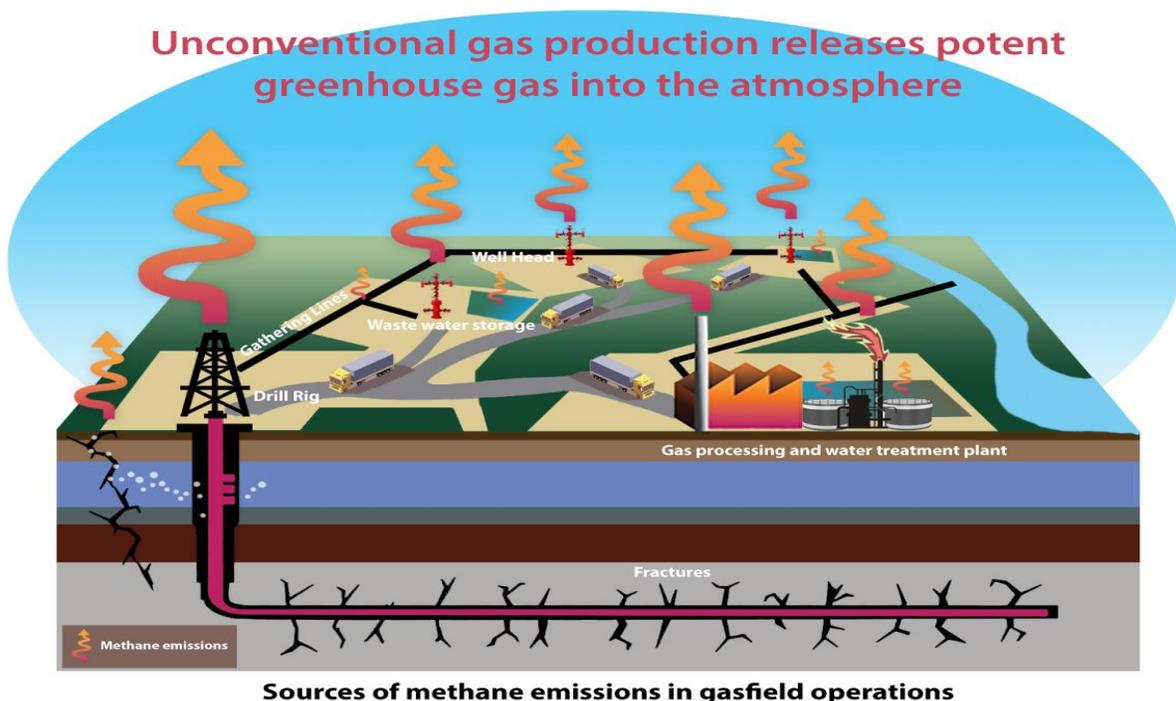


Image Lock The Gate

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/07/un-tells-uk-stop-using-terror-charges-against-peaceful-protesters>

Damien Gayle 07.02.2019

UN tells UK:
stop using
terror charges
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protesters



Misson Springs. Image Sue.

**End the Madness.
Ban Fracking**