



## Atlantic Chapter

The Atlantic Chapter is run by Sierra Club members in the State of New York. Chapter activists have been drawing attention to the risks associated with hydraulic fracturing since 2008. Our work is far from finished, and we hope that you will join us as we continue to build a healthier future, free of fossil fuels.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit <http://newyork.sierraclub.org> F94Q W

## THE DIRTY SIDE OF NATURAL GAS

### Water Contamination

Water pollution can result from spills and blowouts during gas drilling, or from disposal of frack waste. Fracking a single well requires millions of gallons of water and an average of 40,000 gallons of added chemicals. A majority of these chemicals are suspected or confirmed to cause adverse health effects. Fluid flowing out of fractured shale contains these chemicals as well as naturally occurring heavy metals and radioactive materials. Drinking water is not protected because hydrofracking fluid is exempt from crucial sections of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Toxic Substances Control Act.

### Air Quality Concerns

Ground-level ozone and noxious chemicals are emitted from gas wells, waste pits, pipeline compressors and condensate tanks. The combined emissions from numerous gas field sources present a serious health hazard, yet these aggregate emissions are not regulated by the federal Clean Air Act. In urban Fort Worth, Texas, gas drilling is a bigger ozone polluter than vehicular traffic. Fumes from compressors can cause asthma, stroke, cardiovascular disease and irritable bowel disorders.

### Increases in Traffic

The NYSDEC estimates 6,000 to 9,000 truck trips are required for each well pad. In other states, and chemical tanker and drilling waste spills have occurred as truck drivers travel rural roads at high speeds, and residents suffer from the increase in traffic congestion.



Aruba Petroleum drilling site  
Photo: Tim Ruggiero

### Industrialization

Full development of U.S. shale gas regions would require hundreds of thousands of gas wells and an extensive network of roads pads, pipelines and compressor stations, resulting in the industrialization of farmland, forests, and residential areas and subsequent fragmentation of wildlife habitat. Industrial scale runoff further damages water quality. What the industry calls annoyances - noise, light and dust pollution - can also have negative impacts on human health and wildlife.

### Contribution to Climate Change

Greenhouse gas emissions from fracking discredit its value as a clean fuel. Methane, the principle component of natural gas, is a more potent greenhouse gas than CO2. 3-5% of the extracted methane escapes from pipelines and compressors as fugitive emissions during transport and distribution. Unmeasured amounts are released locally from new or expanded fissures in the earth.

## WHAT THE GAS COMPANIES DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW

**Gas drilling is a boom-bust industry.** Profits are short-lived, with little money staying in the community. Large landowners who have financially benefited are likely to leave town. While some reap financial benefits, the entire community must pay for damages and to clean up a degraded environment.

**Gas drilling is highly subsidized.** Because of the surplus of gas in the market, gas companies cannot turn a profit without the help of your tax dollars. In fact they don't need to produce any gas to turn a profit. A recent New York Times article stated that this is one of the few industries for which the after-tax profit is greater than the before-tax profit.

**Natural gas is a non-renewable fossil fuel.** Natural gas production forces government's focus away from a comprehensive energy policy and diverts investment funds away from developing renewable energy sources.

**Gas drilling is not about energy independence.** Foreign companies already own local leases and significant portions of US drilling companies, and US gas is being sold on the international market.

**Exemptions, deregulation, government cutbacks, and lack of accountability** have undermined the ability of state and national agencies to provide adequate protection against the environmental, economic, and social abuses of natural gas development.

## GET INVOLVED ~ SPEAK UP!

*Tell your local, New York State, and national legislators what you think. Ask them to close the gas drilling loopholes.*  
<http://sierraclub.org/frac>

*Talk to your neighbors and friends. Tell them what's involved. Share this brochure.*

*Host a Gasland House Party:*  
<http://sierraclub.org/gasland>

*Connect with natural gas activists across the country on the activist network:*  
<http://sc.org/frac>



**Cornell students protest gas drilling**  
Photo: Jason Koski, Cornell Chronicle

Many individuals and organizations are working together on this issue. Special thanks to CDOG and CPNY for brochure contents.  
<http://gasmain.org>

**You received this handout from:**

## DRILLING AND HYDROFRACKING FOR NATURAL GAS: what all New Yorkers should know



**Drilling rig in a TX residential area**  
Photo: [www.durangotexas.com/eyesontexas/fortworth/barnettshale](http://www.durangotexas.com/eyesontexas/fortworth/barnettshale)

## IT'S NOT JUST A RURAL LANDOWNER ISSUE