YOUR ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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ABOUT US



The FracTracker Alliance shares maps, data, and analyses to enlighten America and the world about the impacts of unconventional energy extraction. Our website – **www.FracTracker.org** – includes issue-based insights, national data trends, and international considerations. By visually and dynamically illuminating these concerns, we help to inform a more positive energy future.



Ecologic Institute is a place for informed dialogue and debate about the future of environmental policy. From our offices in Washington, D.C., and San Mateo, CA, we are working to promote nature conservation, sustainable resource management, and environmentally conscious economic and social development. Visit us at www.eius.org to learn more.

OUR ENERGY SOLUTIONS



For our energy-hungry modern society, fossil fuels are a quick and easy way to power our lives, but the dangerous consequences of fossil fuels on our health, security, and environment are well documented. Drilling for natural gas using unconventional technologies such as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, was initially conceived by some as a positive step toward a greener, more sustainable energy future. Instead, the fracking boom has brought with it a multitude of new concerns.

At the same time, renewable energy technologies are experiencing a profound period of innovation and development, increasing accessibility to consumer markets and becoming a cost-competitive alternative for energy providers. With important environmental and health benefits, renewable energies are becoming recognized as the smarter choice for the future.

So how do we balance our near-term needs with our long-term realities?

With 14 workshops in 7 countries on 3 continents, **OUR ENERGY SOLUTIONS** is creating an informed global community of engaged citizens, organizations, businesses, governments, and stakeholders to develop ideas and solutions to keep our society moving forward while preserving our planet for the future. Discover more at **ourenergysolutions.org**

Fracking is altering the US energy landscape

While there are 1.1 million active oil and gas wells in the US, the percentage of domestic energy production is still far below the record set in 1951 of 96%; in the midst of the much-publicized fracking 'boom', the domestic energy share was still only 61% in 2014. At the same time there are growing concerns that modern oil and gas extraction is negatively impacting communities and the environment.



... affecting the environment and public health

Research continues to show that the near-term benefit of domestic energy production comes at the cost of potentially irreversible long-term impacts to communities and the environment. Concerns include the following issues and more:

Well water contamination

Methane and contaminants used in the drilling process have caused hundreds of cases of documented well water contamination in Pennsylvania alone.

Destruction of wildlife habitat

Well pad construction, pipeline installation, and frac sand mining have resulted in the destruction of thousands of acres of forest and wildlife habitat.

Air pollution

Drilling and associated facilities may release various air contaminants such as particulate matter, benzene, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, and ozone precursors.

Depleting water supplies

Some wells require up to 25 million gallons of water to frack a single well, enough water to fill 38 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Earthquakes

Waste water injection wells and the process of hydraulic fracturing itself have been found to trigger earthquakes.

Methane leakage

Inadequate infrastructure and lax regulation have led to dangerous amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, escaping into the atmosphere.



Sources: Environmental Health Perspectives, NPCA, Environmental Working Group, NOAA, BSSA

Renewable energy is gaining momentum

Major volatility in the global oil and gas markets and uncertainty about long-term supplies have helped propel a boom in innovation and investment in renewable energy. This fast-growing sector is creating millions of jobs and developing an array of opportunities for communitybased small businesses. Infrastructure development and new technologies are making renewable energy accessible and affordable for customers and providers across the globe.





Global investment in renewable power and fuels surpassed \$1 trillion.



Renewables accounted for more than 56% of net additions to global power capacity.



2014

Deployment of new solar projects in the US increased nearly 50% over the previous year and 24-times higher than 2008.

Sources: UNEP, IRENA, REN21

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... powering a sustainable future

Solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass are delivering more than sustainable power to businesses and homes. These viable alternatives to damaging fossil fuels are also providing positive impacts on household and national economies, the environment, and public health.

- Wind, the fastest growing source of renewable energy, is now the lowest cost option for some utilities.
- Renewable energy resources and technologies that are commercially available today could supply 80% of US energy generation in 2050.
- Ambient air pollution caused by fossil fuels is responsible for 3.7 million premature deaths worldwide annually, costing the world's most advanced economies \$3.5 trillion.
- In the US alone, burning fossil fuels leads to over \$120 billion in health costs every year.

Sources: BNEF, UNEP, WHO, OECD, National Renewable Energy Lab, National Academy of Sciences



Be a part of the solution!

Creating a strong, secure, and sustainable energy future requires informed and inspired citizens and organizations from every corner of the planet to get involved. That's why, in addition to our local engagement through workshops and events, Our Energy Solutions has established online communities to develop relationships and promote discussions about how the energy decisions we make today will determine the success of our tomorrow.



Join the network on Facebook: **Our Energy Solutions Network** Join the discussion on Twitter: **@OurNRGSolutions** Follow our progress: **ourenergysolutions.org**