STOP FRACKING ACTION PACK
Hello!

Thank you for picking up this Stop Fracking Action Pack. This pack is for anyone who is worried about fracking and wants to help stop it. It explains the facts about fracking and its risks, as well as guidance on how to take action to stop it locally, nationally and globally.

These pages are a joint effort and bring together learnings from across our vibrant and highly successful anti-fracking movement – a movement that has kept the UK frack free since the first fracking attempt and resulting tremors near Blackpool in 2011.

The first groups that began fighting fracking had to learn by trial and error and have learned a huge amount along the way. Now that many more communities across the UK are facing possible fracking applications, we wanted to put our heads together and share this understanding around.

So this pack is perfect for you whether you’re just starting out, or whether you’ve been fighting fracking for years and want to discover other strategies and tactics that have been working well that you might want to try.

In this pack you’ll find handy tips and resources to support all kinds of local campaigning activities – from joining or setting up a local group to lobbying your local decision makers, putting on a film night or a public meeting, or helping to spread the word and reaching people both online and offline.

No matter how much time you have to spare, there are activities that you can get involved in, be it signing a petition in a couple of minutes all the way to leading a local campaign against fracking or climate change.

Whatever your level of interest, or your time commitments, this pack will have something for you. Just picking it up is the first step – so thanks for showing an interest and I hope it’s helpful.

Together we can keep the UK frack free and build a better, safer future.

Jenny and the Fracking Team
A massive thank you goes out to the many anti-fracking campaigners and community groups on the ground who pooled their vast knowledge and experience in this pack. There is no better authority on stopping fracking in the UK than the people who’ve been successfully doing it for years. Thank you for your tireless energy and invaluable expertise.

Thank you for reading this pack! To find out more about any of the things you’ve read here (or if you’d like to tell us about more things that you’d like us to include) please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us at fracking@foe.co.uk

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WHAT IS FRACKING?

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1.1 What is fracking?

Conventional ways of getting oil and gas out of the ground basically involve drilling a well vertically down to a gas or oil reservoir, through the layers of rock above it. The oil or gas then flows up the well under its own pressure.

Fracking is a way of extracting gas or oil which is trapped inside rocks – such as shale. Because it is trapped like this it won't flow freely on its own.

So a well has to be drilled into the shale layer, often 1000 to 4000 metres below ground. The well can then continue horizontally for up to two kilometres to access more of the shale. To get the gas or oil out, the rock has to be...
fractured – this is known as ‘hydraulic fracturing’ or fracking for short. A mixture of water, sand and chemicals is pumped down the well at very high pressure. This fractures the rock and, when the pressure is released, the gas or oil flows back up the well.

You can also have a look at our Frequently Asked Questions on fracking here: www.foe.co.uk/page/facts-about-fracking

1.2 Why fight fracking?

There are many risks surrounding fracking, so let’s take them one at a time…

**Fracking risks contaminating our water supply**

This is important because, in England, groundwater is used to supply a third of our drinking water. Lord Smith, when Chair of the Environment Agency said “groundwater contamination is the biggest environmental risk in this activity”. According to the British Geological Survey, “Groundwater may be potentially contaminated by extraction of shale gas both from the constituents of shale gas itself, from the formulation and deep injection of water containing a cocktail of additives used for hydraulic fracturing and from flowback water which may have a high content of saline formation water.” There is evidence of problems in the US: the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has published details of 243 cases where oil and gas drilling contaminated drinking water wells between 2008 and 2014.

Find out more from Friends of the Earth’s briefing on groundwater and fracking: www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/groundwater-fracking-75170.pdf

"Would I let my family live in a community with fracking? The answer is no."

**Dr Howard Zucker, Health Commissioner, New York state**
Fracking brings big health risks
Following a two year study, New York state banned fracking because of significant public health risks. In the UK, 20 leading medical experts (including a former Government Deputy Chief Medical Officer and a former Chair of the Royal College of GPs) have written to the British Medical Journal that “the arguments against fracking on public health grounds are overwhelming”. The Government and the fracking industry rely on a 2014 report from Public Health England (PHE) to claim that tough regulation in the UK would avoid health problems. But since the PHE report was published, there has been a growing body of evidence showing correlations between high volumes of fracking and problems such as premature birth, high-risk pregnancy, asthma attacks and migraines. The UK Government is weakening regulation of fracking rather than strengthening it, and according to the United Nations Environment Program “fracking may result in unavoidable environmental impacts even if [the gas] is extracted properly”.


Fracking risks big impacts on the local environment
A draft Government report states that “Shale gas development may transform a previously pristine and quiet natural region, bringing increased industrialization”.

Fracking won’t lead to a jobs boom
We are bombarded with claims that fracking will bring us a ‘jobs boom’ – which, at a time of austerity and unemployment, seems tempting. But these claims are based on optimistic assumptions about how much gas will be produced. In the US, the industry has over-claimed how many jobs it will create. In one major shale gas area, there were seven times fewer jobs created that promised by an industry-funded study.

Also, jobs figures cited often only look at the short term. Fracking company Cuadrilla claims that shale gas production in Lancashire would create 1700 jobs, but this is only for one year and falls to under 200 within three years. But local communities would face risks to the local environment and their health for many years. And despite the several years of disruption from Cuadrilla’s proposed exploration at Roseacre and Preston New Road, the sites would only create 11 net jobs each.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency would create over six times as many jobs as gas for the same amount of power generated or saved, and around three times as many jobs for the same investment. And fracking could harm other areas of existing employment like agriculture and tourism. The

“ You can be in favour of fixing the climate. Or you can be in favour of exploiting shale gas. But you can’t be in favour of both at the same time.”

John Ashton, former leading UK climate change diplomat
The best way to reduce the energy security risks associated with the UK’s growing gas import dependence is to promote renewable power generation, improve energy efficiency and reduce overall energy demand.”

Professor Michael Bradshaw, Energy security expert

Government’s own draft report, previously heavily redacted, said “rural community businesses that rely on clean air, land, water, and/or a tranquil environment may suffer losses from this change such as agriculture, tourism, organic farming, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation”.

Find out more from Friends of the Earth’s report on jobs and fracking: www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/making-better-job-it-full-report-75291.pdf

Fracking doesn’t help tackle climate change
The Paris climate change agreement makes it even more important that we leave fossil fuels in the ground. If we want to avoid catastrophic climate change, then globally we can only burn a quarter of known fossil fuel reserves. UK shale gas would only add to the fossil fuels that we can’t afford to use. That’s why the UK’s former leading climate change diplomat John Ashton has written “You can be in favour of fixing the climate. Or you can be in favour of exploiting shale gas. But you can’t be in favour of both at the same time”.

Fracking is not a ‘bridge’ to low carbon technology – in fact it just increases our reliance on dirty fossil fuels, particularly if the Government builds more gas-fired power stations as it has said it plans to. Nor do we need shale gas to move away from coal – we know that the real solutions are energy saving and renewables, and we need to move to those as fast as possible.


Fracking isn’t the best way to improve energy security
With the Government’s own energy forecasts and a realistic scenario for success in exploiting shale gas (if it gets going), the UK’s dependence on foreign gas imports in 2030 would be roughly the same as today. This means fracking would not help us to become more energy secure than we are now.

What would help much more in moving towards energy security would be reducing gas demand through energy efficiency, and using renewable energy instead. This would reduce the UK’s dependence on foreign gas by up to 30% by 2030, even as North Sea gas production declines.

Find out more from Friends of the Earth’s report on fracking and energy security: www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/no-need-step-gas-76983.pdf

Fracking is unlikely to cut energy bills
The Prime Minister’s claims that fracking would cut energy bills were dismissed as “baseless economics” by world-renowned economist Lord Stern. And even the former chairman of leading fracking firm Cuadrilla, Lord Browne, said that UK shale gas would not have a material impact on gas prices.
1.3 Alternatives to fracking

Keeping shale gas in the ground and focusing on energy efficiency, reducing demand for gas, and developing renewable energy would be better for tackling climate change, mean the UK importing less gas in the future, help households cut energy bills, create more jobs and reduce health risks.

Renewable energy is the fastest growing energy source around the world. Many predict that it will be bigger than all the others in just a few decades. In the UK, technologies like onshore and offshore wind and solar now provide around a fifth of our electricity, and should give us 30 per cent of it by 2020.

Using just one third of the UK’s wind, wave and tidal resource could:

- Unlock the electricity equivalent of one billion barrels of oil a year, matching North Sea oil and gas production.
- Achieve carbon dioxide reductions of 1.1 billion tonnes in the UK between 2010 and 2050 – a major contribution towards 2050 climate targets.
- Create 145,000 new UK jobs.

Another good thing about renewables is that there is a lot that people can do locally by placing solar panels or wind turbines on homes, schools, hospitals or other businesses.

Shortly after the people of Balcombe helped to stop fracking in 2014, they set up their own community energy project to promote renewable solutions. Although some of their plans have been scuppered by Government cuts to support for renewables, they continue to generate renewable energy and to support local community energy projects (www.repowerbalcombe.com/).

A similar project has sprang up at proposed fracking site Barton Moss (www.1010uk.org/backbartonmoss) and many other communities that have come together to stop fracking are busy plotting a better renewable future for their areas.

Lancashire anti-fracking campaigners, keen to build on the rejection of fracking in the county last year, set up REAL (the Renewable Energy Alliance Lancashire) to support renewable energy developments including installing solar panels on more schools in the county (www.foe.co.uk/green-blog/lancashire-said-no-fracking-now-its-saying-yes-solar)

Find out more about community energy and how you can get involved here: www.foe.co.uk/page/renewable-energy
FRACKING IN THE UK
1.1 The politics of fracking

The UK Government has been trying to push fracking on England since the former Chancellor, George Osborne announced that he wanted a “dash for gas” and for Britain to be at the centre of a European shale gas industry in 2012. The new Prime Minister, Theresa May is set to continue with increasingly desperate plans to push ahead with fracking. One of her Government’s first steps was to announce a fracking bribe in an attempt to win communities over to this ever more unpopular industry.

But so far the Government and the industry have been stopped in their tracks. US-style fracking has still only happened once in the UK – near Blackpool, back in 2011 and polling shows that two thirds of local people will not be persuaded by a fracking bribe.

One thing that’s been absolutely central to stopping fracking so far in the UK is people everywhere rising up, joining and creating anti-fracking groups and campaigning locally to stop it. Wherever fracking has been proposed, the Government has been forced to stop it. They have been stopped by people power.

Sweeping Climate Change Under the Carpet

The Government have a good track record when it comes to ignoring evidence of the risks of fracking.

First there is the draft Defra report that the Government tried to hide. When it was eventually released following a public campaign, it revealed some worrying stuff.

This included information about the impacts fracking could have on the natural environment. The report found “Shale gas development may transform a previously pristine and quiet natural region, bringing increased industrialisation”.

What did the Government do? Rather than implement a ban on fracking in these areas, they instead passed new rules that allow fracking under our most precious natural sites – including National Parks.

The report also found fracking could pose risks to drinking water. It concluded that “there is a risk that even if contaminated surface water does not directly impact drinking water supplies, it can affect human health indirectly through consumption of contaminated wildlife, livestock, or agricultural products”.

How did the Government deal with the risk to water? They passed new regulations that allow fracking in the areas that protect our drinking water.

The Government also delayed another important report – the Committee on Climate Change’s advice on the impact of fracking on climate change.

The report warned that fracking could be incompatible with tackling climate change. But the Government has failed to act – and has instead decided to abolish the Department that deals with Climate Change.

This all shows that the evidence against fracking is growing by the day, but the Government is failing to act. We need to increase the pressure on politicians by calling for an immediate ban on fracking. Check out our latest action page: www.foe.co.uk/act/tell-government-listen-experts-ban-all-fracking-immediately
local people have opposed it and councils have largely followed suit.

However – not content with listening to the wishes of local people, leaked letters have revealed that the Government will stop at nothing when it comes to their fixation on fracking.

The situation across the UK is very different. In Northern Ireland the DUP has been the main force trying to drive fracking through, with three areas having been licenced for fracking – Fermanagh, North Antrim/Derry, and East Antrim. Meanwhile, the Welsh and Scottish Governments have halted all plans for fracking, while the risks are assessed.

As the Westminster Government tries to bulldoze fracking through the planning system, this isn’t the approach taken everywhere. As the risks of fracking become more well-known, countries and states are putting in place bans and moratoriums (suspensions):

- New York State banned fracking in 2014 because of “significant health risks”
- France, the Netherlands, Germany, Bulgaria, have all put fracking on hold.
- And fracking has floundered in Poland because it’s proving too expensive to get out of the ground.

Until recently, most of Westminster still supported fracking in the UK. But since discovering widespread opposition from people across the country and in response to mounting evidence about the risks, hundreds of MPs now support a moratorium, including Labour, the Greens, SNP, Plaid Cymru, the SDLP and the Liberal Democrat parties – and also a number of Conservatives.

The Conservative Government’s push for fracking has gone hand in hand with their attacks on renewable energy. Despite the fact that scientists tell us that 80 per cent of known fossil fuel reserves need to stay in the ground if we are going to avoid dangerous levels of climate change, the UK Government recently passed a law making it a duty to “maximise the economic exploitation.

Stopping fracking is part of a bigger fight for the clean energy future we know we need.

The good news is that people power is winning. It has been shown time and time again that local opposition can stop fracking, with successful local campaigns keeping it at bay from Balcombe to Lancashire and Fermanagh.
In Ryedale, North Yorkshire, local councils, businesses and thousands of local people objected to fracking – and they are now taking this fight to the High Court, where, alongside Friends of the Earth, they will challenge the County Council’s decision to approve the application on the grounds that the Council failed to assess the impact on climate change. With new licences to fracture being handed out to fracking companies across England, the community resistance that has happened so far needs to spread across the country too.

1.2 Stopping fracking in the UK

With the Conservative Government fully committed to making fracking happen in the UK, it might seem like a difficult task to stop it.

But the Government have been trying to make fracking take off in the UK for years – and so far every attempt has fallen flat on its face. Why? Because everywhere fracking is proposed, local people oppose it. This pressure has been strongly felt by local councils who at the moment are responsible for deciding whether fracking can go ahead in their area.

The decision by Lancashire county council to reject Cuadrilla’s proposal to fracture at two sites in Lancashire in June 2015 – subsequently “called in” by the government – is just one in a long series of setbacks for the fracking industry, who have been shown the door by local communities across the country. These include Cuadrilla abandoning its site at Balcombe due to popular protests a few years ago, West Sussex council turning down numerous fracking applications in the South East, and moratoriums on fracking being introduced in Wales and Scotland.

What the movement against fracking has shown us so far is that it works to oppose fracking at a local level – this is where people are being impacted and this is where the decisions are made. Unfortunately at the moment it would not be possible to win a vote in Parliament against fracking, because the Conservative government’s majority would still defeat the hundreds of MPs who oppose fracking.

This means that the best strategy to stop fracking is to convince your council to reject the application – see page 27 of the Stop fracking near you booklet for advice on talking to your council about fracking. But if you don’t have a fracking application nearby, you can still help – even from your own living room. It’s really important that councils making fracking decisions and politicians in Westminster feel the national spotlight on them, which means people taking action by signing petitions, spreading the word on social media or supporting anti-fracking campaigns on the ground from elsewhere. See overleaf for things that you can do right now to help stop fracking.

“Fracking changed my life. It changed a lot of people lives! I couldn’t believe Cuadrilla was given permission to exploratory drill in my mum’s local area. I realised that people really do have to take action, doesn’t matter what it is. Our Government is in the bed with the fossil fuel industry so we cannot rely on them. There are so many things that you can do – deliver leaflets, monitor a group email address, write to your MP, arrange a film viewing or speaker to create awareness, hold a meeting in your house, support the protectors on the camps or any form of peaceful non-violent resistance – we need to empower ourselves to do this.”

Lorraine Inglis
Fracking activist involved in the Community Protector Camp at Balcombe
1.3 How can I stop fracking from my living room?

There are some really quick and easy things that you can do right away, from right where you are to stop fracking:

Add your name to petitions

One very simple but effective action to take is to sign petitions against fracking. It’s quick and easy to do but can be very effective. During the successful anti-fracking campaign in Lancashire we were able to deliver over 90,000 signatures from across the UK from Friends of the Earth and Avaaz supporters against fracking in Lancashire, and this really helped to demonstrate to the council that this was an issue that affected the whole country and that all eyes were watching them. Since then we handed in over 186,000 signatures with Greenpeace asking the government not to overturn the decision.

When the Ryedale application was approved, over 20,000 people immediately signed a pledge to show their support for the local community. A local resident also travelled to the Barclays AGM on London to hand in over 8000 signatures calling for Barclays to end their investments in fracking.

For both of these sites there were a series of local petitions and letters to the council from local residents which demonstrated that a huge number of their constituents were against fracking. The combination of these national and local petitions can be really powerful lobby tool.

You can find our latest online petitions against fracking here: www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/fracking_actions_41290

Spread the word

You can also help to share these actions and petitions on social media to help make them bigger and make sure that they have maximum impact. If every person that gets a copy of this pack gets just five people to sign one of the fracking petitions then we’d get a huge number of signatures and massively increase the effect of that petition on its recipient. Find out more about working with social media on page 15 of the Stop fracking near you booklet.

Many anti-fracking groups have also developed their own materials and are often happy to share things that you could use or adapt for your own local campaign.

Keep up to date

There are plenty of sites that you can use to keep up to date on what’s happening on fracking and to share the latest developments. See our latest fracking news here: www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/fracking_news_updates_41287 and this is also a very useful site: http://drillordrop.com/

If you want to find out which areas of the UK are currently licensed for fracking and whether your area is one of them, you can have a look at our fracking map. This might also help you work out what kind of action to take near you: www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/uk_fracking_map_41274

Social media is also a great way of staying up to date on fracking in the UK and also of finding out what’s happening near you. You can find loads of starting points and useful social media contacts on pages 16-17 of the Stop fracking near you booklet.

Stopping fracking near you

There has been no fracking in the UK for over four years because everywhere it has been proposed, communities have risen up and opposed it. Local opposition is one of the most effective ways to keep the UK frack free – find out how to oppose fracking in your area in the ‘Stop fracking near you’ booklet.
STOP FRACKING NEAR YOU
There are a whole host of ways that individuals and groups around the country have been fighting fracking and some of the most effective methods and tactics are detailed below.

Before deciding on which tactics will work best for you and your area it’s a good idea to sit down (with your group if you’re part of one) and work out a few key things, such as:

- The aim and objectives of your local campaign – the main things you want to achieve and by when.
- Who you need to influence to achieve these objectives – for example if it’s your local councillors, then which ones are the key targets? What do you know about them? What is their stance on fracking? What are the kind of things that will influence them? You can find more on lobbying your local council on page 27.
- What kind of things will speak most to your local community – for example if you live in a rural area it might be the impact on the local environment and farming produce, or in a populated area it might be the health risks of contaminated water.
- Which people or groups in your community could support your work and maybe join your campaign. Find more on building alliances on page 21.
- What’s actually happening near you? Is your area licenced for fracking? You can find out via our fracking map: www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/uk_fracking_map_41274. If your area is not yet under license then your campaign could focus on awareness raising or on getting local MPs and councillors to speak out against fracking at a national level for example.
- You can find more detailed information and templates on how to go about planning your campaign and answering some of these questions here: www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/planning_a_campaign_worksh.pdf
- The tactics chosen for local campaigns often depend on what feels most appropriate for a particular area, what feels like it will be most effective at the time and also what suits the skills and interests of the individuals involved. Most local campaigners use a variety of tactics at different times and often share with each other what works well and any top tips from their areas.
Choosing the right tactics for your area

As part of your campaign planning, it’s a good idea to find out a bit more about your local council. Ultimately, it is your county or unitary council that decides on whether fracking can go ahead. To win, you need a majority of councillors on that committee to vote against fracking.

This guide gives advice on how to do the different things needed to make that happen – from raising public awareness, to working with the media, to starting a local group. But before you do any of that it’s a good idea to find out what will have the most impact on the councillors you are trying to convince. Try to answer these key questions:

1. How many councillors on the planning committee do I need to vote against fracking to win?

2. Which councillors am I most likely to be able to persuade to vote against the application? Think about which councillors are near the fracking site? They are more likely to oppose it. What political parties are the councillors – is their party for or against fracking? What have they said about fracking, if anything, in public?

3. What influences your target councillors? Look at the councillors’ register of interests available on the council website. Do they have links to local organisations or businesses? Would it help to get them onside? Are they trying to win an election soon – who is the candidate they are competing against – would it help to get them onside?

Planning to win a vote against fracking in your council

Use this table to research information about councillors making the decision on fracking in your area. Fill it out for each councillor on the planning committee, and other influential councillors like the leader, the opposition group leader, and relevant members of the cabinet – for example the environment and health portfolio holders. Once you have done that, you should be able to work out which councillors to focus your lobbying efforts on – make sure you are targeting enough councillors to win a vote. Remember it is still important to have campaigning activity that all councillors know about. At any time a new councillor can be put on a planning committee and an old councillor taken off.

| Councillor | Position in council | Party | Public position on fracking | Anything else we know about their views on fracking? | Registered interests – what organisations are they a member of – this information is on the council website | How big is their majority? | Is their an election coming up for their seat? | Is their area licensed for fracking? (See our map at [www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/uk_fracking_map_41274]) | Is the proposed fracking near them? | What do they care about? | Who influences them? | Any anti-fracking residents or activists in the ward / area that can lobby them? | Are they a key target to vote against fracking? Yes/No/Maybe | Planned activity to convince them to vote against fracking (eg lobby visit, letter writing, local media story, someone they know speaking to them) |
|------------|---------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
1.1 Raising awareness

There are some key methods and tactics that have been employed by almost all community campaigns against fracking at some stage and these include:

- **Raising awareness of fracking and its risks with their local community.** This can be anything from running stalls to public meetings, getting petitions signed and organising film screenings. Making the most of digital tools to spread the word, share petitions, organise activities and have discussions on social media have also been hugely helpful.

- **Working with media and social media.** Media coverage is one of the best ways to get your campaign message out to people and draw attention to any stunts, petition hand-ins, rallies or events that you’re organising. Social media and digital tools can also be hugely helpful in helping us raise the profile of our campaigns directly by reaching out to people online.

- **Lobbying local decision makers.** This can involve making appointments to see your local MP or local council to talk about the risks of fracking, and to provide them with briefings and information, or inviting them to local events.

- **Building local alliances.** Anti-fracking groups have been highly successful in building relationships with local people who will be affected by fracking and encouraging them to join the movement. This has included working with local businesses, farmers, doctors, faith communities, students and many others. The more diverse and inclusive your campaign, the more powerful it will be and the more influence it will have on decision makers.

- **Working with the local planning system.** You can find out more about how the planning system works and how you can engage with it on fracking on page 2 of the *Fracking: Planning, the law and having your say* booklet.

You can find out more about all of these tactics below.

1.2 Running a stall

Running a stall in your town or village centre with information and a way for people to get involved and show their support for your campaign can be a great way to spread the word.
Location, location, location
Being in the right place at the right time can make all the difference. You might have a favourite spot in town for running a stall, but if you’re combining it with a photo opportunity or media stunt, staging it in front of an iconic building in your area or somewhere relevant could make all the difference to looking good on camera and capturing the media’s attention.

If you are collecting signatures, think about where you might find sympathetic audiences. You’ll need to find a visible and prominent spot where the flow of people isn’t too fast and furious – you’ll need space for passers-by to stop and talk to you.

If you want to engage new audiences, you could set up near your local mosque, church, youth or community centre.

If you know which individual councillors will be making the decision about fracking near you, you can target stalls and focus on getting signatures in their particular constituency areas.

Creativity counts
Making your stall as eye-catching as possible will help you grab attention. Props, flags, costumes, masks, role plays, music...throwing a pinch of creativity into your action plan can be great for turning heads, drawing people over for a chat and getting your campaign into the local media (see page 12 for more on working with local media).

Talk the talk
People’s perception of what you say will be roughly based on the following – seven per cent verbal (the words you actually said), 38 per cent vocal (what you sounded like when you said it) and 55 per cent visual (your body language while talking). You don’t have to be word perfect nor a world expert on the issue, simply talk with conviction and open, confident body language.

Be positive and friendly when approaching people. Listen to what people say and avoid lecturing – all good communication is two way.

Being informed about fracking, answering any questions and having materials that explain the dangers is a good way to build up an awareness of fracking in the community.

During the course of an afternoon of campaigning, you aren’t going to convince everyone you meet to take action or support your campaigns. Make sure you have a polite closing strategy worked out in case you find that you are getting stuck in a conversation which isn’t going anywhere – so you don’t waste too much time.
Grow your campaign

It’s important to give people a way of staying in touch with your campaign and your cause, so it’s good to bring flyers with your contact details or sign-up sheets so that you can email people after the event or add them to your mailing list.

You may want to set up a collective email address and contact details for your group and agree how to monitor it.

It’s also crucial that you give people a way to support your campaign and demonstrate their support – even if they can’t attend all of your meetings or join your group.

Petitions are one way of doing this. You can find our current petitions on fracking here and we can also get you hard copies to use at events if this is helpful: www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/fracking_actions_41290

Another way that anti-fracking groups have helped the wider community show their opposition to fracking is by collecting and sending letters to local councillors and MPs. In Lancashire for example:

1. A template letter aimed at decision makers was written saying why fracking was not wanted in their community. (See example letter to Lancashire council on page 29).

2. Locals were encouraged to add their name and details to the letter if they opposed fracking.

3. According to the post code of the person signing, the letters were sent to local decision makers (in most cases the local county councillor). Groups usually used www.writetothem.com to find out who the local councillor for a post code was.

You could also discuss some simple fundraising ideas to help grow your campaign – such as bake sales, jumble sales, or maybe even putting on a local band to play and taking donations at the door.

Snaps

It’s always nice to have a camera to capture your stall or activity. This can help to get media coverage and you can use these for future campaigning materials. We always love to receive these pictures at Friends of the Earth too – partly because it makes our day and partly because it really helps us build a picture for the public of our vibrant and growing national anti-fracking movement. Please do send any snaps to fracking@foe.co.uk if you’re
happy for us to add them to our collection (and if you want to make us smile!)

**Fracking materials**

When running stalls or events you will need some materials and resources on fracking to give out to people. You can also encourage them to share the information if they can. If you’re meeting with local decision makers like councillors or MPs you’ll also want some information to hand over to them. Please see [www.foe.co.uk/page/fracking-materials-order-form](http://www.foe.co.uk/page/fracking-materials-order-form) for materials that you can use along with an order form so that you can top up your supplies when you need to.

You could also check with other anti-fracking groups if they have useful materials that you could use or adapt — many have their own websites where their literature and materials can be downloaded.

**When it’s all over**

It can be useful to check in with everyone who was involved and see how people found it and what you’d do differently next time.

The sooner you send off the petition sheets or chase press releases or get new people signed up, the more impact your work is likely to have and the more likely you are to get coverage and new recruits.

### 1.3 Organising a public meeting

Public meetings are a great opportunity to reach out to a wider group of people in your local area on fracking, let people know about the risks and hopefully get extra support for your local campaign.

If you’re thinking of organising a public meeting on fracking like this, here are some handy pointers from people who’ve been running these meetings around the country:

- **Meeting name:** Consider the level of knowledge of people in the community and make sure the title of the event sounds interesting and also caters to a wide enough range of knowledge levels. A recent public meeting in Lancashire on health was entitled: *The health impacts of fracking in Lancashire – what are the risks?*

- **Venue:** It’s important to make sure the venue is accessible and inclusive. Consider the following:
  - Does the venue have step free access?
  - Is the venue inclusive? Try to hold public meetings in a village or
town hall – rather than a pub – because for various reasons not everyone will attend an event in a pub and you may also exclude younger people.

- If you can, try to book a neutral space – rather than a religious venue for example.
- Price: a town or village hall might be able to offer reasonable prices or be free of charge. Check if there are additional costs for finishing late just so you are aware!

**Equipment:** Ask the venue if they have a microphone (if you need one), and maybe even roving mics for the audience – but you’ll only need this for a fairly big space. If the venue doesn’t have the equipment and you think you’ll need it, consider booking somewhere else. Hiring the equipment can be expensive so that’s worth bearing in mind along with anything else you might need – like projectors and laptops etc.

**Timing:** In general, weekdays seem to work best, at around 6.30/7pm so most people can attend after work.

**Format:** It’s probably best to invite no more than five speakers and to allow five to seven minutes per speaker and then go to Q&As for 45 mins to an hour. It’s obviously up to you but this has been successful in the past as it’s involving and interactive.

**Speakers:** It’s important to make sure the speakers you choose are representative of society and those that will influence decision makers as well as the public – for example, in a rural area, farmers and small business people, doctors, representatives of faith groups as well as local and green campaigners. It’s best practice to make sure that both woman and BME people are fairly represented on the panel. Friends of the Earth does not speak on all male panels.

When deciding who to invite to speak, think about the most pressing issues/ concerns for people in your area. For example, in the past groups have invited local health professionals or authors of the recent Medact report (www.medact.org/news/new-report-health-fracking-the-impacts-opportunity-costs/), unions to talk about the reality on the job front, campaigners and community groups fighting fracking from elsewhere in the country, or staff on the fracking team at Friends of the Earth to talk about the environmental impacts – but you’ll know your local area best and what will work for your community.
Chair: Strong chairing is important for a successful event and making people feel welcome. A chair should be able to:

- Say who is organising the event and why.
- Introduce each speaker and keep them to time.
- Ask for questions and comments from the floor (make sure women as well as men have the chance to speak from the floor). These can be taken in groups of three if there are many questions and if you are short of time.
- At the end, thank everyone who attended and point out the person/people in the audience to speak to if they would like to take further action/or become more involved. The key point of these events is to engage a wider group of people, so this bit is important!

Speaker briefing: Make sure you have spoken to the speakers before the event. Tell them:

- The format and details of the event
- How long they will have to speak
- Who else will be speaking
- What you would like them to cover

Promotion:

- You’ll probably want to publicise your meeting as much as possible locally.
- Social media can help with this. Setting up a Facebook or Eventbrite event helps you to spread the word and also monitor numbers planning to come.
- You can also share these events on other anti-fracking Facebook pages and ask friends to share it on their pages and send it out to any other contacts or networks you’re in touch with.
- If you use Twitter you can tweet the event, and ask your friends and followers to do the same.
You can also tweet details of the event at local organisations – e.g. the local paper – and ask them to retweet.

Send the information to your email contacts and ask other friends and local people to do the same.

There are more tips and tricks for using social media on page 15.

Another option is to make and print out a basic flyer and poster and give it out in your area. You can put posters up in local libraries, doctors’ surgeries (please ask) and other places where a wide number of people will see them – for example some mini-marts and supermarkets allow this.

You may want to send out a press release to the local paper to say the event is happening – they might well write a short piece on it. Include a quote from someone locally who is organising the event. There are more tips on how to write a press release and work with local media on pages 12-14.

Reach out to other local organisations – is there a local Friends of the Earth group, an environmental group, a residents association or a Women’s Institute group near you? If there is, or if there are other useful organisations, ask them to tweet, share on Facebook and send to their contacts and email lists.

- **Presentations**: Check with speakers in advance whether they’re expecting to use Powerpoint slides. If they are make sure you have the equipment – or tell them if you would rather not use Powerpoint.

- **Catering**: It’s good to provide tea and coffee and other refreshments if you are able, but it’s not vital. This can be a good way to raise money for the cost of the meeting or towards your group. You could ask friends to donate cakes and biscuits.

- **Sign-up sheet**: Collecting names and email addresses of attendees is a great way of growing the campaign, building allies and staying in touch with people – sign-up sheets are a convenient way to do this and you can state on the sheet that people will be contacted about the campaign. It can be useful to have a welcome table if you can to encourage people to sign a petition and take away leaflets upon arrival.
Follow up actions: Do you want to use the event to promote an action? You could consider doing something along the lines of the following:

- Taking photos of people with a “I am not backing fracking in [XX place]” sign to send to or tweet at councillors or local politicians.
- Asking people to sign standard letters to councillors and collect these at the sign-in desk. You can then post to councillors after the event.
- Ask people to sign any local petition you have on the go at the moment or one of our national petitions (www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/fracking_actions_41290).

It’s good to take along lots of information on fracking for people to read and take away if they want to. See www.foe.co.uk/page/fracking-materials-order-form for information on how to order or download materials for your event.

1.4 Screening films

Films can be a great way of spreading the word about fracking – it helps to get the message across in a really powerful way – particularly as they can help to show the reality of fracking on the ground where it’s happened. This helps people to understand the realities of this dangerous technology and inspire them to take action.

You could also consider showing some films as part of a public meeting or another event (although for big public events you’d need to look into licensing permissions).

Here are some clips and films suggestions of varying lengths that you could use as part of a public meeting or film night:

- Gasland – Oscar-nominated documentary on fracking from the US: www.gaslandthemovie.com/
- The Sky is Pink – follow up by Gasland director Josh Fox: www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXL1jpIBskI
- Fracking Hell – by the Ecologist Film Unit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEB_Wwe-uBM
- Dash for Gas: Independence at a price – 29 minute film by Dash for Gas on fracking in the UK focusing on Blackpool and Sussex: http://youtube.com/watch?v=A8rInPk2Zw8
If you live in a shale gas area, you could also think about organising a walk or a cycle ride in the countryside near to existing or potential fracking sites. Friends of the Earth groups in the North West organised a successful cycle ride around fracking sites which increased awareness locally through participation in the event and media coverage.

- **On Fracking** – a film about the impact of fracking on communities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia: [https://vimeo.com/142923711](https://vimeo.com/142923711)

- **Fractured Country: An Unconventional Invasion** – a new film from Lock the Gate Alliance (Australia) about the risks to communities from invasive gas fields: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrE7LzZCn1E](www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrE7LzZCn1E)

- **Lock the Gate: Northern Territory Fracking Call to Action!** – this film is about the struggle of the indigenous communities in Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=gatx-vbWmy0](www.youtube.com/watch?v=gatx-vbWmy0)

- **The People vs CSG: the birth of CSG Free Communities** – people power in action as a community declares themselves against coal seam gas: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Bvx-0DyNsw&feature=plcp](www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Bvx-0DyNsw&feature=plcp)

- **Don’t Frack Our Future – Doreen’s Story** (6 mins): [www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=BYniYtJEeeI](www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=BYniYtJEeeI)

1.5 Working with local media

Getting media coverage is one of the best ways to reach the people with your campaign message. A local paper is read by thousands. Regional radio reaches thousands of homes and a national TV news programme can be watched by millions.

The trick is to provide timely and engaging stories in a way that they can be easily picked up by local media sources.

When you have a story a stunt or an event that you want to share, send copy of your press release (template press release below) to the news desk and to named contacts.

Follow it up with a phone call to check they’ve received it and ask if they would like any other information. This is a good way to build relationship with your local journalists.

As rough guide, the best time to contact a daily paper is in the morning or early afternoon – journalists will be busy writing up stories in the late afternoon. For weekly papers that go out on a Friday it’s best to call early in the week.
You can be much more flexible about contacting radio as they tend to have a rolling news agenda.

No matter how interesting your news, people will only remember the briefest bit of what you say. It’s best to make no more than three key points in any media release or interview and to keep them concise.

Whatever your news story is, draw out any elements that are:

- Timely/topical
- Building on an existing story
- Relevant for the audience (e.g. about your local area for local media outlets)
- Controversial, unusual, unique or humorous
- Involving a local celebrity could also help you to get coverage.

The more imaginative or eye-catching your story, the more likely you are to get coverage. For example, when we handed in a petition from Friends of the Earth and Frack Free Lancashire to Lancashire county council on fracking, we dressed up as guinea pigs to hammer the point home that we didn’t want Lancashire to be a ‘fracking guinea pig’ for the UK. These pictures really helped us to get a lot of media coverage.
Writing a press release

A press release is a standardised way of communicating with journalists and should tell them your story at a glance.

Here is a basic template for a press release with all the key ingredients:

**1.5a Template press release**

**For immediate release:** [date] (If you want the media to use the story as soon as they receive it) or Embargoed for: [time/date] (This is a good way of giving journalists time to prepare and to ensure they don’t use it until a specified time)

**Headline:** (Start with a snappy headline that says what it’s about)

**Photo opportunity:** (What it is, where it is, when it is and contact details)

**Paragraph 1:** Summarise the story – who, what, where, when and why. All the key information needs to be in this paragraph – which shouldn’t be more than two sentences long.

**Paragraph 2:** Put in more details to flesh out the story you have outlined in the first paragraph.

**Paragraph 3:** “Quotes from you or someone relevant to the story.” Don’t try to cram too many points into one quote – each quote should make one clear point

**Paragraph 4:** Extra relevant information (try to keep it short)

**Ends**

**Contact:** Make sure you supply numbers where you can be reached day or night. This can make the difference between your story being covered or not

Name: [type name1]
Tel: [type tel1]
Name: [type name2]
Tel: [type tel2]
Group name
Group address
Group phone number
Group email
Group website

**Notes for editors**

- Provide background information in case they run a longer story
- Outline what you have to offer: pictures, interviewees
- Outline any additional relevant information or facts and figures that have been referenced in the main body of the press release but keep it short.
1.6 Working with social and digital media

Social media sites like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram allow us to directly engage with people. They can help us raise awareness, encourage people to take action, grow support for a campaign, fundraise and sometimes directly interact with the decision makers or people we’re trying to influence.

Relationships and story are key to social media. As a general rule it’s good to be personal, respond quickly, tell stories and listen to what people are saying about your campaign. Avoid being rude – no matter what people are saying.

Facebook and Twitter are two of the most commonly used social media sites. Here are some basic tips for getting the most out of them:

1.6a Top Facebook tips

- Engagement is incredibly important on Facebook – the more likes and shares your content has, the more people will see it. So make sure the quality of all your posts is high, respond to comments, and encourage people to contribute.

- Strong images work very well, especially simple infographics. They are easily shared and get more exposure.

- Personal stories can make a big impact. Gather stories about locals who will be affected in your area.

- Facebook forbids explicitly asking for likes and shares, so instead make your post extra interesting and worth sharing.

- Short posts are better, but if you have to use long text make sure your first sentences are extra engaging.

- People generally use Facebook to build an online personality. So think about what your post would say about someone if they were to share it.

- Note: it’s better not to share any sensitive or revealing information that you wouldn’t want the fracking industry to see in a public space like Facebook.

For more in-depth information on using Facebook you can find some good guides online:

- How to use your Facebook page for grassroots advocacy: www.votility.com/blog/bid/310235/Getting-Started-on-Facebook-for-an-Advocacy-Campaign
Facebook pages vs. Facebook groups:

Tips on posting to your Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/business/a/page-posting-tips

1.6b Useful Facebook anti-fracking contacts

Facebook is a key communication tool for fracking campaigners and most community anti-fracking groups have their own page for sharing information and publicising events so this is a great place to start.

You can find Friends of the Earth on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/wwwfoecouk and join in with discussions on fracking and other climate and energy issues here: www.facebook.com/groups/FOEclimate

Frack Off is a network of activists working on fracking and extreme energy issues. They have a great website and a very useful list of all local anti-fracking groups across the UK along with their contact details and their Facebook pages here: http://frack-off.org.uk/local-group-specific-pages/

Here is another activist-led list of frack free groups and pages with websites which is updated regularly – http://bit.ly/1LdN1iC

1.6c Top Twitter tips

Follow other users. Whenever you choose to follow someone, they will receive an email notifying them that you’re following their updates. If they like the look of your profile, they may decide to follow you back.

- Interact with fellow tweeters. You need to get people to notice you and the simplest way to do this is letting them know you exist. If following them didn’t get their attention try tweeting at them, using the @ feature.

- Be useful, original and contribute. Why would people want to follow me? What can I provide them with? What sets me apart from the thousands of other Twitter users?

- Don’t under-tweet. As with any community, you have to be active in it to reap its rewards. This means tweeting at least a few times a day.

- Don’t over-publicise. It’s important to vary self-promotional updates with interesting links to other blogs, tweets or news stories.

- Make use of the hash tag (#) to flag up keywords. This will help people find your tweets on these subjects and will make it possible for something to spread or become a “trending topic”.

- If you put a full stop before you @mention, your Tweet shows up in the feeds of all of your followers. If you don’t, your tweet is considered conversational and only shows up on your stream, the stream of whoever you Tweeted at, and those followers you both have in common.
Keep your tweets short and to the point – try not to use up all your characters and stick to a max of 125 characters not 140.

Reply to tweets. If you’re active on Twitter, people will often reach you via the @ feature, so be sure to regularly check your mentions to see what other people are saying about you.

Publicise and promote your Twitter account. Whenever you get the chance to promote your Twitter account, do it!

1.6d Useful Twitter anti-fracking contacts

Twitter is also a great way of sharing information fast, on fracking as on many other issues. Many of Friends of the Earth’s fracking campaigners and other local and national campaigners are active on Twitter and following them will help keep you up to date. You can find some useful people to follow here: https://twitter.com/wwwfoecouk/lists/fracking

You can also find Friends of the Earth local groups on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/JMDubrey/lists/local-groups

This site is also good for finding anti-fracking Twitter accounts: https://twitter.com/frackfree_eu/lists/uk-frack-free-groups/members

The fracking industry and its lobbyists are also active on Twitter. It can be interesting to see what they are up to via Twitter, though it’s probably not worth our energy getting into debates with them on social media. It might be particularly interesting to check in on any company aiming to drill in your area – you can find their Twitter address via their website.

It’s great to join up with people online in these ways, but this isn’t the only way to build your campaign and work with other people. The next section will look at how to find people to work with in person and growing your campaign on the ground.

1.6e Building a website

Beyond social media, having a good web presence and perhaps a website that is clear and easy to find and read can help people to find you and your campaign. If you want to build a website there are a number of free options you can look into. Here are some that might be useful:

- https://wordpress.com/
- http://www.wix.com/
- http://www.moonfruit.com/
- http://www.doodlekit.com/
- http://www.weebly.com/
One of the remarkable things about the anti-fracking movement is the way it’s brought communities together.

Coming together with other people in person to fight fracking near you can be a really powerful way of keeping your community frack free and has kept fracking at bay wherever it’s been proposed across the UK.

One really effective first step is to find a few other people near you who are interested in helping out or who have already made a start and join forces to get the ball rolling. There are several ways to do this...

### 2.1 How to join or start a local group

Lots of anti-fracking groups have already formed and have been successfully combating fracking near them for years. It’s likely that there is one near you that you could join up with.

There might be a Friends of the Earth group near you that you could join. These consist of volunteers and activists who work together on environmental justice issues locally, nationally and internationally. Many of them are already working on fracking locally and if not may be interested in starting an anti-fracking campaign.

You can find and contact your local Friends of the Earth group here: www.foe.co.uk/get_involved/find_group – they’d be delighted to hear from you!

There is also a huge amount of other vibrant anti-fracking community groups on the ground across the country with more springing up every day.

You can find a great list of all local anti-fracking groups across the UK along with their contact details on Frack Off’s website here: http://frack-off.org.uk/local-group-specific-pages/

If there aren’t any anti-fracking groups in your area and you’d like to start a new one or to link up with Friends of the Earth in another way, we can support you to do this: just give us a call on: 020 7490 0210 or get in touch at: localgroups@foe.co.uk and we can talk you through some options.

You can also find out more here: www.foe.co.uk/community/local_groups/resource/handbook
2.2 How to find people to work with

If there is no local group near you, there are lots of ways to find some like-minded people to work with on building a local campaign.

One place to start might be to chat to people you already know in your community and see if they’d be interested in getting involved with some local activities around fracking or spreading the word about what you’re hoping to do.

You could start a group on Facebook and invite people along to that (find out more about using social media for your campaign on page 15). You could also create some little flyers with a bit of info and some contact details and take them to your local café, library or shop to display and spread the word. You could check with your local printers if they supportive of the movement and they may be happy to help at a discounted rate.

Another way of going about this is to set up an initial public meeting somewhere locally and invite people along with flyers or on social media to let people know about fracking and see if anyone is interested in getting involved. Find top tips on running a public meeting on page 7.

“I’m here because I think fossil fuels should stay in the ground. This isn’t just about Yorkshire; it’s about the whole world.”

Beth Kerfoot-Roberts, Halifax, West Yorkshire
2.3 Frack Free Ryedale – How we built our anti-fracking group

A year in the life of a fracking campaign – Monica Gripaios, Hovingham

In the summer of 2014, local residents in Ryedale started noticing numbered posts at the side of the road and strange white vans in our country lanes. We had no idea what this was about until some of us attended two meetings, organised by Friends of the Earth and Frack Off, at local village halls.

We learned that the posts and vans were part of a seismic survey, conducted on behalf of the oil and gas company Third Energy, who had a licence to explore our countryside with the aim of fracking for gas. At the meetings we learned what fracking was about, and we didn’t like what we heard.

After attending both local Frack Off meetings, I spoke with Ed (from Frack Off) who had collected email addresses of people who wanted to be kept informed about fracking. He encouraged me to get another meeting going as soon as possible before the initial impetus was lost.

I think it was two days later when Adela Pickles called me up and said “what shall we do?” I suggested we hold a meeting at my house the next night and I emailed as many people as I could on the list. I expected half a dozen people to sit round my kitchen table, I was shocked when about sixteen people turned up! I just couldn’t seat everybody!

In that quick meeting Frack Free Ryedale was born – it was a very positive night. The most amazing thing was that most of us had never met, we came from very different walks of life united in our fight against fracking. Since then we have grown and grown, we have some excellent people supporting Frack Free Ryedale from all political persuasions, we care passionately about the environment and the future of the planet. We are not Luddites or tree huggers as the pro-frack lobby would make you believe and we certainly don’t want the lights to go out. We just think there is another way forward which leaves most of the fossil fuels in the ground.

We decided that our first objective as a group should be to raise awareness within the community, as very few people in the area seemed to know what was going on.

We printed some leaflets, contacted the press and organised a series of public meetings in villages across Ryedale. These meetings were extremely well attended and we realised that there were hundreds of people who wanted to do something to stop fracking.

Over the next few months we established ten local groups in villages and towns across Ryedale to help spread the word. These groups have organised their own events, including film showings, public talks, coffee mornings and demonstrations outside our local branch of Barclays, who own 97 per cent of Third Energy.

Facking now featured in the local press almost every week – word was spreading.

In April we organised our most ambitious event – a march and rally in Malton, our local market town. About 1,000 people turned up for the biggest ever protest held in the town. A few days earlier, we took the battle to the Barclays AGM in London, with the help of Friends of the Earth. We also supported candidates in the national and district council elections, at which over 14,000 people voted for anti-fracking candidates.

Third Energy have recently submitted their application to frack at Kirby Misperton, a small village between the North York Moors National Park and the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Frack Free Ryedale are working hard to engage with local communities, businesses and landowners to oppose this application. We are now reaching out to communities across North Yorkshire, as councillors from across the county will decide on Third Energy’s planning application later this year.

It’s been a busy year and there have been ups and downs along the way. We are all volunteers, from all walks of life and political persuasions, united in our opposition to fracking. We urge others around the country to come together and fight this industry, before it is too late.
It’s important to involve people from all walks of life. For example, contacting students’ associations and making the most of links that you may have with faith groups tends to be a good start.

You may also want to think about reaching out to other civil society organisations, for example development organisations that are passionate about climate change (such as Christian Aid, Oxfam, Cafod, Tearfund), youth organisations (like People and Planet, YouthNet, The Fossil Free university movement, Young Friends of the Earth, the NUS etc.) or local trade unions. Making the most of existing coalitions in your area can really help you tap into a big support network that’s ready and waiting.

Due to fracking’s potential impact on health and the local environment there are also some key groups and stakeholders within society that have been particularly useful to get on board in existing anti-fracking campaigns.

### 3.1 Medical professionals

Fracking poses significant risks to public health and reaching out to health professionals is an important part of local campaigns to stop fracking. New York State banned fracking following a full study on the health impacts, which shows just how important this element of your campaign can be. The full report on New York can be found here: [www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf)

In Lancashire, campaigners followed the example of their US counterparts and delivered the Medact report ([www.medact.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/medact_fracking-report_WEB3.pdf](http://www.medact.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/medact_fracking-report_WEB3.pdf)) and British Medical Journal letter ([www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g2728/rr](http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g2728/rr)) to all doctors’ surgeries in the county and to all local councillors.

They then asked doctors to sign the BMJ letter via the Medact website, here: [www.medact.org/campaigns-actions/open-letters/fracking-letter-action/](http://www.medact.org/campaigns-actions/open-letters/fracking-letter-action/) which helped gain support from medical professionals for their campaign, and this helped increase the impact when talking to decision makers about health concerns around fracking.


Dear

The Government recently opened up new swathes of England up for possible hydraulic fracturing (fracking), which includes [xx area].

This is despite the growing evidence about the significant risks that fracking poses to public health and the environment.

I am writing to ask you – as a local health professional – to write to [XX] county councillors to express your objection to [proposed fracking in XX place]. I have enclosed a recent report on the health risks of fracking, and a recent letter on these risks to the British Medical Journal, which may be useful.

I am also writing to ask if you would add your name to the letter in the British Medical Journal, which states that the arguments against fracking on health and ecological grounds are overwhelming, and calls for a moratorium. The letter was signed by Professor Hugh Montgomery (UCL), Dr Clare Gerada (former chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners), Dr Sheila Adams (former Deputy Chief Medical Officer) and many others. You can add your name to this letter online at: [www.medact.org/campaigns-actions/open-letters/fracking-letter-action/](http://www.medact.org/campaigns-actions/open-letters/fracking-letter-action/)

The evidence about the public health risks of fracking is growing. Since 2012, 175 new reports have been published. Examples of these studies include:

- In December 2014, a major study by the New York State Department of Health concluded that fracking should be banned due to the “significant public health risks”

- A report by the health charity, Medact, which calls for a moratorium while a full health impact assessment is undertaken.

In addition, the health charity, Breast Cancer UK have voiced their concerns about the health impacts of fracking. Their position paper states that “Breast Cancer UK has concerns about the potentially adverse health effects of increased exposure to harmful chemicals that may occur as a result of [fracking]”

In response to the growing evidence of the risks, fracking has been halted or banned in Wales, Scotland, the Netherlands, France, and New York State. Despite calls of health professionals for a halt to fracking while the risks are assessed the Westminster Government is intent on going “all out” for fracking.

For example, far from taking a precautionary approach, Ministers have announced plans to allow fracking in drinking water protection areas. Furthermore, rather than allow time for local councils to take the time they need to fully consider decisions for what are complex and high impact developments, the Government has said that it councils do not decide within 16 weeks, then they may consider taking the decision away from the local authority.

This adds more pressure on councillors, who are already under a great deal of pressure from a Government that has declared it wants to go “all out” for shale gas. We think the approach taken by the Government is wrong. We urge you to write to [xx] councillors and add your name to the BMJ letter.

Yours sincerely,

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1 [http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g2728/rr](http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g2728/rr)
3.2 Local businesses

One very effective tactic used by Lancashire community groups was to work with local businesses and gain their support.

Like lots of people, many business owners don't want fracking near them. Harnessing this opposition and giving it a voice is really important to show that varied and influential stakeholders in your community don't want fracking.

One way of going about this in the past has been to:

1. Write a letter opposing fracking that businesses can add their name to (example template letter below).

2. Contact local businesses to ask them to support your campaign. It can be as simple as walking up and down the high street with a letter and asking businesses to sign up – this is how much of the work was done in Lancashire. You can also use our map of green businesses (www.foe.co.uk/get_involved/green_map_40955) or have a look in the yellow pages to find out more about businesses in your area.

3. Speak to local businesses directly and ask them to sign the letter. Communities in Lancashire managed to get 300 business signatures of support, which was a powerful message to deliver to their local council.

4. Publicise the letter and the list of signatures as widely as possible (you can see how Frack Free Lancashire have done this here: http://stopfyldefracking.org.uk/) as well as through local media coverage if possible (read more about how to get media coverage on page 12).
As community groups, businesses and residents in Lancashire, we call on our elected representatives to oppose plans for shale gas extraction and to support a Frack Free Lancashire.

Shale gas extraction poses a real and serious threat to our environment, communities and local economy.

Evidence shows that fracking and shale gas production has high risks of ground and surface water contamination, air pollution, and climate change. Studies show that workers and residents living near fracking sites overseas have experienced serious health effects – and the long-term impacts are unknown.

If they go ahead, the fracking sites in the Fylde would create millions of litres of radioactive wastewater. Wildlife in our beautiful countryside and internationally important habitats would be at risk. And our communities would live with 24-hour drilling and gas flaring, noise and heavy traffic.

And for what gain? We are being sold a myth that shale gas will bring low energy prices and jobs – yet there is no evidence to back up claims that it will cut energy bills, and the limited jobs are likely to be short-term and transient. Planning documents show only eleven jobs will be supported at each site despite years of disruption to local residents and businesses. Our important farming and tourism sectors would be at risk from an intensive shale gas industry that requires thousands of wells puncturing the landscape.

Yet despite the hype from the Government and the industry, public concern is mounting and across Lancashire and the UK communities are coming together in peaceful protest. Over 14,000 people have already objected to the plans. The movement for a frack-free UK has brought people together from all walks of life and across the political spectrum – families, farmers, faith groups, trade unionists, artists, environmentalists and businesses.

We recognise the need for new solutions to our energy problems. But fracking is the wrong solution – and we believe Lancashire can do better.

We have a positive vision for our county – developing our abundant renewable energy resources, improving energy conservation, and building community energy where local people have a genuine stake in the energy they produce and consume. This would create jobs, provide genuine opportunities for our young people, cut carbon emissions and protect our environment.

As the Government has failed to listen and act on our concerns, we look to our local representatives to do what’s best for Lancashire. Please oppose the fracking plans and support a Frack Free Lancashire.

Signed
X
X
X
3.3 Farmers

Working alongside farmers to resist fracking has been key to several local anti-fracking campaigns. A lot of information about how fracking could impact farming is in the draft Government DEFRA report “Draft shale gas rural economy impacts” that was previously heavily redacted, but the Government had to release following a request to the Information Commissioner.

Jane Barnes from the Roseacre Awareness Group worked closely with farmers in Lancashire and has a few tips on how to approach this joint work.

- If you have any contacts within farming near you, it’s helpful to get them involved when you approach farmers. This will give more weight to your information and help clearly demonstrate the risks to farming that fracking brings.

- Don’t bombard people with information but try to give the main points and risks that are relevant to them.

- Highlight the risks of farmers being targeted by fracking industries to get them on board and possibly being wined and dined because they want to use their land for activities that would ultimately damage it.

- Ask them to research deeply into fracking if they are tempted with promises. A flash drive or DVD with YouTube videos could be given out showing interviews with farmers and films showing land being affected. You can find a list of films that you could show on page 11. You could also take along some of the briefings listed in the Fracking resources leaflet.

- Ask them to follow the example of some councils and landowners not to let fracking companies on to their land to do a seismic survey.

- Give talks to local farmers’ clubs and young farmers’ clubs. They may already have had one by the fracking company who will be trying to win them over, so you need to catch up fast.

- Make farmers a priority and work together to stop fracking near you.
4.1 Lobbying tips

What is lobbying?
Lobbying means trying to influence decisions made by officials in a government. This can be at either a national or a local level.

Who can lobby?
Anyone can lobby and you don’t have to be an expert. It’s the job of your local councillor or MP to work out how to deliver services that will benefit the local community – and to respond to concerns of their constituents – this is what you are trying to communicate to them through your campaign.

Obviously, if you’re confident about the technical aspects of the policy, that’s great – but don’t feel you have to do their job for them.

Whenever and whomever you are lobbying, here are some top tips to remember:

**Before a meeting:**
- Do your research into the person’s interest and record on the issue you are going to see them about.
- Agree who is going to attend the meeting – if more than one of you is attending, agree who will say what, when.
- Write down the key areas you wish to talk to the person about so you have this clear in your mind.
- Agree what specific commitments you want (what action do you want your representative to take following your meeting).

**During the meeting:**
- Take notes if it’s helpful.
- Remember the key points you want to raise with the person.
- Bring along further research or supporting documents if this will strengthen your case (see the Fracking resources leaflet for resources that you could take along).
- Be clear and specific in what you are asking the person to do.
- Stay polite.
After the meeting:

- Write and thank the person for their time – remember to specify what it is that they agreed to do.
- Follow up on any actions you agreed in the meeting with an email, and if you do not receive a response, then with a phone call.
- Get in touch with your local media (if applicable) – this is especially relevant if you have photos from your meeting (find out more about contacting your local media on page 12).

4.2 Win over your local council

Currently the decision on whether to frack or not in any particular area of the UK rests with your local council. This is why many anti-fracking campaigns across the country have focused on local councillors as their targets.

Chris from Brighton and Hove Friends of the Earth has had years of experience directly lobbying councillors from all political parties. He says:

“Build a relationship. They need to know you and know that you are a useful source of information and expertise. They need to feel they can trust what you say. Going to meetings and being visible at events and using networking opportunities is a good way to get to know your councillors. It is worth investing time into this.”

Who to talk to in your local council

First off it’s important to differentiate between councillors and council officials:

- Councillors are the people you vote for, the elected members
- Council officials are the paid employees of the council

When you’re fighting a planning application, you will need to develop a good relationship with some of the council officials, particularly the planning officer responsible for the application. You can find out who this is by contacting the council’s planning department. This person will help you with information about the process and timescales for example. But the most important people for you to talk to are the elected councillors.
Councillors represent us and some of them will sit on the committee making decisions about fracking. In the case of fracking, it is the county or unitary council which has the role of the Minerals Planning Authority that is responsible for taking decisions about fracking.

The council’s website is the best starting point for information on councillors. You will typically find a section called something like ‘council and democracy’. This should list the councillors for an area (known as a ward), their contact details and which council committees they sit on.

All councillors are important, but the key councillors to talk to about fracking near you are:

- The members of the committee taking the decision (usually known as the Planning Committee or Development Control Committee or similar)
- The council leader and members of his/her cabinet or executive committee
- The leaders of the political groups

You may find it useful to draw up a list or database of the key councillors and their details for your group members to make use of. However, please remember that the council leader can change who sits on a committee at any time so it is important that all councillors are aware of opposition to fracking in their community.

Getting to talk to councillors

All councillors will hold ‘surgeries’ or drop-in sessions for people living in their ward, typically once a month. You can find details via the council website or by contacting the councillor direct. You will usually get a 10-15 minute slot at a surgery, and this can be a useful starting point.

You can also ask to meet councillors at other times. The best way to contact them is probably by email. Councillors will prioritise talking to and meeting people from their ward, so finding someone from the area a councillor represents to ask for a meeting will make it more likely that they’ll say yes.

Effective lobbying has helped several councils across the UK to commit to going frack free:

- [www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/get_involved_fracking_41285](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/get_involved_fracking_41285)
- [http://stopfydefracking.org.uk/](http://stopfydefracking.org.uk/)

**Note**

If you have a “live” fracking application being looked at by a council, members of the Planning Committee may say they can’t meet you as they’re meant to remain impartial (the technical term usually used is ‘of an open mind’) while making the decision. In the Localism Act 2011, it is quite clear that Members should not refuse to engage with issues because they are concerned about what is called “pre-determination” in planning speak (i.e. already having made up their mind on the planning decision). You can argue that they should meet you to hear your views as a local resident but you accept that they may not be able to give you their own personal views.
4.2a Template letter to Lancashire local council:

Dear County Councillor,

I am writing to ask you to reject plans for fracking in Lancashire.

Fracking is now suspended in all of Britain outside of England because of concerns about the impact on health, the environment, local communities and climate change. The Scottish Government is undertaking a full public health assessment, New York State has also banned fracking due to the “significant health risks”, and other countries such as the Netherlands, France, and Bulgaria have all said ‘no’ to fracking.

As my local councillor, I am writing to ask that you do the same for the people of Lancashire and oppose the applications for fracking at Preston New Road and Roseacre Wood.

With known risks of water contamination, air pollution, adverse health impacts, and carbon emissions as well as increased noise and traffic from HGVs, 24-hour noise from drilling, flaring and generators, communities in Lancashire should not be used as a guinea pig for this form of extreme fossil fuel extraction.

While the risks are high, claims about the supposed benefits do not stand up to scrutiny. Cuadrilla’s applications in the Fylde would each only support 11 jobs, including direct, induced and supply chain. By comparison, renewable energy is already employing over 10,000 people in the North West.

There is also no evidence that fracking will improve energy security with industry itself acknowledging that it will take a decade to deliver any significant amounts of gas.

Finally, fracking will not reduce energy bills. Researchers from the UK Energy Research Centre have said the Government has “completely oversold” shale gas and that promises over lower prices and greater energy security are “hype” and “lacking in evidence”.

It is therefore not surprising that whilst support for renewable energy is high, opposition to fracking is significant and growing. Recent polling revealed that almost two thirds of people in Lancashire want fracking to be banned and over 20,000 people have objected to the proposals.

As my councillor I ask you to stand up for the people of Lancashire, by opposing Cuadrilla’s fracking applications.

Kind regards

Name: ____________________________ Signature______________________________  
Address: _____________________________________________ Post code____________
4.3 Talk about fracking with your MP

Who is my MP?
You can find out who your MP is here:
www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/

How do I contact them?
The link above includes contact details for all MPs.

How do I make an appointment?
Most MPs hold surgeries, where they meet their constituents to discuss local issues, on a Friday. You can make an appointment to see the MP at their surgery.

How do I get in touch?
Use the email address given on the Parliament website above. Explain that you are a constituent and outline broadly what you would like to discuss. It is always worthwhile following up with a telephone call (more than one if necessary) to make sure they have received the email and to make sure you get an appointment as soon as possible.

What can I ask them to do?
Your aim should be to get your MP to say in public that fracking should not go ahead – either in your area, or in general. You may also want them to agree to put pressure on other politicians, for example the leader of their political party or other local politicians, to oppose fracking.

Is my MP against fracking?
You can find out if your MP is against fracking by checking out Friends of the Earth’s anti-fracking map here:
www.foe.co.uk/page/do-your-election-candidates-oppose-fracking

What else can my MP do to show they oppose fracking?
MPs have a number of means to raise constituency issues in Parliament. You could ask them to:

- Ask a Parliamentary Question – they can put questions to the Secretary of State or to the Prime Minister in the designated question times.
- They can start an Early Day Motion or EDM. This is basically a parliamentary petition where MPs can add their name to express concern or support for a particular issue.

This decision by Lancashire county council gives me hope for the future. We have proved that people power works and politics isn’t behind closed doors.”

Connor Dwyer,
16 year old Preston Resident
Show their opposition to fracking in public – for example they could issue a press release to the local media, or have their picture taken with the poster in this pack.

**Does it work?**

Showing MPs that their voters feel strongly about an issue is crucial to get them to speak out on it – after all, it is their job to represent their voters. Of course MPs also have other pressures on them – for example their party leadership and whips will tell them what to do. That’s why lobbying is so important. At the end of 2014 less than 20 out of 650 MPs opposed fracking, because every political party apart from the Green Party was in favour. But because of petitions, community activism and lobbying of MPs this increased to 50 MPs voting for a moratorium – or suspension – of fracking in January 2015, and crucially led to the SNP, Plaid Cymru and Scottish Labour all supporting a moratorium on fracking for the first time.

In the run up to the 2015 General Election Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace asked all election candidates to sign the ‘Frack Free Promise’ – a third of all Labour and Liberal Democrat Candidates signed the pledge. This had a massive impact, contributing to two significant changes. First, there are now 130 MPs in Parliament who oppose fracking – more than double before the election. Second, both of the new leaders of the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties – Jeremy Corbyn and Tim Farron – oppose fracking.
The support of Friends of the Earth has been constant and essential to us. We are just ordinary residents, we are not Campaigners. We have benefitted from their knowledge, legal expertise and on-the-ground support at local level.”

Pat Davies (above left), Preston New Road resident with her neighbour Mavis Kemp

“With Friends of the Earth, what you do for us is give us the professional support that activists can’t provide for themselves, but you do it in a really human way. And you give us activists that are just like us, and you don’t always get that from, you don’t always assume you’ll get that from an NGO... You make meeting rooms available, and you don’t seize the limelight either, like sometimes I’ll be on a coach that I’ve only paid £10 for, to get to somewhere I really need to be for an action. And I haven’t even asked who provided it, and I’ll find sometime later on that Friends of the Earth subsidised this coach, they got you to, all the activists to where they needed to be.”

Tina Louise Rothery (above right, with Natalie Bennett leader of the Green Party, left)
FRACKING: PLANNING, THE LAW AND HAVING YOUR SAY

www.foe.co.uk/fracking
1.1 How it works in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Companies can’t just find a field and start fracking – they have to submit a planning application that the council has to decide on within a set period of time. In England, it’s usually 13 weeks for major applications, and 16 weeks for an application with an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In Wales it also takes 16 weeks for EIA applications. A longer time is allowed if the fracking company or developer agrees. In Northern Ireland all that is stated by the planning authority is that “complex and major development applications will take longer than the standard eight weeks that more straightforward applications would take.”

The planning process is different in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – you’ll need get in touch with your local authority that deals with minerals, and in the case of Northern Ireland the Department of Environment. The people in charge of national planning guidance on fracking are:

- England – Department for Communities and Local Government
- Wales – Welsh Government
- Northern Ireland – Department of Environment

During the time the local authority (or Department of Environment in Northern Ireland) has to make a decision there are plenty of opportunities for local residents to make themselves heard and get involved, so let’s look at what exactly happens during the process (below is an overview but for chapter-and-verse, see the Regulatory Roadmap: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265988/Onshore_UK_oil_and_gas_exploration_England_Dec13_contents.pdf).

Companies can apply for one or all of the three phases – testing, appraisal and production.

One other thing: getting involved in the detail of this process is important at some stages, particularly on planning applications. But avoid getting so sucked into the process that you spend all your time on it and don’t have enough time for other crucial work such as building community opposition and other tactics listed in this pack.

So, back to the process...
First of all a fracking company has to get a licence from the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC). The licences are called Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDLs) and are given out in licensing rounds every few years. The licences cover all forms of oil and gas, so just because there is a PEDL somewhere it doesn't necessarily mean fracking. Licencing will be controlled by the Welsh Government and Scottish Government from 2016, and the UK Government has committed not to release any new licences for Wales or Scotland before then.

Licences are already devolved to Northern Ireland where the process is run by the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), rather than DECC. You can read about this system in depth and DETI’s process for deciding who is granted a licence here: [www.detini.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/petroleum-licensing-in-ni--guidance-for-applicants.pdf](http://www.detini.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/petroleum-licensing-in-ni--guidance-for-applicants.pdf)

Companies don’t pay for these licences but they have to prove that they are capable, financially solvent and have a good plan.

Once a company has a licence, it will do above- and below-ground surveys, working out the best places to drill. For some of these, the development is counted as “permitted development”, where you don’t need planning permission in England (for seismic and groundwater testing, but this is currently fairly limited). There is no such permitted development in Wales.

In Northern Ireland, companies can apply for Permitted Development Rights (PDR) for exploratory drilling, which means that they don’t need to submit a planning application to set up test drilling. The Minister of the Environment has given mixed signals on whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed for exploratory drilling.

Once the company picks a spot, they have to sign a land-access agreement with the landowner, who can of course say no. Unfortunately, Government changed the law in 2015 so that when companies drill horizontally underground outside the boundaries of the surface site they don’t need permission from any other landowners except the person who owns the site of the well on the surface.

The fracking industry sees community acceptance as important: they want to win us over and be seen as a good neighbour. The company will probably set up a community forum or similar group – treat these with due caution!

Companies are strongly encouraged to carry out an Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) as early as possible although they are not legally required to do so. ERAs should look at all the risks involved with shale gas or oil operations
and communities should absolutely be involved. This is an opportunity for you to have a say.

There is a twin-track process: getting planning permission from the council and getting the approvals from Government bodies that regulate this area – the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency. However, you can have most impact on the council because it is a democratic body that must represent you.

1.2 Having your say on planning permission

Planning permission for fracking
When the time comes for a council to make a decision about giving local planning permission for fracking – this is our main opportunity to intervene.

In England, planning decisions on fracking and on all oil and gas minerals are taken by the local Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) – your local council, either the top tier if you have county and district authorities in your area, or the unitary council (if you don’t have a district authority).

In Wales all planning authorities have to pass fracking planning decisions to Welsh Ministers. At the moment we think they’d say no to fracking in Wales.

Planning decisions on fracking and on all oil and gas minerals in Northern Ireland are made by the Minerals Unit of the Department of the Environment (DOE) www.planningni.gov.uk/advice_special_studies_minerals. Again it’s before the decision on planning permission is made that we have our main chance to get involved and block attempts to frack in Northern Ireland.

Applications to frack
When the planning authority (the council) receives a fracking application, it decides if an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is needed. An EIA looks at the likely environmental impacts of any development. The regulations for EIA are slightly different for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but the main process is the same as it all comes from European Union law.

The UK Government says an EIA probably isn’t needed for the exploratory stage, but due to the risks involved, we argue that EIAs should be carried out for all parts of the process.

Next, the fracking company applies to the council for planning permission. This is the key opportunity to have your say, and to make sure others do too. There is a compulsory consultation period on applications where you have a right to

In England, when making a decision on oil and gas planning applications, the local planning authority has to look at “material considerations”. These are the issues they can to consider in relation to the impacts and benefits of the application – e.g. transport, noise, and landscape. Officers within the local planning authority will write a report after the public consultation recommending whether to let the application go ahead or not. The committee members on the council planning committee will then use their judgement based on the evidence in front of them to make a decision. The reasons for refusal that have been given by councils in England and Wales include visual impact, noise impact, and transport impact.

The decision will be taken by the council’s planning committee if the application is dealt with by a local authority. The name of this committee will vary from council to council – for example, it might be known as the Development Control Committee. The exact process will also vary (check your council’s constitution), but you will have the chance to present your case in person briefly. Again, see ‘Planning Applications: A campaigner’s guide’ for detailed advice on how to do this.

The same process would be followed in Wales if the Welsh Ministers did not call in the application. A called-in application is dealt with by the planning inspectorate, with a planning inspector doing the job of the planning officer in a local authority. In Wales, the Minister would have to consider Planning Policy Wales and relevant local planning policy as well as minerals planning policy when making the decision.

In Northern Ireland the application is dealt with by the Minerals Unit, even though local councils have got new planning powers. This briefing www.foe.co.uk/resource/action_guides/ni_planning_guide.pdf sets out how to get involved (please note that Northern Ireland planning law has changed since this briefing was written, but the advice in section 5.1 is still relevant). The decision on whether to grant planning permission will be taken by the Minerals Unit, with final sign off by the Minister of the Environment.

National planning guidance in each country sets out the policy which has to be considered when making the decision.

**What if the council says no to fracking?**

If the council says no to planning permission in England, the fracking company can appeal against its decision. The appeal will be carried out by the national
Planning Inspectorate – in England and Wales this is the same organisation but has separate staff:

- [www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/appeals](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/appeals)

If the Minerals Unit in Northern Ireland says no to planning permission, then the company can appeal. The appeal will be carried out by The Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) [www.pacni.gov.uk](http://www.pacni.gov.uk), an independent body under the auspices of the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdFM).

**What if the council/Minister says yes to fracking?**

If the council or Minister says yes to planning permission, we the people can’t appeal against the decision. That’s why it’s so important to get involved when the planning permission is first applied for to lobby the council or Minister to say no.

You can apply for a judicial review (JR) of the decision if you think something has gone wrong. But this can’t be simply because you think the council has made the wrong decision – you have to show that there was a problem with the way the decision was taken. See page 8 for more info on judicial reviews.

### 1.3 Permits

At the same time as getting planning permission, fracking companies will be trying to get various permits from the regulators. The main regulator in England is the Environment Agency (EA) and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) is also involved. In Wales, the environmental regulator is Natural Resources Wales. The main regulator in Northern Ireland is the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Health & Safety Executive (HSENI) is also involved.

A company needs permits for drilling, to carry out “groundwater activity” and for dealing with mining waste and radioactive substances (because the rock which is drilled or fracked usually contains Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials or NORMs). It also needs a permit to handle and store oil.

Ideally there will be consultation on these permits. **This gives us a chance to get involved**, but the EA has introduced ‘standard permits’ for some parts of the process in England, which mean that they can skip our involvement altogether.

If permits are refused, then the company can appeal. The HSE is also involved in approving the design and construction of the fracking well, though it is
mainly concerned with occupational health and safety (and the health and safety of the wider community) – not environmental protection.

**Only when a company has planning permission and all the necessary environmental permits can it start exploratory drilling and testing.** However the process is seriously flawed because of gaps in the rules and is also badly enforced. Read more on this in Friends of the Earth's report on fracking regulation: [www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/all-glitters-critique-fracking-regulation-46660.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/all-glitters-critique-fracking-regulation-46660.pdf)

If a company wants to **commercially produce** shale gas or oil at a later stage, it needs specific planning permission and environmental permits for production. In early 2010, several sites were given permission by local planning authorities in England, and some of these include production. However most of these have not been implemented. Let’s make sure it stays that way!
Legal argument is a useful way of opposing fracking near you and making sure that the impacts are properly considered.

You can use legal arguments at most stages of the planning and permit processes. For example, if the council or other public body hasn’t given you enough time to respond to a consultation, they may be acting unfairly and you may be able to get more time (particularly where they are consulting on lots of technical information).

Another example might be if they haven’t properly publicised the planning application, are relying on an out-of-date policy, or failed to spot that a particular permit is required – meaning that you can force the decision maker to fix these problems.

These are all real examples and have all helped to slow down and delay fracking applications. Every delay makes fracking more costly and less appealing to the company – so this can be very effective.

Using legal argument in this way generally requires access to lawyers and Friends of the Earth provides free legal advice (twice a month) through its Rights & Justice Centre Advice Line: www.foe.co.uk/community/campaigns/rights/rights_justice_centre_23310

2.1 Judicial review

Finally, if all else fails it may be possible to judicially review fracking decisions made by public bodies.

A judicial review (JR) only looks at whether the decision has been made lawfully – not whether it’s a good or bad decision. The courts are generally less concerned with the actual decision than the decision-making process. Judicial review should be seen as a last resort to be used only when all else has failed, as it is time consuming and potentially expensive.

There are many different grounds for judicial review and they often overlap. Basically, public authorities have to act within the law, so some common grounds for judicial reviews include:

- Misunderstanding the law (where the public body has got the law wrong in one or more aspects of its decision)
- Acting without power to do so (if a public body had no clear power to act, then the action can be challenged)
Campaigning is an art form that truly develops your personality and skills and... the process really brings you into encounters with so many very unique and different types of people and a lot of strong characters. I would call it an education for life about life and our focus is to fight the good fight to protect life – and, in this project, from fracking.

I could not list all the names and nationalities of the people who have educated me during the past years as an anti-fracking campaigner or fracktivist, but one thing I know, I could not have done it without any one of you.

As we in the campaigning groups go hand in hand and learn to coexist to get the important work done to stop fracking in the UK and in Denmark and elsewhere and especially get a fracking ban globally, it is as important that we focus on getting the required qualifications and sound powers on board. Here I also mean lawyers and organisations, who have dedicated themselves to our shared purpose for the sake of our environment and human rights and our future here on Earth. We have come to realise that when the legal team and the campaigning team work well together, we can win.”

Elizabeth Thomsen, Anti-fracking activist in Denmark and Bournemouth
Fettering discretion (public authorities can’t generally make inflexible policies where they are also required to take decisions in individual cases e.g. to grant a permit)

Taking account of irrelevant considerations or failing to take account of relevant considerations

Exercising a power for the wrong purpose (Parliament is generally fairly clear about how legislation powers can be used – if used differently, this can be challenged)

Legitimate expectation – this happens when a public body makes a promise to a particular group to do or to refrain from doing something. In certain cases it is possible to hold public bodies to these promises

Irrationality (this is perhaps the most difficult ground to prove and requires you to show that no rational decision maker would have taken the decision that the public body took)

EU law / human rights: EU law is important in environmental cases (human rights law is generally a bit less so, though still relevant). EU law trumps UK law, so if you can find an EU law provision which has been broken, you may have grounds to challenge a decision.

Judicial reviews often focus on consultation – where a public body asks for input on its plans. It’s important to remember that a consultation is not a vote – and not won or lost depending on people’s views. In some cases, it is argued that a public body failed to consult properly or at all. A duty to consult may come from law, or from a previous promise to consult, or more generally from requirements of fairness in decision making.

In other cases, a public body will consult but will do it unfairly (e.g. not giving enough time to respond or not taking responses properly into account, or not providing all the key information needed for respondents).

But courts are reluctant to strike down on decision-making processes unless something has gone “seriously and manifestly wrong”.

Cost

JRs can also be expensive. The general rule in England is that the loser pays the winner’s costs. However if you can show that yours is an environmental claim (and falls within the Aarhus Convention) your costs would be capped at £5,000 for individuals and £10,000 for groups. But you’d still have to pay your own lawyer’s costs (although some will act on a “no win, no fee” basis). Legal aid may be available in some cases, but generally this is most appropriate where
a person is on benefits and rents their home. You may have legal expenses insurance through a household or contents insurance policy.

**Timings**
Generally you have three months from the date of a decision to bring a JR. This involves acting fast – as before this date you need to write to your opponent, set out your claim and give time to respond. And for challenges to planning decisions, you only have six weeks to start legal proceedings from the decision date.

**Standing**
To bring a case you must have “standing” or a sufficient interest in the matter you want to challenge. Generally people who live near or are likely to be affected by a fracking site will have it, though a wider group of people and organisations are likely to meet the test too. Your solicitor can give you more advice on this as if you decide to take legal action.

**Permission**
If you decide to start legal proceedings you have to put together various documents and papers. Generally you will need legal advice in order to do this.

However, judicial review is different from other kinds of court proceedings because there is an initial stage at which the court decides whether your case should be allowed to go forward to a full hearing. This is known as “permission” and the court has to decide whether you have an “arguable” case. Generally it does this without a hearing (on the basis of the papers you and your opponent have submitted). It is important to bear this stage in mind, not least because if you are unlikely to pass this threshold, you may want to think carefully about whether you want to start legal proceedings in the first place.

**Remedies**
Once the hearing has taken place, if you win the court has to decide what remedy to grant you – or how to address the illegal act. Remedies in judicial review take various different forms – including quashing the original decision, a declaration (setting out the law on a particular point), or an order requiring the public body to take or not take a particular step. But remember, even if you win in court, the court may still decide not to grant you a remedy. This is because remedies are discretionary – this means that the court is not obliged to grant them. So there are quite a few examples of cases where even though the claimant won, he or she was not granted a remedy (for example because the decision would be the same even if it were taken again by the public body). So the decision or policy which you were campaigning against might remain in force.

For more information on Judicial Review, contact our Rights & Justice Centre Advice Line: www.foe.co.uk/community/campaigns/rights/rights_justice_centre_23310
“Friends of the Earth have helped us every step of the way over the last four years – they have given us legal advice and financial support and we are so grateful for that.”

**Ebony Ava Johnson**, Co-founder of Frack Free Lancashire (above right, with Jake White, lawyer at Friends of the Earth)

“Yeah, well of course we’ve been very, very grateful for the input from Friends of the Earth. I’ve had a few conversations with Jake, your lawyer. I’ve worked quite closely on a couple of issues with Jamie. I’ve had a few emails backwards and forwards with various other people on Friends of the Earth, and they’ve been absolutely brilliant. Very grateful for their expertise and resources I would say, probably wouldn’t be where we are today without them.”

**Roy Clarke** (far right)
FRACKING AND THE WIDER CLIMATE MOVEMENT

www.foe.co.uk/fracking
1.1 The anti-fracking movement

Local anti-fracking campaigns across the UK have been hugely successful at keeping fracking out of their area and more broadly out of the country. One of the great things about the anti-fracking movement in the UK is the way that individuals and groups reach out to each other from their local area to lend a hand and support each others’ campaigns, and how a campaign win in one area reinforces anti-fracking campaigns everywhere else.

The number of anti-fracking campaigns and groups in the UK is growing by the day, and the support that we are all able to give to each other is partly what keeps our momentum and energy up, and also helps us to be a powerful movement and a force to be reckoned with at a political level.

You can find out more about these groups and how to contact them on page 16 of the Stop fracking near you booklet. Why not invite them along when you have events coming up or just get in touch to swap ideas?

There are also plenty of opportunities for us all to meet up in person. You can find out about some of these below and you can also check this calendar to see what’s coming up: www.foe.co.uk/page/climate-events-join-us

Showing solidarity with each other has been key to our movement’s success and will continue to helping us achieve a Frack Free Everywhere!

“"We need to encourage and support others to come forward to help in this ever-increasing amazing movement that brings together so many people from so many different walks of life. We are such a strong community and we are all skilled in one area or another. Let’s empower ourselves to get more involved and build those bonds.”"

Lorraine Inglis – lived on the Community Protector Camp at Balcombe
1.2 “Why I joined the anti-fracking movement”
Tina Louise Rothery

A case study
“I kinda came to this mainly because I’m a grandma, so I have two generations that live in Lancashire, and they want to continue living here and so do I.

My one message would be, never underestimate the power of each one person showing up. Each one person sharing a post, each one person saying ‘wow you did great’. Each one person that did that made this movement so big, and so incredibly warm and supportive.

No matter who you are, and what your upbringing was, or your social circumstance, or the demands on your time as a carer or whatever, you can still get involved in some way. And everything is just a footstep into the door... I’m 53 so I only came to activism at 49, so it’s quite a big deal to think I wasted 49 years of not paying any attention to my planet or my democracy, mainly because I was too busy running all over it and enjoying it, and then now you think, ‘Wow there’s so much to lose, and I have a child and a grandchild to consider.

Once you join [the anti-fracking movement], you’ll be amazed by the diversity, the breakdown of social barriers. It’s been beautiful.

Ian (Residents Action on Fylde Fracking) was asked the other day, ‘How is your community responding?’ And he said, ‘It’s a community. It wasn’t before’. He said ‘I had no idea I had a community, I lived in my house, I went to work and you come home. You see your neighbour from time to time.’ But this has bonded communities in a big way, because they found within themselves that there are people who actually do give a damn, and willing to give up all this time, all this energy and all this effort to protect themselves.

Personally I couldn’t be more grateful or humbled by the power of cooperation within our amazing anti-fracking movement, the communities taking a stand and Friends of the Earth in particular for the outstanding ways we have all conducted ourselves thus far.”
1.3 The climate movement

The fight against fracking is the sharp end of the fight against climate change in the UK and the fracking and climate movements work very closely together.

We know that to stay within ‘safe levels’ of global warming, 80 per cent of fossil fuels need to stay in the ground. This means that we can’t even use all of the fossil fuels that we already have, and yet our Government is pushing ahead with dangerous fracking which would only give us more fossil fuels that we can’t afford to burn (see page 5 of the What is fracking? booklet for more information on fracking and climate change).

The world’s leading scientists have given stark warnings about the planetary emergency we’re facing: the impacts of climate change are here and will get worse unless we take immediate action. 2014 was the hottest year in recorded history and climate change is already affecting people across the globe – from flooded households in the UK to Filipino communities uprooted by storms, and farmers hit by droughts in the Sahel.

Our current strategy in the UK is to “maximise economic exploitation” of our fossil fuels out of the ground – and we have to stop this. Climate change is a global struggle. The UK cannot expect other countries to leave any of their fossil fuels in the ground, if we’re determined to extract all of ours. If every country behaves like ours is setting out to do, the planet would see catastrophic, runaway climate change.

The UK needs to commit to going fossil fuel-free and this gives us a huge opportunity to replace oil, gas and coal with new industries and jobs based around offshore wind, wave and tidal energy. See page 6 of the What is fracking? booklet for more on real alternatives to fracking and find out more about climate change here: www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/climate-change-guide-everyone-76291.pdf

So in addition to the unacceptable risks that fracking brings to our health and homes, climate change is yet another reason why, for many of us, fracking is a line in the sand. Either we push ahead with dangerous fracking and give up on our climate targets, or we work to make the transition to a safe, clean renewable energy system that we urgently need.
Our Government is not acting responsibly on fossil fuels and climate change, so the only alternative is for us to join together in a people-powered movement to stop new fossil fuel projects like fracking and to start building a better future together. There are lots of opportunities coming up for us to join this movement, join the dots, and show that we have the solutions.

Have a look here to find out what’s coming up: www.foe.co.uk/page/rise-climate and how to get involved.

“I’ve come to protest with thousands of other people, because we feel so strongly about it. We’d like our voices to be heard, there’s never been any trouble, and it’s a wonderful atmosphere to be in.”

Marie Taylor, former Roseacre resident (for 12 years), now lives in St Annes
RISE UP FOR THE CLIMATE
STOP HOMES FLOODING
FRACKING RESOURCES

www.foe.co.uk/fracking
Sharing information about fracking is one of the most important things we can do to raise awareness of its risks, and help to grow the anti-fracking movement in the UK.

Here are a bunch of tools and materials that you can order or download for free to help spread the word about fracking. Whether you’re talking to your local council or MP about fracking, running an event or a stall, or just spreading the word locally with your friends and neighbours these may come in handy.

Resources to order online
The following resources can be found and ordered for free here:

www.foe.co.uk/page/fracking-materials-order-form

- Window posters
- Ten facts about fracking booklet
- Wheelie bin stickers
- Sheets of stickers
- Our latest petition is also available to print for off-line events: Ask David


Briefings to download and print
You can find a complete collection of our fracking resources and briefings on our website here: www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/fracking_information_resources_41838

You can also find links for a selection of these below:


- Making a better job of it: Summary www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/making-
Better job it summary.pdf – Jan 2015


All that glitters...is the regulation of unconventional gas and oil exploration in England really ‘gold standard’? (summary) www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/groundwater-fracking-75170.pdf – Dec 2014

All that glitters...is the regulation of unconventional gas and oil exploration in England really ‘gold standard’? (full report) www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/all-glitters-critique-fracking-regulation-46660.pdf – June 2014


Drilling without fail? A review of empirical data on well failure in oil and gas wells  www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/


- **Coal bed methane** [www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/coalbed_methane_0.pdf](www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/coalbed_methane_0.pdf) – Sept 2013


**Planning and legal documents:**


- **Fracking Legal FAQs: Regulatory requirements of unconventional oil and gas exploration** [www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/fracking_faqs.pdf](www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/fracking_faqs.pdf) – Aug 2013
Further reports and reading

- **Medact – ‘Health & Fracking: the impacts & opportunity costs’**

- **Tyndall Centre for Climate Change – reports on environmental impacts of shale gas**
  www.tyndall.ac.uk/shalegasreport

- **European Commission – reports on environmental and climate change risks:**

- **Food and Water Watch (US) – studying the environmental impacts of fracking in the US**
  www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/fracking/


- **‘Global resistance to fracking’**
  A collection of inspiring case studies of the anti-fracking fight around the world, collected by Spanish group Ecologistas en Acción www.ecologistasenaccion.org/article30043.html

Websites

- **Drill or Drop?**  www.drillordrop.com
  This website, the work of journalist Ruth Hayhurst, is a great neutral source of information on developments in fracking in the UK and elsewhere.

- **Frack Off**  http://frack-off.org.uk/
  Frack Off is an activist and grassroots focused anti-fracking group with an informative website.

- Drilling companies will of course have their own websites which are a good source of company information, key documents, news and announcements.
Yes, we’ve had a tremendous amount of help from Friends of the Earth. They’ve helped organise a lot of things, provided signs and everything else for us. Yeah, they’ve done an amazing amount of things for us.

Roland Taylor

Friends of the Earth have been a wonderful support, if there’s anything we’re doubtful about, we speak to them. If they know anything that will help us, they help us. They have been absolutely marvelous.

Marie Taylor (above left), former Roseacre resident (for 12 years), now lives in St Annes