

Fermanagh Fracking Awareness

looking deeper into shale gas and hydraulic fracturing

Fermanagh Fracking
Awareness Network

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Minister 'cautious' over fracking

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/alex-attwood-cautious-over-fracking-16146158.html>



Minister, Alex Atwood has said that a rush to introduce the controversial fracking method of natural gas extraction in Northern Ireland would be ill-judged.

The UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change has given the green light for fracking to resume after commissioning a report into earth tremors recently experienced in Blackpool.

Environment Minister Alex Atwood said he would study the report's findings but he added that "to simply adopt an approach that if gas exists in this form underground, for example in Fermanagh, it should be extracted, is a risk. This is a narrow approach. The right approach is to ask do we want to or

need to extract the gas and can it be done safely?"

"I will consider this latest report, noting that its content is limited to the issue of earth tremors and does not address other issues and concerns around fracking. I have always said that all appropriate planning and environmental standards will strictly apply on the issue of fracking. As planning and environment minister this approach will not be compromised."

Green Party MLA Steven Agnew also criticized the report, saying "This report only investigated the potential for fracking to cause earthquakes without looking at the bigger picture and the even more detrimental effects

of the process. This report has been unfortunately misinterpreted at suggest that fracking is a safe process - it is not."

In reference to the benefits fracking would have to Northern Ireland he continued to say that "Such a high-tech Industry actually requires minimal manpower and the expertise required will be imported in by the companies involved as we simply don't have people training and skilled to take on these roles so it's clearly an empty promise."

Read the full article at <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/alex-attwood-cautious-over-fracking-16146158.html>

Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network

Who are they?

What do they do?

Read all about FFAN on page 2

Contact FFAN details on page 4

EVENTS

Fundraising event for
FFAN

18 May

**Charlie's Bar
Enniskillen**

A night of bands...

**Joy of 6
The Bootleggers
Setting off Sirens**

£5 admission

Doors open at 8.30pm

MEETINGS

FFAN Community Engagement Co-ordinator is supporting local groups to become active in their areas and hold meetings in community venues throughout Fermanagh.

**You are invited to a
FFAN networking
meeting on**

**6 June at 8.30pm in
Belcoo Community
Centre**

**Come along and find
out what is going on
and ask questions**

ABOUT THE NETWORK

Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network (FFAN) is a rapidly expanding network of people seeking to find out and share information about shale gas extraction using hydraulic fracturing ('fracking'). We want to know about what is happening and likely to happen in Fermanagh and about how it may affect our lives and those of our neighbours, friends and children.

FFAN is a cross community network of individual Fermanagh residents. It is not affiliated to any political party or other organisation but works with a broad range of groups and individuals who are concerned about the risks of hydraulic fracturing.

FFAN seeks to achieve its aims through the activities of a central Management Committee and supports local groups to become active in their areas. The Management Committee meets on a regular basis to discuss and co-ordinate the work, and also meets with Statutory Organisations, Local Government, Non-Government Organisations, Voluntary Bodies and Communities to raise awareness of fracking and seek support.

In the Community...

Local Groups

March and April saw the formation of two new groups, in Belcoo and Cashel.

So far the Belcoo group have taken part in the Belcoo-Blacklion St Patrick's Day Parade and the Cashel group recently hosted a public meeting aimed in particular at the farming community.

If you would like to get involved with either group please contact:

Belcoo—Tom White:
meenaghman@yahoo.com

Cashel—Patricia Gallagher
cashelady@googlemail.com

FFAN VISION & AIMS

Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network is a constituted organisation with a Management Committee that seeks to promote the aims of the Network.

Our vision is for *County Fermanagh to be an inclusive, progressive and vibrant county where its people and resources are respected, regenerated and sustainably managed. We want communities in Fermanagh to be prosperous and healthy, and a great place to bring up families, in a clean and unspoilt environment. We want this vision to be sustainable for the generations that follow.*

The Aims of Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network are to:

- Raise awareness of shale gas exploration and extraction in Fermanagh and wider areas, and undertake advocacy and research work in response to emerging needs;
- Encourage the safeguarding and sustainability of public health, agriculture, tourism, waterways and the natural environment.
- Help establish and support the development and empowerment of local affiliated groups, and liaise with appropriate national and international networks.



Photo: Children at a local primary school participating in a presentation on fracking

In April FFAN also hosted public information meetings in both Boho and Derrylin.

Young People Learn About Fracking

Most of all it is young people who will have to live with the potential risks of fracking if it goes ahead. Therefore FFAN believe it is important they are given the opportunity to learn about how fracking could affect them.

Pupils at the following schools have recently received presentations about fracking:

- St Mary's High School, Brollagh
- St Martins Primary School, Garrison

- Florencecourt Primary School
- St Columban's Primary School, Belcoo
- Killyhenna PS, Boho
- St Patrick's PS, Derrygonnelly
- Derrygonnelly PS
- St Michael's College, Enniskillen

Worksheets including crosswords and puzzles on fracking are also available for teachers.

Getting Involved

If you would like help setting up a public meeting or local group in your area, contact FFAN's Community Engagement Co-Ordinator Bridie Sweeney:
community@frackaware.com

Garrison & Lough Melvin Anglers Association vs Fracking

Lough Melvin is designated an Area of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation which is the highest protection rating in the EEC. Atlantic salmon is specifically mentioned in the schedule.

The Lough is the only tourist/angling attraction in the remote village of Garrison and supports a unique population of game fish including Artic Char, Atlantic Salmon, Brown, Gillaroo, Sonaghan and Ferox trout. Sonaghan are unique to Lough Melvin, probably originating from sea trout which became land locked after the last ice age. They have survived for the last 10-13,000 years by running to spawn in their local streams which run to the hills and mountains in the hinterland of

the Lough. Proposed fracking operations in these areas would most likely alter water tables and pollution of the pristine spawning streams would be difficult to avoid.

All Melvin waters in Northern Ireland are controlled by Garrison and Lough Melvin Anglers Association and after many years of neglect, the Association has recently invested £131,000 in river enhancement works to improve the spawning streams for the fish population. A Salmon Enhancement Programme has also been undertaken in association with the local Erne & Melvin Enhancement Company with approximately 47,000 salmon fry stocked into their na-

tive Roogagh river. The Association are now beginning to see the results of these schemes with record numbers of spawning redds in the streams and increases in salmon numbers reported in the Lough, thus attracting anglers to the area.

The Association has involved their governing body, The Ulster Angling Federation to fight their case against these operations. They have also written to various politicians voicing their concerns to fracking which will most likely have an adverse effect on the pristine waters of Lough Melvin. The Association will continue to object to these operations which could result in the demise of the unique wild fishery of Lough Melvin.

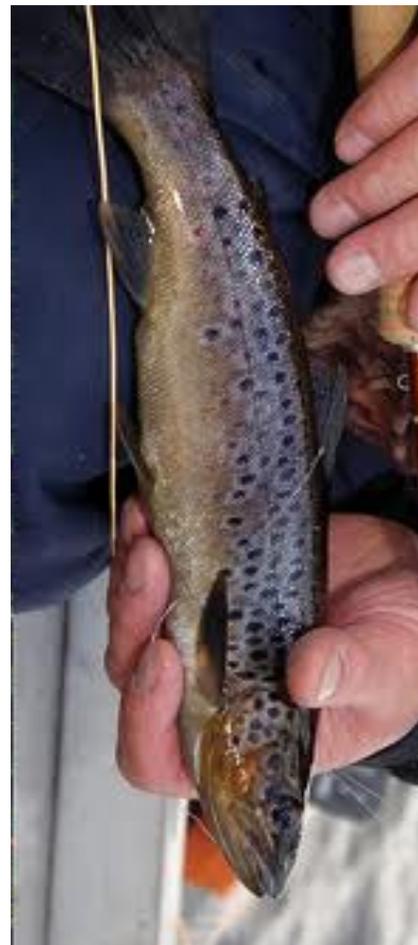


Photo: The Sonaghan trout is unique to Lough Melvin

Tell Your Local MLAs to 'Get in the Game'

Minister for the Environment, Alex Attwood, has announced he will bring forward a bill with challenging targets during this Assembly. But there are still decision-makers who see climate change as low priority or who favour modest, voluntary targets offering no guarantees of real cuts.

Stop Climate Chaos is coalition made up of over 100 organisations from environment and

development charities to unions, faith and community groups.

They have organised a mass lobby at Stormont from 4-6pm on Tuesday 8 May to give local people an opportunity to tell their MLAs that a strong Climate Change bill should be a priority and ask them to sign a rugby ball as a gesture to show their commitment. It would also be a good opportunity to let them

know your concerns about fracking and its potential contribution on climate change.

Booking is essential for this event. For more information contact Niall Bakewell on:

niall.bakewell@foe.co.uk



Photo: The 'Get in the Game' mass lobby takes place at Stormont on 8 May.



Photo: A member of the audience speaking about their concerns around fracking at the Co-Operative' event in Belfast.

Frack Free Future: the Co-Operative Join the Anti-Fracking Campaign

Recently the Co-Operative have got involved in the anti-fracking campaign in Northern Ireland. In particular they have been focusing on the UK's carbon emissions targets and the fact that the UK cannot realistically expect to meet these targets if fracking goes ahead.

In March the Co-Operative hosted a screening of Josh Fox's critically acclaimed documentary Gasland for their local members at the Black Box in Belfast. Speak-

ers at the event included Green Party leader Steven Agnew and John Woods from Green New Deal and audience members were given an opportunity to discuss how fracking could affect people both positively and negatively from a local, national and global perspective.

Also at the event were Sarah Woods and Richard Gott from As One Productions. They are currently working with Co-Operative to produce a film entitled

Frack Free Future to support the campaign. During their visit to Northern Ireland, Richard and Sarah visited counties Fermanagh and Leitrim. Members of FFAN, Lough Melvin Anglers, Belfast Not for \$hale and other groups were interviewed for the film.

For more information visit: <http://www.co-operative.coop/join-the-revolution-old/our-plan/Environment/Fracking/>

Also in the Media...

Gas 'Fracking' Gets Green Light—The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/apr/17/gas-fracking-gets-green-light?INTCMP=SRCH>

Why Fracking is Still a Hot Topic—Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/why-fracking-is-still-a-hot-topic-16148556.html#idc-container>

Fracking in Fermanagh—The Gateway

<http://thegatewayonline.com/articles/energy/fracking-in-fermanagh>

Fracking—the Health and Environmental NGO Position

<http://www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/Global/eu-unit/reports-briefings/2012%20pubs/Pubs%20%20Apr-Jun/Joint%20statement%20on%20fracking.pdf>

CONTACT FFAN

To get in touch with us, find out more or ask a question please use the following email contacts:

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 [FermanaghFrackingAwarenessNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/FermanaghFrackingAwarenessNetwork)

 [@frackaware](https://twitter.com/frackaware)

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

To receive a copy of this newsletter or to contribute information for the next issue, please contact the editors Fiona and Janie on pr@frackaware.com