

## **Call for an immediate ban on Fracking in Northern Ireland**

We, the undersigned, are calling for an immediate ban to any further exploration and extraction of petroleum oil and gas in Northern Ireland, particularly from shale rock, tight sands and coal seams.

There is a public perception that Northern Ireland has a ban on fracking—because of a presumption against it in its Strategic Planning Policy Statement. This is not a proper ban.

In January 2020, in communication relating to assessing two new petroleum licence applications, the Department for the Economy said:

*“The legislative framework is such that, without proper assessment of the issues raised in the public consultation, there are no legal grounds for the Department to reject the applications. Such an action would leave the Department open to legal challenge”*

This is of grave concern to communities right across Northern Ireland—from the North Coast to the East, across to the West and to the South—communities that have already clearly demonstrated their opposition to any such industry taking place near their homes and families.

Clearly the policy position of the Northern Ireland Executive needs to be made more explicit—through a proper legal ban.

A majority of the Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly voted in favour of a motion against fracking in 2011<sup>1</sup>. All other Governments across these Islands—Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland—have bans or moratoriums in place in various forms.

The Department for the Economy is about to spend £75,000 to commission completely inappropriate research into the social, economic and environmental impacts of onshore exploration and production of petroleum in Northern Ireland, including unconventional oil and gas<sup>2</sup>.

At this point in human history, more than ever before, it is clear that fossil fuels play no role in our future. Northern Ireland is already falling behind in reaching its climate change targets. The scientific evidence of serious health and environmental harm from unconventional oil and gas exploration and extraction is already clear. No acceptable mitigation of its public health impacts has been implemented anywhere in the world. It should not be allowed in Northern Ireland, just as it is not allowed in any other part of the UK or Ireland.

The time for our elected representatives to act, is now—while there are no active petroleum licences in Northern Ireland<sup>3</sup> and two applications for licences awaiting decisions.

We are calling for the following URGENT immediate actions to be taken:

1. An Executive decision to refuse to grant the current petroleum licence applications (given that the Minister for the Economy has already agreed that this decision would be brought to the Executive).
2. An Executive decision to halt the current commissioning of inappropriate research.
3. An Emergency Motion to be tabled in the Assembly calling for a moratorium on the granting of petroleum licences, as was already agreed in the Assembly in 2011 awaiting the enactment of legislation to ban fracking in Northern Ireland.
4. The implementation of an immediate ban on any further exploration and extraction of petroleum in Northern Ireland, particularly from shale rock, tight sands and coal seams.

September 16th, 2020

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/minutes-of-proceedings/archive-minutes/session-2011-2012/tuesday-6-december-2011/>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/specification-research-economic-societal-and-environmental-impacts-onshore-petroleum-exploration-and>

<sup>3</sup> No licence holders exist in Northern Ireland since April 2020.

Signed (just group signing please)

(Please send confirmation email for verification purposes to  
[BanFrackingNorthernIreland@gmail.com](mailto:BanFrackingNorthernIreland@gmail.com))

[Click here to view a briefing document prepared by the Fermanagh groups on Finding a way to implement an immediate ban on Fracking and Fracking Licences in Northern Ireland](#)

1. Belcoo Frack Free <https://www.facebook.com/belcoofrackfree/>
2. Stop The Drill Campaign Group <https://m.facebook.com/DontDrillAntrimWater/>
3. Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network <https://www.frackaware.com>
4. Love Leitrim [https://twitter.com/love\\_leitrim](https://twitter.com/love_leitrim)
5. Protect Our North Coast <https://www.facebook.com/ProtectOurNorthCoast/>
6. Save Our Sperrins (SOS) <https://twitter.com/SaveOurSperrins> and <https://www.facebook.com/SaveOurSperrins/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept.16th updated wording)\*
7. NorthWest Network Against Fracking <https://www.facebook.com/North-West-Network-Against-Fracking-279444575416522/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept.16th updated wording)
8. Friends Of The Earth Northern Ireland <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/northern-ireland>
9. Lakeland Cycle Club, Fermanagh <https://www.facebook.com/lakelandcc/> and <http://www.outdoorni.com/providers/243/lakeland-cycle-club/>
10. Belcoo GAA Club <https://www.facebook.com/B%C3%A9al-C%C3%BA-ORaghallaigh-2222136627824574>
11. Act Now <https://actnowni.org>
12. Concerned Health Professionals of Ireland, <https://www.facebook.com/ConcernedHealthProfessionalsIreland/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept.16th updated wording)
13. Devenish St. Mary's GAA, Garrison, Co. Fermanagh <http://devenish.gaa.ie/Pages/Default.aspx>
14. Friends of the Earth, Ireland <https://www.foe.ie/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept.16th updated wording)
15. Communities For Environment First, County Leitrim
16. Safety Before LNG [www.SafetyBeforeLNG.ie](http://www.SafetyBeforeLNG.ie)
17. Fracking Free Clare <https://m.facebook.com/frackingfreeclare>
18. Food & Water Action Europe [www.foodandwatereurope.org](http://www.foodandwatereurope.org)
19. Frack Free Lancashire <https://m.facebook.com/FrackFreeLancashire/> and <http://frackfreelancashire.org/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept.16th updated wording)
20. Uplift <https://www.uplift.ie> (awaiting acceptance of Sept.16th updated wording)
21. The Organic Centre <https://www.theorganiccentre.ie> (awaiting acceptance of Sept.16th updated wording)
22. Delaware Riverkeeper Network [www.delawareriverkeeper.org](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org) (awaiting acceptance of Sept.16th updated wording)\*
23. Not Here Not Anywhere [www.notherenotanywhere.com](http://www.notherenotanywhere.com)

24. Clogher, Justice and Integrity of Creation Group, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan <https://www.carrickmacrossparish.ie/clogher-justice-peace-and-integrity-of-creation-group/>
25. Save RGV from LNG, Brownsville, Texas, USA <https://www.facebook.com/saveRGVfromLNG/>
26. Extinction Rebellion Ireland <https://extinctionrebellionireland.com> (awaiting acceptance of Sept. 16th updated wording)
27. Garden of Eden Projects Ireland <https://www.wetlandsystems.ie/gardenofedenproject.html>
28. Sligo Environmental Network <https://m.facebook.com/sligoenvironmentalnetwork/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept. 16th updated wording)
29. Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment (VOICE) <https://www.voiceireland.org> (awaiting acceptance of Sept. 16th updated wording)
30. Roscommon Environmental Network <https://www.facebook.com/RoscommonEN> (awaiting acceptance of Sept. 16th updated wording)
31. Stand.earth <https://www.stand.earth> (awaiting acceptance of Sept. 16th updated wording)\*
32. EcoQuakers Ireland. <https://quakers-in-ireland.ie/>
33. Good Energies Alliance Ireland <https://www.goodenergiesalliance.ie>
34. Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc, <http://www.animalsaresentientbeings.org/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept. 16th updated wording)
35. Futureproof Clare <https://m.facebook.com/futureproofclare/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept. 16th updated wording)\*
36. Fossil Free NI <https://www.facebook.com/FossilFreeNI/> (awaiting acceptance of Sept. 16th updated wording)\*
37. Garden & Landscape Designers Association, Dublin. <https://www.glda.ie>
38. The Gathering, Saint Columbs Park House , 4 Limavady Rd, Derry, BT47 6JY <https://www.facebook.com/TheEnvironmentalGathering/>
39. Lurgan and Craigavon Environmental Watch [https://www.facebook.com/Craigavon-Environmental-Activists-541899913011421/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Craigavon-Environmental-Activists-541899913011421/posts/?ref=page_internal)
40. NO- arc21 <https://www.facebook.com/#!/StopHightownWasteIncinerator> (awaiting verification email)
41. FracTracker Alliance [www.fracktracker.org](http://www.fracktracker.org)
42. Stop Climate Chaos <https://www.stopclimatechaos.ie/> - a coalition of 30+ Irish civil society organisations
43. Berks Gas Truth <http://www.gastruth.org> - Pennsylvania-based grassroots organization fighting shale gas development
44. Better Path Coalition <http://www.betterpathcoalition.org> - Pennsylvania statewide frontline and grassroots-led coalition forging a path to a clean renewable energy future
45. Ballinlea Residents Group, County Antrim. [www.facebook.com/BallinleaResidentsGroup](http://www.facebook.com/BallinleaResidentsGroup)
46. Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.ie/about-us/our-aims>
47. The Holey Soles Hill Walking Club, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim <https://www.facebook.com/Leitrimholeysoleshillwalking> and <https://www.leitrimhillwalking.org/>
48. Coalition to Ban Unsafe Oil Trains - New Jersey group focused on rail safety and keeping fossil fuels in the ground. <https://www.facebook.com/banunsafeoiltrains>
49. Food & Water Action: <https://www.foodandwateraction.org/>
50. Extinction Rebellion Northern Ireland [https://twitter.com/xr\\_ni?lang=en](https://twitter.com/xr_ni?lang=en)
51. Frack Off London ([www.frackofflondon.org.uk](http://www.frackofflondon.org.uk))
52. Frack Free Sussex ([www.frackfreesussex.co.uk](http://www.frackfreesussex.co.uk))
53. Frack Free Surrey ([frackfreesurrey.com](http://frackfreesurrey.com))

54. Weald Action Group ([www.wealdactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.wealdactiongroup.org.uk))
55. Youth Climate Association Northern Ireland <https://ycani.org/> and [https://twitter.com/yca\\_ni](https://twitter.com/yca_ni)
56. Youth Strike 4 Climate <https://www.facebook.com/Strike4Youth/> and <https://twitter.com/strike4youth?lang=en>
57. EMPOWER NJ <http://empowernewjersey.com/> Coalition of over 100 NJ groups fighting for a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in the state
58. Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, Delaware River Valley and beyond, USA <https://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org>
59. Leitrim Glens Cycling Club <http://leitrimglens.com/>
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