The following are potential strategies you can use to protect yourself and your community from the harms of fracking developments: To determine which combination of code letters are the best fit for your situation, please use the quiz on the previous page. If you would like to learn more, visit www.frackingnextdoor.com.

**CODE A**

Hire an attorney to review lease and identify if grounds for termination exist:
Check for failure on the company to initiate operations within a negotiated primary term, failure to produce in paying quantities, cessation of production, failure to pay fees owed, etc.
More info: bit.ly/gasrights

**CODE B**

Learn your rights:
Know that your rights are not negotiable. Your rights to a clean environment are guaranteed by the state constitution (PA Constitution, Article 1 Section 27). Once you have found a copy of your lease, check it for important clauses and protective language. You can negotiate your lease to increase the benefits and to minimize the detriments. But know that altering a lease = entering into negotiations.
More info: bit.ly/gasrights

**CODE C**

Engage your neighbors to help them understand the impact of leasing on your land rights, insurance, and mortgage.
There has been discussion in the financial, insurance, and mortgage industries about the potential risks associated with fracking. Some large firms prohibit the holder of a mortgage from selling or leasing any portion of the property (surface or subsurface), potentially leading to loan defaults. This is a developing issue that should be monitored closely, and another piece of evidence worth mentioning to neighbors.
More info: bit.ly/neighborsleased

**CODE D**

Make your voice heard at the next meeting of your zoning hearing board:
If your area has a zoning ordinance, a zoning hearing board that would be in charge of deciding whether an operator would be allowed to develop fracking infrastructure in an area where it may normally be seen as an ‘incompatible use’.
The zoning hearing board must have a hearing within 60 days of receiving an application. Written notice of the hearing should be clearly posted on the affected tract of land at least one week prior to the hearing.
More info: bit.ly/landuseapp

**CODE E**

Participate in the Permitting Process:
Organize your community to push your township commission to respond to the Act 14 Notice, which are letters sent by an operator to the host municipality, adjacent municipalities, and the county to notify them of any proposed infrastructure. These letters allow local elected officials to make comments and raise concerns regarding the infrastructure. Local officials generally only have 30 days to respond. If municipal officials fail to respond, the DEP is likely to assume that there are no questions, comments, or concerns and will likely issue the permits in question.
More info: bit.ly/gaspermit

**CODE F**

Investigate and strengthen your existing zoning ordinance:
Look out for language discussing “oil & gas” and “mineral extraction”, as well as the terms special exceptions, variations, conditional use, permitted use. Identify zones labeled industrial, agricultural, residential, etc. Find what uses your home has been zoned for. If your home is located in an area zoned for oil and gas activity or industrial uses, then think about petitioning for stronger language regarding oil and gas development.
More info: bit.ly/gasrights

**CODE G**

Great! Find out which neighboring townships and communities may be fighting fracking to see how you can support them.
You can use Halt the Harm’s Alliance Map to connect with others who may be able to support you.
More info: bit.ly/alliancemap

**CODE H**

Create a Zoning Ordinance:
If you live in an area with no zoning, it’s worth considering the idea of drafting and implementing some type of zoning. Having an ordinance in place may allow more protections against the risks associated with natural gas infrastructure. To start, try connecting with municipal elected officials, municipal office, land planning commission for the county, and leaders who may already be organizing around this in your area.
More info: bit.ly/zoning101

**CODE I**

No matter what, make sure to continue assessing and monitoring risks.
More info: bit.ly/trackgas

**Monitoring and Reporting Violations**

**In Case of Emergency:**
- For an emergency: contacting immediate local police, fire, or emergency medical services, always call 911 first.
- To report a spill or other emergency in PA, contact the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP): 1-800-541-2050 or report to your regional office. In Southwestern PA, call 412-442-4000.
- To report an oil spill, contact the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA): 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) or TTY 1-877-889-5827 or report online.
- To report a hazardous substance release or oil spill, contact the federal government’s National Response Center (NRC). NRC reports are shared with EPA, U.S Coast Guard, and other federal and state response agencies as appropriate: 1-800-424-8802 or email NRC@uscg.mil.

**Get email notifications:**
- Skytruth: This is the best source of “real-time” notices of violations, and also covers other non-fracking related incidents (i.e. oil spill from a truck). Sign up for email notifications at alerts.skytruth.org.
- A-FACTS: On their main page, you can search for violations by operator and site number. This is not the best real-time tool, however if you are looking for historical data, you can use e-Facts. Finding the History of a particular site can be useful to you if you are looking for a history of violations on a particular company or want to make your case against a company who may be coming to your community.
Visit at bit.ly/effectadep.

Find out how you can protect your community and your home from the potential harms of fracking. For more information, please visit the online Resource Center hosted by Halt the Harm Network and Mountain Watershed Association at www.frackingnextdoor.com.
Where DO I START?

Follow your path through the quiz to help guide you to possible strategies you can use to protect yourself and your community from fracking developments. Collect your codes along the way to find out what strategies will work best for you.

MY CODES:

Has a company applied for a permit?

Has a company applied for a land use application?

Does your zoning ordinance help protect you from infrastructure?

Does your community have zoning?

Is there natural gas infrastructure in your area?

Is your property situated above shale gas?

Is your property leased (either by yourself or someone else)?

Do you know your rights as a landowner?

Have your neighbors leased their properties?

Is your property leased (either by yourself or someone else)?

Does your zoning ordinance help protect you from infrastructure?

Has a company applied for a permit?

Has a company applied for a land use application?

Has a company applied for a land use application?

Has a company applied for a land use application?

Does your community have zoning?

Is there natural gas infrastructure in your area?

Is your property situated above shale gas?

Is your property leased (either by yourself or someone else)?

Do you know your rights as a landowner?

Have your neighbors leased their properties?

Is your property situated above shale gas?

Now flip to the back panel of the guide to match your codes to the strategies that can work best for you.