

How to... take action on fracking during the Scottish Government's consultation

People power has already led to a temporary stop to fracking. But if we don't turn the current moratorium into a ban, communities across the central belt of Scotland will continue to be at risk from this dirty industry.

The Scottish Government want to know what people in Scotland think about fracking. They are currently running a public consultation getting people's views.

We are positive about winning a ban on fracking, but this will only happen if huge numbers of people tell the Scottish Government that it is the right thing to do!

It's crucial that people involved in the fracking fight encourage as many people as possible to get their voices heard and respond to the consultation.

This briefing sets out some of the ways you can take action to generate interest in the consultation. It will be open until 31st May 2017 so there's plenty of time to get involved!

Q. How can I take action?

A. Respond to the consultation

There are plenty of ways to respond, whether you're short on time or not.

1. You can respond on our website www.stopfracking.scot. We've created a short template response that you can adapt and personalise. This is a simple way to respond, and encourage others to respond, if you're busy and still want to take action.

2. Alternatively, you can respond at the Scottish Government's online consultation hub talkingfracking.scot. Here you can read the full consultation document, find out about the Scottish

Government's research on fracking and respond online.

3. Even better, send a personal response by writing to:

Unconventional Oil and Gas Team,
The Scottish Government,
3J South, Victoria Quay,
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
uogconsultation@gov.scot

The Scottish Government will take a personal response very seriously, so this is a great option if you have the time. It can also be a rewarding way to take action, helping you to think through the issues and develop your arguments.

We have more info to help you write a response on our website **stopfracking.scot**

Q. How can I encourage others to take action?

A. Get the word out

1. Tell your friends, family, colleagues and networks about fracking and encourage them to respond to the consultation online. Remember, it's quick and easy to respond online, and the more people that voice their concerns about fracking, the more likely the Scottish Government will ban it.

2. Organise a street stall, public meeting or film screening in your community to inform and engage people and enable them to respond to the consultation too. For support and resources on how to organise events like this, visit our website **stopfracking.scot/resources**

3. Get together with others who are interested, and write your responses together. Bring laptops and snacks along with you to make a fun evening out of it. You can even screen a short movie on fracking beforehand to inspire you to get writing!



Friends of the Earth Scotland

4. Order consultation postcards from Friends of the Earth Scotland, which we've designed specially to enable people to respond simply and easily to the consultation when they're at events, meetings and on street stalls. Why not have a stash of postcards in your bag whenever you go out? Once they're filled in, post the postcards back to us (they're freepost) and we'll get them to the Scottish Government.

5. Get involved with a group fighting fracking near you. There are many groups across Scotland who'll be active in the next few months – so find a group near you and get in touch. Frack Off have a list of local groups in Scotland including contact details at frack-off.org.uk/local-group-specific-pages/#anchor-11 and we have a list of local Friends of the Earth Scotland local groups here: www.foe-scotland.org.uk/localgroups

Q. What else can I do to amplify my impact?

A. Tell your Councillors, MSPs and MPs how you feel

1. Go along to your local community council meeting, [1] tell them how you feel about fracking, and encourage them to reach out for the views of local people, and respond to the consultation. They could hold an event about the issue to help inform the local community.

2. Write to your local councillors [2] to tell them how you feel about fracking and ask them to take a stance – with the local council elections coming up in May 2017, they'll want to know they can count on your vote...

3. Make sure your MSPs and MPs also know how you feel by phoning, writing or dropping into a surgery [2]. Remember, it's their job to represent you, and listen to your

Useful links

[1] If you are not sure who your community council is, or how to get in touch, visit: <http://www.communitycouncils.scot/community-council-finder.html>

[2] This helpful website uses a postcode search to find your local councillors, MSPs and MPs and lets you write your own email to all of them <https://www.writetothem.com/>

Template consultation response

Dear Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Energy Minister,

Fracking will hold back our efforts to fight climate change, poses serious public health risks and threatens communities across Scotland.

A significant body of evidence from around the world highlights the serious risks of unconventional oil and gas extraction to the climate, health and communities. This is supported by key findings from the Scottish Government's own commissioned research. In the face of growing evidence of harmful impacts, fracking must not be allowed to go ahead.

Develop your arguments around your key concerns here, for example:

- climate impact
- health risks
- environmental pollution
- increased traffic
- earthquake risks
- economic impacts

Local and global perspectives and arguments are both really important!

I'm calling on the Scottish Government to act urgently to ban unconventional oil and gas. Please treat this as a response to the current consultation 'Talking Fracking'.

P.S. I'm responding as an individual and I'm happy for my response to be published online anonymously.

concerns. You probably know a lot more about fracking than they do - so don't be nervous talking to them about your views.

For more information contact fmonk@foe-scotland.org.uk or visit our website www.stopfracking.scot