

EARTH ETHICS NEWS

EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL ISSUES

JULY 2019

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To Frack or not to Frack....that is the question.

We say NOT to frack... It's been at least 5 years since individuals and organizations band together to push for a ban on fracking in the state of Florida. This past year is the closest we have come to getting a ban. Several bills were proposed that didn't quite have the language we were looking for – we want a full ban on all forms of fracking. We thought for sure when the Governor announced in his Executive Order 19-12 that he wanted to ban fracking in Florida we would get what we long worked for, but that didn't happen. However, there is a high probability that the Governor has given the "go" to have the rule making language process started to implement the statewide ban he promised. We can't confirm or deny this yet, but we will definitely keep you informed.



So, you might be asking, why a ban?

Seven Reasons to Support Statewide Fracking Ban – from our partners at Floridians Against Fracking

Fracking Remains a Serious Public Health Risk: Fracking has been known to contaminate water resources due to accidents, leaks, and spills, making it a serious public health risk. A Duke University study identified close to 6,700 spills reported across four states during a 10-year period. In fact, there are more than 600 peer reviewed studies and articles demonstrating the harms of fracking.

Fracking Threatens Florida's Tourist Economy: Floridians know the impact that oil exploration can have on our economy. After the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, Florida's tourism industry took a major hit; the perception alone of oil washing ashore south of the Panhandle, even though untrue, cost those counties over 50,000 jobs due to the significant decrease in tourism, according to a Harvard study. A major industrial fracking accident could cause a similar impact.

Only a Legislative Ban offers Permanent Protection: Executive Order 19-12 is a bold step towards a fracking ban. While Gov DeSantis must clarify the definition of fracking to include matrix acidizing and acid fracking in addition to hydraulic fracturing, his order is a great first step towards ensuring our water is protected. Additionally, a bill passed by the legislature will demonstrate the state's commitment to clean water and will ensure that Floridians are permanently protected.

Banning Fracking Moves Florida Forward: It's been shown that fracking for oil primarily creates temporary jobs for out-of-state workers – not long-lasting jobs that Floridians need. In comparison, The Solutions Project estimates that 222,082 forty-year construction and 90,727 forty-year operation jobs could be created in Florida if we transitioned to renewable energy.

Property Rights: For good reason, property rights are held in high regard; they are the bedrock of our personal liberty. That's why we side with several lawyers, including former Senator and now Visit Florida President and CEO Dana Young, an environmental lawyer by training and the Republican Sponsor of the 2017 and 2018 fracking ban bills. These experts have reviewed the issue and conclude that we're not banning all access to mineral rights, only one dangerous form of extraction. Therefore, a ban on fracking is perfectly legal.

Environmental Justice: Regardless of their race, color, wealth, or national origin, every resident of Florida deserves clean and safe access to energy. But all too often, the extraction of fracked gas takes place in low income communities and communities of color, which then bear a disproportionate share of the harm. Calhoun county, where fracking would potentially occur, had a poverty rate of 21.9% in 2016, according to the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

Energy Independence: Fracking in Florida is not going to produce energy independence. That's because Florida contributes a scant amount to the overall production of oil and gas in the United States. In fact, Florida's reserves for potential future oil production are estimated to be less than one-tenth of one percent of our national reserves. Is it worth the risk to frack?

WE ABUSE LAND BECAUSE WE REGARD IT AS A COMMODITY BELONGING TO US. WHEN WE SEE LAND AS A COMMUNITY TO WHICH WE BELONG, WE MAY BEGIN TO USE IT WITH LOVE AND RESPECT. ~ALDO LEOPOLD, A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC

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#PlasticFreeJuly2019

Plastic Free July is upon us. Although we believe every month should be plastic free, we know we all have to start somewhere if we want to make a difference. So let's start with baby steps. Here's some easy things you can do to start a plastic less life:

- Use canvas/cloth bags instead of plastic bags.
- Use reusable/refillable water bottles instead of plastic bottles.
- Use cloth produce bags instead of purchasing produce wrapped in plastic.
- Use stainless steel or paper straws instead of plastic straws.

Let's put it into perspective, plastic bags we use in our everyday life take 10-1000 years to decompose, while plastic bottles can take 450 years or more. A single plastic straw can take 200 years to biodegrade. Is that the legacy you want to leave future generations?

Learn more about going Plastic Free or Plastic Less at <https://www.facebook.com/earthethics/>

Enough is Enough

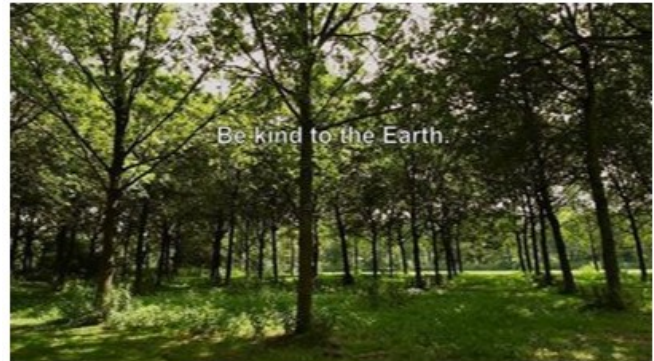
“I WOULD FEEL MORE
 OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A
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 (WO)MAN IF HE SPENT
 LESS TIME PROVING
 THAT HE CAN OUTWIT
 NATURE AND MORE
 TIME TASTING HER
 SWEETNESS AND
 RESPECTING HER
 SENIORITY.” ~ELWYN
 BROOKS WHITE,
 ESSAYS OF E.B.
 WHITE, 1977

Earth Action worked earlier this year to gather information and speak with qualified professionals on the occurrences of earthquakes in Florida and Alabama. We reached out to the Florida Geological Survey (FGS), University of Memphis, Alabama Geological Survey, and USGS for answers to address our concerns.

One of the initial responses from the Florida Geological Survey was “The number of seismic stations located in this region is pretty sparse and is insufficient to give seismologists enough data to pinpoint accurately the depth and exact location of each of these small magnitude earthquakes. With current data, the vertical and horizontal accuracy is within several kilometers. As a result, the USGS, FGS, Alabama Geological Survey and the University of Memphis are working together to install 4 seismic stations (will keep them in the area for 3-6 months) in the region so we can collect better information should additional seismic events occur. For now, that is about all we can do.” This was in March.

Earth Action believes, based on historical and present information, that it is still too early to make a sound determination as to the exact cause of the earthquakes and will continue to interact with others on this issue. We do believe, however, that it is highly probable that the earthquakes have occurred for a variety of reasons – oil and gas extraction, plate activities, and deepwell injection.

We also believed that it was inappropriate for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to issue a permit to Sklar Exploration Company L.L.C. Drilling Permit No. 1382 Mt. Carmel Field Pitnic Limited Well 16-3 for “The proposal is to drill a vertical field well 1 (Pitnic 16-3) to a vertical depth of approximately 15,500



feet within the Mount Carmel Field. The planned working area of 3.4 acres will be surrounded by a containment berm and includes a cement/in-situ soil, stone topped, drilling pad and closed-loop drilling mud system” until a determination can be made if oil and gas extraction processes are the cause of our recent earthquakes. We issued a petition for an administrative hearing to circumvent the issuance of this permit but was ultimately denied. The permit has been issued.

While working on the petition we were simultaneously contacting the Governor’s Office and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to ask for their intervention on putting a halt to any additional exploration or drilling activities. We have not received a response from either office. Our requests went out in March.

As most of you are aware of, in 1997 a magnitude 4.9 occurred in southern Alabama thus impacting Northern Florida. A publication was produced by Joan Gomberg, USGS, and Lorraine Wolf, Auburn University, that speculated on the possible link between oil and gas activities and the earthquake. Plate tectonic activity was also considered a possible cause.

We find it disturbing that oil and gas activities can continue while we are still seeking answers to

what has caused the earthquakes. Maybe it’s the earth’s way of saying enough is enough. Let’s rethink the way we do things. Not everything needs or should be about economics and just because we have the technology to do something doesn’t mean we should. We need to explore all options before continuing down a path of destruction.

Update: We are seeking an update from the USGS on the monitoring that has been occurring these last several months. We will keep you up to date - check the website for an update - earthethics.us.

I’m not an environmentalist. I’m an Earth warrior. ~ Darryl Cherney, quoted in Smithsonian, April 1990

Let's Build A Sustainable Future

The devastating effects of Hurricane Michael left thousands without homes, electricity and water. Many are still struggling to rebuild their lives. The impacted areas will be rebuilding for months and years to come. So, while we are rebuilding, let's think about what we want our future communities to look like. Let's keep in mind that we can expect to see an increase in the frequency and intensity of storm events, such as hurricanes, so let's act now to be as prepared as much as possible in the future. Let's start with something that benefits us, our community and the environment. Let's choose to go SOLAR.

According to the Solar Energy Industry Association, Florida ranks 8th in the nation for total

solar deployment; the state is projected to install over 4,836 MW over the next 5 years; and Florida ranks third in the nation for rooftop solar potential. We couldn't have said that a few years ago, but solar is growing in the Sunshine State and this is of course is a good thing. It's time for us to adapt to the environmental changes we will continue to experience in the future.

Thanks to our partnership with Solar United Neighbors of Florida and others we have been able to encourage the growth of solar with the development of solar co-ops throughout the State. We have been intimately involved with the co-ops in Okaloosa-Walton Counties and now in Escambia-Santa Rosa Counties. There's still time for you to help build a sustainable future not just for you, but all

of us.

Some of the many benefits of solar are: • a 30% federal tax credit (that will eventually disappear) • drastic reductions in your electric bill • increased property values • your role in helping to protect the environment.

Let's all be part of building a sustainable future.



Upcoming Events

Monday, July 8th beginning at 6 p.m. at Ever'man Educational Center located at 327 W Garden Street. We will be viewing A PLASTIC OCEAN. A PLASTIC OCEAN begins when journalist Craig Leeson, searching for the elusive blue whale, discovers plastic waste in what should be pristine ocean. In this adventure documentary, Craig teams up with free diver Tanya Streeter and an international team of scientists and researchers, and they travel to twenty locations around the world over the next four years to explore the fragile state of our oceans, uncover alarming truths about plastic pollution, and reveal working solutions that can be put into immediate effect. We'll discuss what you can do to help reduce your use of plastics! One lucky winner will receive a giftset to jump start a plastic reduced life. **Get your free ticket at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/viewing-of-a-plastic-ocean-tickets-62141184957>. Stay up to date at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2910230915683601/?ti=icl>**

Friday, July 12th beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Enlightened Studios 142 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. We will be viewing A PLASTIC OCEAN. We'll discuss what you can do to help reduce your use of plastics! One lucky winner will receive a giftset to jump start a plastic reduced life. **Stay up to date at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/298672121059551/?ti=icl>**

Saturday, July 20th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at OpenBooks 1040 N. Guillemard Street, Pensacola, FL 32501 for Eco Camp for kids ages 7 - 12. There will be hands on environmental education activities as well as ecoArt. Please preregister your kids at **<https://www.facebook.com/events/329525377993324/?ti=icl>**

Tuesday, July 23rd beginning at 6 p.m. at the Pensacola Library, Meeting Room B, 239 N Spring Street, Pensacola, FL 32502 join Solar United Neighbors of Florida for a discussion and question answering session on the Escambia – Santa Rosa Solar & Storage Co-op Info Session. **Stay up to date at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1601937339950980/?ti=icl>**

Monday, August 12th beginning at 6 p.m. at Ever'man Education Center our Guest Speaker is Julia Herbst with Florida Solar United Neighbors. Let's go Solar! Ms. Herbst will discuss and answer questions with regards to the newly launched Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties Solar & Storage Co-ops. **Stay up to date at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/421024835408476/?ti=icl>**

Tuesday, August 13th beginning at 6 p.m. at Tiger Point Community Center, 1370 Tiger Park Lane, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 join Solar United Neighbors of Florida for a discussion and question answering session on the Escambia – Santa Rosa Solar & Storage Co-op Info Session.

Earth Ethics Environmental Education Series is the second Monday of every month beginning at 6 pm at Ever'man Education Center. Stay up to date on activities by visiting <http://earthethics.us/community-events/>.

WHO WE ARE

The MISSION of Earth Ethics is to educate the public and increase awareness about environmental and social issues at local, regional, and global levels in an effort to engage, empower, and encourage public involvement towards positive resolutions.

The VISION of Earth Ethics is to be a leader in identifying and resolving environmental and social issues while creating a positive, sustainable, and healthy way of thought and life.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING ENGAGED?

Contact us at one of the many ways listed below.

BOARD MEMBERS

Gina Cooke
Laura Jolley
Marsha King
Elizabeth MacWhinnie
Christine Thompson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Gutierrez

STAFF

Kayla Hobgood

As always, we will continue our fight to create a world that is just and equal for humans and non-humans alike while protecting our Earth.

Earth Ethics, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization created to engage, empower, & encourage public involvement towards positive resolutions with regards to environmental & social issues. All monetary donations are welcomed.

To donate please visit: <http://earthethics.us/donations/>

Earth Action, the legislative and educational arm of Earth Ethics, is a 501 (c) (4) organization.

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"TREAT THE EARTH WELL: IT WAS NOT GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR PARENTS, IT WAS LOANED TO YOU BY YOUR CHILDREN." -

FIRST PEOPLE PROVERB