

UK Government Announces Fracking Moratorium

7th November 2019

England joins Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in suspending the controversial practice. But will the measure become permanent?

Fracking is highly controversial all around the world but there is an added complication in the United Kingdom in that it is a devolved **issue**. While regional

authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have had measures in place against fracking for some time, in England the central government had been encouraging and subsidising development of the extractive technique.

In a **watershed** moment for environmentalists and community activists, the government announced that it had halted fracking in England "until **compelling** new evidence is provided" that proves fracking is safe.

The decision was taken after a new scientific study **warned** it was not possible to **rule out** "unacceptable" consequences for those living near fracking sites. The report, undertaken by the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA), also warned it was not possible to predict the magnitude of earthquakes fracking might trigger.

Fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, involves pumping water, chemicals and sand underground at high pressure to fracture shale rock and release trapped oil and gas.

The UK's only active fracking site at Preston New Road in Lancashire was halted earlier this year after fracking **triggered** multiple earth tremors that **breached** the government's earthquake limits.

The decision was welcomed as a "victory for common sense" by green groups and campaigners who have fought for almost a decade against the controversial fossil fuel

extraction process. Craig Bennett, the chief executive of Friends of the Earth, said: "This moratorium is a tremendous victory for communities and the climate. Local people across the country have fought a David and Goliath battle against this powerful industry. We are proud to have been part of that fight."

However, the government's Business Secretary, Andrea Leadsom, clarified that the moratorium was only in place

"until the science changes". When asked why the ban wasn't permanent, she replied: "Because this is a huge opportunity for the UK."

The decision has coincided with the start of the general election campaign and Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, described the move as "**greenwash**" and electioneering. "Fracking could come back on 13 December, if they are elected back into office," he stated.

 Adapted by ECP coach Rob Hextall from [The Guardian](#)

Before you read the article, find this vocabulary in the text:

issue: an important topic for debate

watershed: a moment marking an important change in a situation

compelling: not able to be refuted

to warn: to inform in advance of a problem

to rule out: to exclude something as a possibility

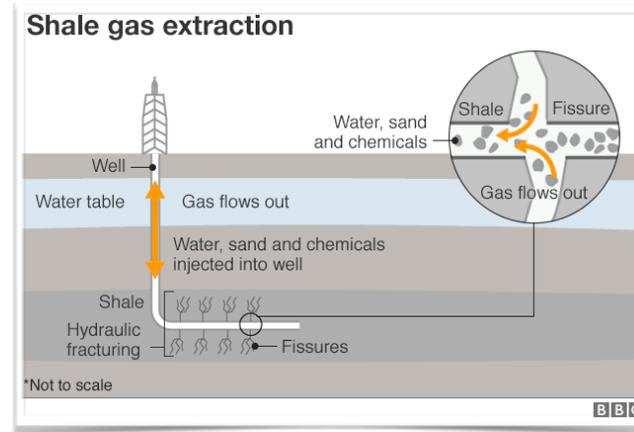
to trigger: to cause an event to happen/start

to breach: to break / not observe a law, agreement or code of conduct

greenwash: disinformation disseminated by an organization to present an environmentally responsible image (from 'brainwash')



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Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Are there any fracking projects near where you live?

What are the positive and negative effects of fracking?

Would you ban fracking? Why/Why not?

Have you ever participated in protests? If so, what against?

How do energy policies affect election campaigns where you live?

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Coffee Saturdays:

5th Oct ✓
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11th Jan
1st Feb
7th Mar
4th Apr
2nd May
6th Jun

Cinema Nights:

25th Oct ✓
29th Nov
20th Dec
31st Jan
28th Feb
27th Mar
24th Apr
29th May
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First Saturday of every month

Coffee Saturdays!

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Time: 11:00 to 12:30

Place: Panadería Bertiz, C/Francia 23



Click [here](#) to watch how 'frak' was used in to imitate 'fuck' in the award-winning TV series 'Galactica'



What the frack are you talking about?

For some people, especially science fiction fans, the words 'frack' and 'fracking' originally had a very different meaning...

'Frack' (or 'frak') is a fictional version of 'fuck' first used in the 1978 Battlestar Galactica television series. It continues to be used throughout different versions of the Battlestar Galactica franchise and has been used as a profanity in other works of science fiction.

In Irish English, one of the most common words is 'feck'. It occupies the ground between the ultra-mild expletive 'flip' and the often taboo (but also popular) 'fuck'.

Other similar sounding possibilities are 'freaking' and 'effing'.

Here are some examples:

I'm so **fecking** hungry I could eat a **fecking** horse.

What the **frack** are you talking about?

That's **flipping** awful! You should complain!

Will you **feck** off and leave me in peace!

I don't give a **frack**!

Oh **flip**! I've burned my toast!

I've lost my **effing** phone again!

Here are some other useful expressions:

What **on earth** are you doing?

Where **the hell** are my car keys?

Don't be so **bloody** selfish, think about other people for a change! (UK)

Well that was **darn** stupid of you! (US)

Oh **bugger**, my phone battery has died and I need to make a call! (UK)

Think about how you use 'soft' expletives in your own language. How could you say them in English?