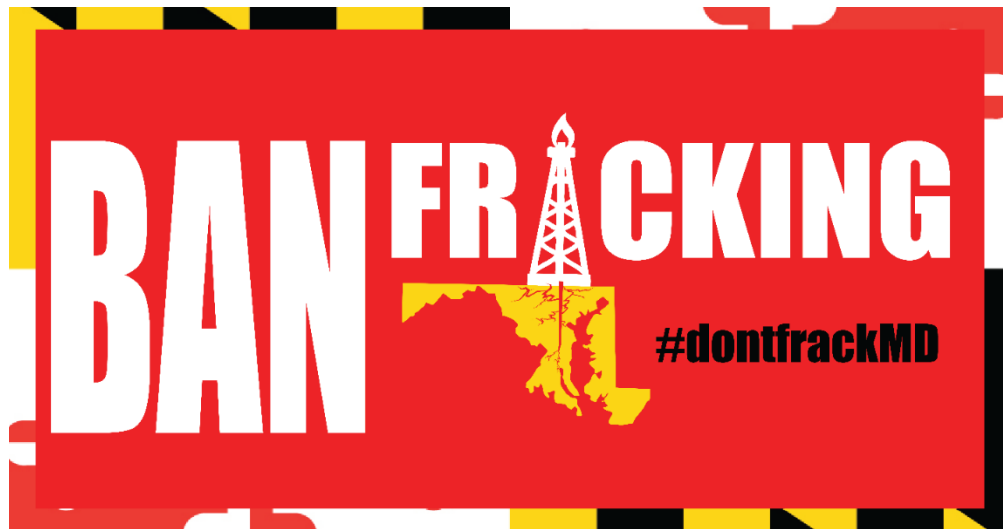


# FRACKING ACTIVIST TOOLKIT:

Get *your* city to endorse a fracking ban in Maryland



# Background

The movement against fracking in Maryland is growing!

In the 2015 Maryland General Assembly, [the Chesapeake Climate Action Network](#) (CCAN) worked with over 100 groups in the [Don't Frack Maryland Coalition](#) to put a 2.5 year moratorium on fracking.



Thanks to thousands of emails and calls, lobby meetings, actions and more, Governor Larry Hogan let HB 449 become law on May 29th, 2015. This bill puts a hold on drilling in Maryland until October 2017.

Since then, over 70 groups (and counting!) in Maryland have called for passage of a permanent ban on fracking in Maryland – from climate groups like CCAN, to riverkeepers, outfitters, service unions, public interest organizations, health groups, farmers and faith groups.

Meanwhile, Maryland's two most populous counties, Montgomery County and Prince George's County, which combined represent more than a third of the state's population, have effectively banned the practice. And poll-after-poll in Maryland shows that more than half of Marylanders now oppose it.

Despite the growing opposition to fracking in Maryland, the gas industry and its allies are already maneuvering to put fracking on the fast-track as soon as the moratorium lifts.

**Our mission is to build a powerful grassroots movement to pass a permanent, statewide ban on fracking** - the only guaranteed way to protect Marylanders from the dangers of fracking - before the current moratorium expires in October 2017.

**And we need you!** To overcome the power and influence of the gas industry in Annapolis, we need to show that the grassroots movement against fracking is bigger than ever. One of the best ways we can show that our movement is growing is to encourage our own cities to endorse a permanent, statewide ban.

# What's in this toolkit?

This toolkit contains everything you need to get *your* city to endorse a fracking ban!

1. Factsheet: [Ban Fracking to Protect Our Climate, Our Health, and Our Economy!](#)
2. Suggested Campaign Timeline
3. How to Lobby Your City Council
4. Sample City Council Resolution Language
5. How to Get a Letter Printed in Your Local Newspaper
6. Sample Petition to Your City Council Members
7. Sample Testimony
8. Weekly Activist Call and Other Resources



# Don't Frack Maryland

## Ban Fracking to Protect Our Climate, Our Health, and Our Economy!

Evidence continues to mount that fracking pollutes the air we breathe and the water we drink, while worsening climate change and uprooting local economies. In Maryland, we **won a major victory against the gas industry** -- by passing a two-year moratorium that will prevent fracking in Maryland through October 1, 2017.

But the gas industry is already maneuvering to be able to drill as soon as the moratorium lifts next year. We can't afford the risks. We have seen fracking destroy communities and leave a toxic legacy in its wake. We can and should power Maryland through renewable energy like wind and solar.

**Join the movement to ban fracking in Maryland!**

Email Brooke at [brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org) to get involved.

### What would fracking mean for Maryland?



Sherry Vargson ignites the tap water in her kitchen on the Vargson farmlands in Granville Summit, Pennsylvania. Photographer: Melanie Stetson Freeman/The Christian Science Monitor via Getty Images

#### Contaminated drinking water

In neighboring Pennsylvania, families have found high levels of methane in their drinking water and have even documented cases of being able to set their tap water on fire. Residents and businesses in Maryland could experience a one-two punch of having limited water sources drained for fracking and then polluted afterwards with toxic, carcinogenic chemicals used during the drilling process.

#### Bad air quality

A number of air contaminants known to cause short-term illness, cancer, organ damage, birth defects and even death are released through various stages of the fracking process, including smog, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, benzene, and formaldehyde.

#### Dropping home prices

A new study the University of Denver found that homes within a mile of drilling activity fell in value by as much as 15%! It goes without saying that the market value of a home or business with a contaminated well from fracking is dramatically less.

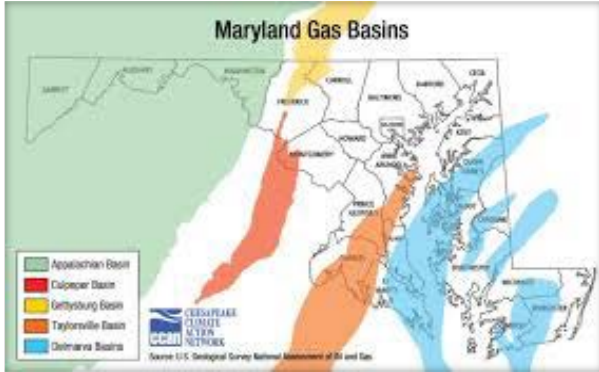
#### A warming climate

A growing body of evidence shows that fracked gas could be worse for the climate than coal over the next 20 years because of leaks of heat-trapping methane.



Fort Worth, Texas, is the epicenter of urban fracking. The city has at least 1,400 natural gas wells, some as close as 200 or 300 feet from people's houses. Photo by Fort Worth Citizens Against Neighborhood Drilling Ordinance

## Fracking is Not Just a Western Maryland Problem



Most reports about drilling and fracking in Maryland have focused on the potential to extract gas from the Marcellus shale in Garrett and Allegany counties in Western Maryland.

But assessments from the United States Geological Survey indicate that there are gas deposits in other basins throughout the state including portions of the following counties: **St. Mary's, Calvert, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne's, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester, Frederick and Montgomery counties.**

## Support for a ban on fracking is growing across Maryland

Over 70 groups (and counting) in Maryland have called for a ban on fracking – from climate groups like us, to river keepers, outfitters, service unions, public interest organizations, health groups, farmers and faith groups.

**Montgomery County and Prince George's County, which together represent over a third of Maryland's population, have already effectively banned fracking.** And poll-after-poll in Maryland shows that more than half of Marylanders oppose fracking.



## The only guaranteed way to protect Marylanders from fracking is through a permanent, statewide ban.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and our allies in the Don't Frack Maryland coalition, are committed to passing a permanent, statewide ban on fracking in Maryland before the state's two-year fracking moratorium expires in October 2017.

**Join the movement to ban fracking in Maryland!**

Email **Brooke** at [brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org) to get involved.



**TAKE ACTION!** To learn more, and find additional resources, visit our website at: <http://chesapeakeclimate.org/banfracking>.

To get involved, email CCAN's Maryland Outreach Coordinator, Brooke Harper, at [brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org).

## 2. Suggested Campaign Timeline



This section describes the typical timeline for a city council campaign.

- Schedule a meeting with your city councilmember. Ask them to introduce a city council resolution in favor of a statewide ban on fracking.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper encouraging the city council to pass a resolution in favor of a statewide ban on fracking.
- Recruit your friends, family and coworkers to call, email and/or meet with *their* city councilmembers to ask them to vote for the resolution.
- Circulate a petition in favor of a city council resolution to your neighbors. Deliver your petition signatures!
- Follow-up with your city councilmember. Find out when the resolution will be introduced and voted on.
- Bring your supporters to the vote. Win! Celebrate!

***Have questions? Need a hand? Email CCAN's Maryland Outreach Coordinator, Brooke Harper, at [brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org).***

# 3. How to Lobby Your City Council

This section describes what you should prepare before your lobby meeting, what to do during your meeting, and how to follow-up after your meeting.

To schedule the meeting itself: call or email your city councilmember's office, identify yourself as a constituent, and ask to meet with your city councilmember for 30 minutes to discuss your city endorsing a statewide ban on fracking.

## **What to Prepare**

### *Materials:*

- Factsheet
- Sample city council resolution language
- Any other supporting materials you think would be of interest to your city councilmember

### *Other attendees:*

Do you have any neighbors you can invite to join you for the meeting? The more constituents your city councilmember hears from, the more likely he or she is to say yes when asked to introduce a city council resolution in favor of a statewide ban on fracking. You can also bring in people with special expertise or a unique point of view, like local faith leaders, civic group leaders or professors.

### *Roles:\**

Here are some examples of useful roles to assign beforehand:

- **Leader:** Leads introductions, gives meeting overview, closes the meeting, keeps things on track
- **Expert:** Someone who can relay the facts about fracking and why there is an urgent need for action
- **Storyteller:** Delivers the message, makes it personal, speaks to why the council should act
- **Ask:** Makes the hard ask and is prepared to respond
- **Note-taker:** Takes comprehensive notes and shares them with the group
- **Time-keeper:** Makes sure the meeting ends on time
- **Follow-up:** Leaves any materials the group may have

Note: one person can play multiple roles.

## **During the meeting**

When you arrive at your city councilmember's office, introduce yourself and explain that you have an appointment.

# How to Lobby Your City Council

*Suggested Agenda (30 minutes):*

- **Introductions (1 min)** - Very brief; names and hometowns
- **Meeting overview (1 min)** - Why are you there? What do you want to talk about?
- **Issue (10 min)** –
  - Problem: What fracking would mean for Maryland, and for your community.
  - Solution: Why a permanent, statewide ban is the only guaranteed way to protect Maryland from the dangers of fracking.
  - Urgency/Opportunity: Why your community needs to endorse a statewide ban. Why your councilmember is the right person to introduce that resolution.
- **The ‘Ask’ (1 min)** - Yes or no: will your councilmember introduce a city council resolution in favor of a statewide ban on fracking. Why?/Why not?
- **Q&A (5 min)** – Answer the councilmember’s questions
- **Info Gathering (5 min)** – Have they heard from anyone on this issue already? Who? Is there anyone they need to hear from? How quickly can they introduce the resolution? Who do they think would vote for it? Who do they think wouldn’t? How can you help them get it passed?
- **Closing (1 min)** – Thank them for their time, and agree on a follow-up plan.

## After the meeting

After the meeting, you should email your city councilmember within 1-2 days and thank them again for their time. Include any follow-up materials (factsheet, sample resolution language, etc...) with your email, and reiterate the timeline for introduction.



# 4. Sample Resolution Language

This section includes a copy of the resolution introduced in the City of Baltimore. Your city can use this language verbatim, or write their own. The areas in red should be customized.

## A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

### A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning Request for State Action - Ban Hydraulic Fracturing in Maryland FOR the purpose of supporting the passage of a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.

#### Recitals:

1. Exposure to the chemicals used or released in hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities may pose a widespread and significant risk to public health, safety, and the environment.
2. Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities can involve the use of high volumes of chemicals, some of which are known to be carcinogenic, neurotoxic, endocrine disruptors, or could otherwise be harmful to human health.
3. Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities use millions of gallons of freshwater per well, which are then contaminated by chemicals, salts, and potentially radioactive materials.
4. Pollution caused by hydraulic fracturing and fracking-related activities threatens the long-term well-being of communities. Clear evidence exists that fracking diminishes property values, harms existing tourism-related businesses, and disrupts economic sustainability by forcing reliance on a “boom/bust” economic order. Fracking is also known to jeopardize air and water quality on which all communities depend.
5. Hydraulic fracturing irreversibly industrializes pristine rural communities, prohibiting their ability to rely on farming or ecotourism after the process of extracting gas has finished.
6. Hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing-related activities result in the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which drives climate change. It is irresponsible for a state to further invest in an industry that will exacerbate the impacts of climate change.
7. As an **urban center, and a port city, Baltimore has high potential for being heavily impacted by climate change.**

# Sample Resolution Language

8. Emerging scientific research confirms that hydraulic fracturing and hydraulic fracturing related activities are inherently risky. There is no scientific research supporting claims that it can be carried out in a way that reduces health and environmental risks to an acceptable level.
9. The final report of the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative concedes that implementing “best management practices” cannot eliminate the risks involved in hydraulic fracturing and that many gaps remain in the information with which it was working.
10. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE **CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That **Council** supports the passage of a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.
11. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the **Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.**



# 5. How to Get a Letter Printed in Your Local Newspaper



This section contains tips for getting a letter printed in your local newspaper, and suggested talking points you can use to write your letter. Writing a “letter to the editor” is a great way to educate your city about fracking and put pressure on your city councilmembers to pass your resolution quickly.

## *To submit your letter:*

Visit your local newspaper’s website, and follow the instructions for submitting a letter. Most papers either have an online submission form you can use, or ask you to email the letter directly to the letters editor.

## *The best letters are:*

- Short: ~150-200 words
- Relevant/timely: in response to a story in the newspaper, or a breaking story covered elsewhere
- Local: about a specific local issue like your resolution
- Have a clear ask

## *Suggested talking points:*

- When Maryland’s two-year fracking moratorium expires in October 2017, drilling could soon follow. And we can’t afford the risks.
- The science shows that fracking threatens the air we breathe and the water we drink, while also worsening climate change
  - Air quality: A number of air contaminants known to cause short-term illness, cancer, organ damage, birth defects and even death are released through various stages of the fracking process, including smog, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, benzene, and formaldehyde.
  - Water: Limited water sources would be drained for fracking, and then polluted afterwards with toxic, carcinogenic chemicals used during the drilling process.
  - Health: Because some health effects may take years to show up, the nature and severity of the long-term, cumulative health impacts of fracking and drilling are still unknown.

# How to Get a Letter Printed in Your Local Newspaper

- o Climate change: A growing body of evidence shows that fracked gas could be worse for the climate than coal over the next 20 years because of leaks of heat-trapping methane.
- o Real estate values: One recent study showed that homes within a mile of drilling activity lose as much as 15% of their value.
- The only guaranteed way to protect Marylanders across the state from fracking is through a permanent, statewide ban.
- Our city council should send a loud and clear message to the General Assembly that it is time to say NO to fracking in Maryland by passing a resolution in favor of a permanent, statewide ban.

After you submit your letter, you can call the letters editor (their number is usually listed on the newspaper's website) to confirm they received your letter and encourage them to print.

**Please forward your submitted letter to Brooke at [brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org).**

# 6. Sample Petition

This section contains sample language for a petition to your city councilmembers, and tips on how to collect your signatures.

Dear **[insert city]** Council,

*Evidence continues to mount that hydraulic fracturing (fracking) poses a serious threat to our drinking water, air, health, and economy, while significantly worsening climate change. From our neighbors in Pennsylvania, we have seen fracking destroy communities and leave pollution in its wake. Unless we act, the gas industry could move into Maryland next.*

*The only guaranteed way to protect Marylanders across the state from fracking is through a permanent, statewide ban. **I urge you to support a [insert city name] City Council resolution in favor of a permanent, statewide ban on fracking in Maryland.***

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Address]

[Phone]

[Email]

How to collect your signatures:

- Contact Brooke at [brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org) to ask CCAN to create an online version of your petition that you can share via email and on social media.
- Print out your petition and take it door-to-door in your neighborhood, or bring it to your local Farmer's Market or grocery store.
- Make a presentation at your local community group or neighborhood association meeting, circulate your petition and ask everyone to sign it.

Deliver your signatures during a drop-by or sit-down meeting with your city councilmember, or at a city council meeting.

# 7. Sample Testimony

This section contains sample language for testifying in favor of a resolution in front of your city council. Most city council meetings allow time for public testimony.

We recommend printing two copies of your testimony – one to read from and one to leave with the council.

**[Body]**

**[Date]**

**[Your name]**

Chairman/woman **[insert their last name]**, members of the council, thank you for allowing me to present my testimony today. My name is **[insert your name]**, and I'm a resident of **[city/county name]**. I'm testifying in support of **[insert bill name/number]**, a resolution in favor of a permanent, statewide ban on fracking.

Our neighbors in Pennsylvania welcomed industrial fracking operations years ago, as did many other states across the country. Luckily, we haven't yet here in Maryland. We've had the luxury of learning from our neighbors, and what we've learned is that industrial fracking has destructive and irreversible impacts on our air, water, soil and health, not to mention local economies and our climate.

## **Climate**

Fracking would contribute to climate change at a time when Maryland's coastline is already at risk.

A growing body of evidence shows that fracked gas could be worse for the climate than coal over the next 20 years because of leaks of heat-trapping methane.

## **Property Values**

Fracking would threaten property values in Maryland.

A new study the University of Denver found that homes within a mile of drilling activity fell in value as much as 15%! It goes without saying that the market value of a home or business with a contaminated well from fracking is dramatically less.

## **Air and Water**

Fracking would threaten Maryland's air and water quality.

A number of air contaminants known to cause short-term illness, cancer, organ damage, birth defects and even death are released through various stages of the fracking process, including smog, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, benzene, and formaldehyde.

# Sample Testimony

And in neighboring Pennsylvania, families have found high levels of methane in their drinking water and have even documented cases of being able to set their tap water on fire. Residents and businesses in Maryland could experience a one-two punch of having limited water sources drained for fracking and then polluted afterwards with toxic, carcinogenic chemicals used during the drilling process.

And because some health effects may take years to show up, the nature and severity of the long-term, cumulative health impacts of air and water pollution from fracking are still unknown.

## **Fracking is Not Just a Western Maryland Problem**

Most reports about drilling and fracking in Maryland have focused on the potential to extract gas from the Marcellus shale in Garrett and Allegany counties in Western Maryland. But assessments from the United States Geological Survey indicate that there are gas deposits in other basins throughout the state including portions of the following counties: St. Mary's, Calvert, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne's, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester, Frederick and Montgomery counties.

## **Support for a Ban on Fracking is Growing in Maryland**

Since the Maryland General Assembly passed a 2-year moratorium on fracking last year, over 70 groups in Maryland have called for passage of a permanent ban. And Maryland's two most populous counties, Montgomery and Prince George's, who combined represent more than a third of the state's population, have effectively banned the practice. Meanwhile, poll after poll shows that more than half of Marylanders now oppose it.

Fracking threatens Maryland's air, water, health, economy and climate. The only guaranteed way to protect our communities from fracking is through a permanent, statewide ban.

By voting for a resolution in favor of a permanent, statewide ban on fracking, this council will send a loud and clear message to the Maryland General Assembly that it is time to say no to fracking for good.

Thank you again for your time!

# 8. Weekly Activist Call and Other Resources

## *Weekly Activist Call*

CCAN's Maryland Outreach Coordinator, Brooke Harper, is hosting a weekly call – **Mondays at 7:30 PM** - for activists working in their cities and counties to build support for a ban on fracking. Join the call to learn more, hear tips and tricks from other activists, and get your questions answered.

To join the call:

- Dial (712) 770-4010
- At the prompt, enter the code 143330
- Announce yourself at the ding

To reach Brooke Harper, email [brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org).

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## *Websites*

- Visit CCAN's website for more information on what fracking would mean for Maryland and why we need to pass a permanent, statewide ban:  
[www.chesapeakeclimate.org/banfracking](http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/banfracking).
- Visit the "Don't Frack Maryland" campaign page for updates about the coalition of more than 70 groups working to pass a permanent, statewide ban:  
<http://www.dontfrackmd.org/>.

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