

Shale Gas Effect on Climate Change: Globally and in New Brunswick

Perhaps the best example of the unsustainable nature of shale gas is its contribution to increasing climate change. **The just-released International Panel on Climate Change Report**, stated that scientists have more than 95% confidence that **climate change is the result of man-made emissions**. Do a few jobs today justify environmental devastation tomorrow?

The global, scientific consensus on climate change has major international institutions worried. The World Bank, the International Energy Agency, the accounting firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the insurance industry, and the military and intelligence agencies of all the great powers now say that **climate change is the number one problem of this century**.



Scientific forecasts now predict disastrous climate changes in the next 30 or 40 years! **Climate change has already begun and will become much, much worse for our children if we don't protect them today.**

Scientists warn that in order to prevent an outright catastrophe, we must leave two-thirds of all fossil fuels in the ground, particularly unconventional tarsands and shale gas. Why are unconventional fuels so dangerous?

The extraction and refining of these difficult-to-get-to substances requires the burning of great amounts of fossil fuels. In fact, **unconventional fuels produce little more fuel than the amount of fuel burned in their production**. This is inefficient, expensive, and produces more CO2 emissions than conventional fuels.

The Special Problem of Methane

When methane itself gets into the atmosphere as a climate change gas, it is 105 times more powerful than CO2 over a 20-year period and 25 times more powerful over a 100-year period.

If more than 3.2% of extracted methane leaks into the atmosphere, its clean burning benefits are lost.

Recent studies from the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** and the **University of Colorado** found that **leakage from several shale gas fields** (wells, pipelines, tanks, etc) **ranged from 4% to 12%, making it worse than burning coal.**

Developing shale gas also steers investments to new fossil fuel infrastructure, rather than in developing desperately needed clean energy alternatives.

Scientists agree: Climate Change is Here!

Between 1991 and 2012 there were 13,926 peer-reviewed scientific papers that supported climate change.

New Brunswickers already feeling effects of Climate Change!

In 2012, August-like summertime temperatures in March melted 60 centimeters of snow in a single day, resulting in a flood that nearly wiped Perth-Andover off the map, causing millions of dollars of damage paid for by the citizens of New Brunswick.

The head climatologist at Environment Canada recently spoke about the high costs of infrastructure damage and repair that New Brunswick already pays because of severe weather events associated with climate change.

He predicts that **those costs are certain to rise significantly** in the future.

No matter where you live in New Brunswick, or whether you live in a shale gas area or not, you will share in the increasing human and financial costs of climate change.

The insurance industry in Canada recently noted that claims for floods have been increasing steadily for 20 years and that this year they have for the first time exceeded the claims for fires.

This trend is not sustainable.

Any money spent on disaster relief or rebuilding is money that is not available for other necessities or special projects to improve New Brunswick.

While the development of the shale gas industry does create a few short-term jobs today, those jobs carry a price tag that grows as the effects of climate change rapidly increase.

Grand Lake Residents Worry Weather is Sign of Climate Change

Region hit with flooding, tornado in recent weeks
CBC News, posted July 30, 2013

The community was hammered with about 13 centimetres of rainfall on Friday. Docks were submerged and beaches disappeared.

Earlier this month, a tornado hit the area producing winds of up to 175 km/h and leaving a path of destruction about 15 kilometers long.

Paul Arp, a University of New Brunswick professor, who develops sophisticated flood maps, said, "To us, from a scientific perspective, this suggests global warming, for the simple reason, the warmer the water temperatures become, the more water rises into the air," he said

