

# THE TRUTH: 'NATURAL' GAS (or fracked shale gas, as it should be called)

## What is Fracked Shale Gas?

It is a fossil fuel, extracted using a dangerous method called hydraulic fracking which causes severe water pollution and earth tremors. Fracked shale gas is responsible for abundant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as **highly under-reported amounts of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emissions throughout its lifecycle, more than ALL other fossil fuels combined.**

This so called 'Natural' Gas is being sold to the public by the Irish Government as a climate-friendly transition fuel which will help us to become a climate neutral Europe in 2050.

Fracking was banned in Ireland in 2017 by the 'Prohibition of Onshore Hydraulic Fracturing Act'. Together with the 'Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act' 1960 it is illegal to "work(ing) petroleum by means of hydraulic fracturing", and this "includes digging, searching for, boring for, getting, raising, **taking, carrying away, storing and treating** petroleum."

The U.S. shale gas makes up 89% of global shale gas production. US growth predictions of 465% from 2005 will have catastrophic effects on global attempts to prevent climate disaster.

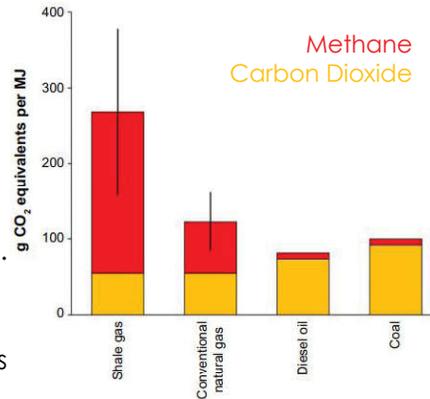
## What is methane and what does it do?

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is the second worst Greenhouse Gas after Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). BUT...

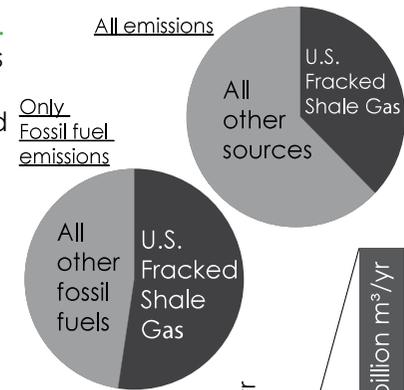
Methane's Global Warming Potential is **87 times more damaging** than CO<sub>2</sub>, measured over a 20 year period.

**Reducing methane emissions offers one of the best routes for immediately slowing the rate of global warming.**

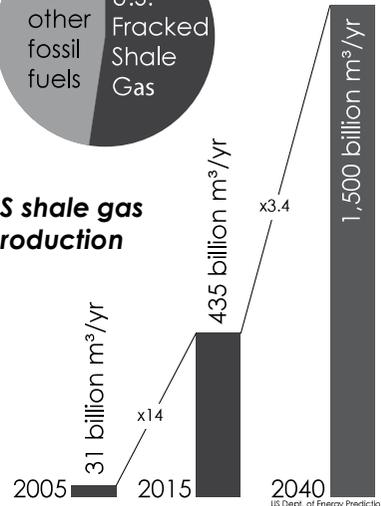
**Despite all this, the government is currently pushing to import US fracked shale gas that will devastate efforts of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C, essential to avoid the dangerous climate 'tipping point' of no return according to the IPCC.**



## Global Emissions: last decade



## US shale gas production



## We've banned fracked gas.

### Do we need to import fracked gas?

No. Right now many of us are trying to reduce our ecological footprint already.

We need to phase-out all fossil fuels as soon as possible and there are already more sustainable and ethical renewable technologies available to us. See: Prof. Barry McMullin - *Is natural gas "Essential for Ireland's future Energy security"?*

[www.stopclimatechaos.ie](http://www.stopclimatechaos.ie)

**Fracked gas is NOT a climate-friendly transition fuel.**

**There is a better way!**

### What is Shannon LNG project?

Proposed Liquefied Natural Gas terminal to facilitate the importing of US fracked gas, about **104 tankers a year** 50% of which will be exported to EU.

- devastation of Shannon Estuary SPA+SAC
- devastation of bottlenose dolphin calving area.

- devastation of delicate ecosystem by cooling of Shannon Estuary waters by 11°C.
- Risk of disaster due to explosions.
- Loss to fishing and tourism industries.
- Currently all existing EU LNG terminals have a utilisation rate of 25%. Any new LNG terminal - ie stranded asset risk.

## Do you want...

- increased global Greenhouse gas emissions?
- decades of delay to switch to renewables?
- to undermine farmers' efforts to reduce methane emissions?
- an energy security meaning 30-50 yrs dependency on the US?
- to be responsible for an industry which increases ground-level ozone levels?
  - damaging public health and agriculture in the US?
- causing increased rare cancers?
- flammable drinking water?

### What has happened so far?

- NO public consultation.**
- NO Strategic Environmental Assessment** for importing fracked shale gas.
- NO full life cycle analysis of emissions** - ignoring local and global impact.
- NOT mentioned in National Energy Policy**
- NOT mentioned in 2017 'National Mitigation Plan'**
- NOT mentioned in 2019 'Draft statutory climate change adaptation plan for electricity and Gas Network Sector'.**

**EU ask for global oil and gas methane emission reduction targets of 45% by 2025.**

**LAST WEEK: Government ignores Climate Crisis, ignores Science, ignores motion signed by 44 TDs, ignores majority of Southern Irish MEPs and ignores 50 environmental, climate, medical and other civil society groups from Ireland and the US.**

### FOLLOW: European Court of Justice

'Shannon LNG extension to planning challenged' by Friends of the Irish Environment. [www.friendsoftheirishenvironment.org](http://www.friendsoftheirishenvironment.org)

**READ: THE SCIENCE:** Robert W. Howarth (2019). *Ideas and perspectives: is shale gas a major driver of recent increase in global atmospheric methane?*

### GET INVOLVED / more info:

Love Leitrim (Twitter) | [www.StopShannonLNG.ie](http://www.StopShannonLNG.ie)  
[www.NotHereNotAnywhere.com](http://www.NotHereNotAnywhere.com) | [www.Gastivists.org](http://www.Gastivists.org)  
[www.SafetyBeforeLNG.ie](http://www.SafetyBeforeLNG.ie) | [www.ExtinctionRebellionIreland.com](http://www.ExtinctionRebellionIreland.com)