Tu B’Shvat 5772:
Celebrating Water and Learning about Hydrofracking

Distributed by the Green Zionist Alliance
www.GreenZionism.org

Why Talk About Hydrofracking on Tu B’Shvat?

On Tu B’Shvat, the Jewish Earth Day, we celebrate Creation and rededicate ourselves to work for its protection. Hydrofracking (hydraulic fracturing) is an extreme form of natural gas extraction that uses huge amounts of water mixed with toxic chemicals. Hydrofracking pollutes the land, the air and the water, and poses serious risks to human health, especially to children. On this Tu B’Shvat we affirm our responsibility to safeguard the Earth for our children, grandchildren and all future generations.

Food for Thought *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Water Consumption</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typical water consumption from one 10-minute shower</td>
<td>95 liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water required to produce a slice of bread</td>
<td>40 liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water required to produce a hamburger</td>
<td>2,400 liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water required to produce a cotton shirt</td>
<td>2,700 liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water required to produce an Indian-made Tata Motors Nano automobile</td>
<td>62,500 liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water required to produce a U.S.-made Chevrolet Malibu</td>
<td>1,934,500 liters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Toilets use more water than any other domestic appliance. Over time the average amount of water in a standard flush has fallen from 6 gallons to 1.6 gallons.
- Water, in vapor form, is the most important greenhouse gas, so it plays a major role in the climate of our planet.
- Because water reaches its maximum density in its liquid form, at 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit, it stays at the surface as it starts to freeze. This is a rare property shared by very few other substances. If this were not so, lakes, ponds, rivers and oceans would freeze from the bottom up.


Four Questions

1. Where does your water come from and where does it go after you use it?

2. What are the threats to the quality of water in your community?

3. Why are there over 360 references to water in the Torah? How many can you think of?

4. “Rav Yehudah said: The day when rain falls is as great as the day when the Torah was given…” (Babylonian Talmud, Ta’anit 7a) What do you think Rav Yehudah meant?

“Water is cheap and wine is expensive, yet it is possible for the world to live without wine, but it is impossible for the world to live without water.” (Jerusalem Talmud, Horayot 3:5)

www.JewsAgainstHydrofracking.org
About Hydrofracking

Horizontal drilling / high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HD/HVHF) is new and different from conventional drilling, and it is much riskier. In drilling the drill bit is turned sideways to penetrate long distances from the vertical well. Large amounts of water — 3 million to 9 million gallons in some areas — are pumped into the ground at extremely high pressure to fracture the rock. The industry is resorting to this type of drilling to access natural-gas deposits that previously were not feasibly recoverable. The largest natural-gas formation in the United States is the Marcellus Shale, which extends from New York to West Virginia. People who live near gas wells are suffering from poisoned wells and dirty air. But we should all be concerned:

- Hydrofracking taxes water resources and pollutes water. It requires the use of toxic chemicals, brings radioactive elements in the rock to the surface, and results in contamination by gas.
- Hydrofracking is exempt from many environmental laws due to lobbying by the energy industry.
- Hydrofracking supports our economy’s addiction to fossil fuels. Although natural gas burns relatively cleaner burning than coal and oil, it is still a fossil fuel that releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.

As Jews, we are sensitive to the ethical implications of hydrofracking. We value life above all else, and place limits on what we are allowed to do for profit. We are obligated to protect the poor and vulnerable who suffer first from unregulated exploitation of natural resources. We recognize our responsibility to safeguard the Earth. The expansion of hydrofracking is not aligned with these values.

What You Can Do

- In New York State, participate in Call Cuomo Mondays. Call the governor in New York (212-681-4580) or Albany (518-474-8390) to tell him how you feel about hydrofracking. Ask your senators and assembly members to support bills to ban fracking in New York State, such as SB 4220, sponsored by Sen. Tony Avella, and AB 7218, sponsored by Assemblyman William Colton. You can circulate this link: http://tinyurl.com/banfrackingny

- In Pennsylvania, ask your legislators to vote against SB1100/HB1950 which would remove oil and gas drilling from most local land-use regulation. You can circulate this link: http://tinyurl.com/pennfrackingpetition

- Hydrofracking is taking place in more than 25 states. For information about what is happening in other states, go to the links on www.JewsAgainstHydrofracking.org — and to find out about hydrofracking in Israel, go to: www.GreenZionism.org

Support our Campaign: 100 Jewish Communities Wake Up to Hydrofracking

Jews Against Hydrofracking is encouraging every Jewish community to learn about this issue by screening “Gasland,” a documentary that investigates if fracking is safe. Plan a screening in your living room, synagogue, JCC, or youth group. For more information go to: www.JewsAgainstHydrofracking.org

הישועה ממעיני בששון ממעיני יハウス
Ush’av’tem mayim b’sa-sone me-my-nay ha-y’shuah (repeat)
Mayim, mayim, mayim, mayim, hay mayim b’sa-sone (repeat)
Hay, hay, hay, hay,
mayim, mayim, mayim, mayim, mayim, mayim, b’sa-sone (repeat)

Joyfully shall you draw water from the fountains of salvation (Isaiah 12:3)