



Local Leaders,

*This will be our first in a series of emails to elevate some core issues we've been working on. Let us know what you think or if there are any other issues spotlights you'd be interested in.*

**Let's talk about fracked gas.** In Washington, we've been burning fossil fuels to power daily life for nearly 150 years.

Beginning with the replacement of wood with coal in fireplaces in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, fossil fuel use expanded to heating water, cooking food, powering appliances, generating electricity and fueling our vehicles. These uses of coal, oil and gas transformed our society and culture and created jobs for Washingtonians.

#### **Why this matters?**

As you know, producing and burning coal, oil and fracked gas has caused serious damage to our environment and public health, and has released so much greenhouse gases into the air that communities across the globe are stressed and sick.

[Toxic air and water pollution from fossil fuels sickens and shortens life](#), and increases the burden of systemic racism on communities of color. The science tells us the next few millennia will be very challenging for life on earth if we don't embrace the clean energy transformation. There are affordable, clean alternatives ready to go right now. There is no reason why our daily lives can't be powered by safe, clean, affordable and renewable energy, rather than dirty fossil fuels that hurt us and threaten our future.

It doesn't matter if the fossil fuel is coal, oil or fracked gas. Fracked gas is not clean, it's not safe, and burning gas, rather than coal or oil, still makes the climate crisis worse. If we don't phase out all fossil fuels, we'll see more pandemics, more climate fires, more landslides, floods and storms. With every catastrophe, more folks will be out of work, and it will be harder to recover.

#### **Why this matters for *your* community?**

A clean energy transformation will make life better for communities across Washington. Clean energy will mean lower utility bills, cleaner air, and less pollution from energy production. [Communities of color and low-income communities are hit the hardest and in a disproportionate way](#) by the continued production and use of fossil fuels. Moving towards clean energy solutions is a necessary step to address racism and environmental justice in our communities. Even more, we will have averted the worst scenarios for climate change and will be building a resilient, more just world powered by good local jobs.

We must see the clean energy transformation as our opportunity to build a better life for everyone, creating good, local steady jobs, for generations to come. It's possible and affordable right now.

## What are local leadership opportunities on fracked gas?

- *Local Policy Updates* – Cities like Bellingham and Tacoma are looking at reducing gas use to achieve their climate goals. Seattle updated their energy code to steer new commercial and large residential buildings away from running on polluting and inefficient fracked gas -- to running on clean and more efficient electricity instead.
  - Look to the [State's 2021 Energy Strategy](#), which lays out a robust, equitable set of policies and actions for achieving our state's greenhouse gas emission targets, brings together sector-specific actions to transition off fossil fuels. The Strategy provides an even-handed set of strategies to understand how to transition off gas in our buildings, transportation, and electricity sector, recognizing that we must transition current jobs and industries and do it equitably so no one community or group bears the burden of this transition.
- *Supporting Good Ideas* – Your voice carries tremendous weight, especially in Olympia. Let them know when your supportive of the good work their up to, such as:
  - New legislation in 2021 like [the Healthy Homes and Clean Buildings Act \(HB 1084\)](#) that takes a critical step forward in ensuring a cohesive approach towards ensuring all Washingtonians can weather future climate crises, expanding access to clean, efficient and affordable heating, and addressing longstanding health and climate pollution problems around gas combustion and leakage inside homes and other buildings.
  - The Governor's budget that prioritizes getting off fracked gas through new investments in public building retrofits, low-income weatherization, and next-generation clean buildings.
- *Raising Concerns about Bad Ideas* – For example, when companies push large scale gas terminals such as the PSE's LNG proposal in Tacoma and Northwest Innovation Works' Gas to Methanol facility in Kalama despite the large and sustained opposition of community members, residents and tribal nations. It takes coordinated leadership to stand strong against these bad ideas of our communities.
- *Engaging in State Level Processes* - Washington is currently developing [new guidance under our State Environmental Policy Act](#) for scientifically-sound evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions of new major fossil fuel facilities like Tacoma LNG and Kalama Methanol, recognizing the inconsistencies in those processes to date. There will be a comment period this spring where you can provide your community's perspective. We will provide you more information when that is out.

### Staff Spotlight: Anna Doty



Anna Doty is the Fossil Fuel Campaign Manager for Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation voters. She represents our organizations in [Power Past Fracked Gas](#) and directs [Stand Up To Oil](#)—two regional coalitions committed to protecting Pacific Northwest communities from new fracked gas and oil terminals and paving the way for a clean and just transition.

As part of this work, she also leads our organizations engagement in strengthening state environmental review and local land use laws in fossil fuel hot spot communities. And would love to be a resource for you as well!

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Given the complexity and importance of this work, we hope to continue to engage with you on fracked gas issues, and work with you to figure out what a clean energy transition would look like in your community.

We'll continue to share information and resources on critical issues. Let us know what else we can do to be a resource for environmental progress in your community.

Best,  
Danielle & Emily

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