

Fracking Action Guide - April 2015

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April is a really important month for the anti-fracking movement. Lancashire County Council is due to make a decision about whether to say Yes or No to fracking on the ground by the end of the month. This is not only a huge moment for communities fighting fracking on the ground in Lancashire, but what happens in Lancashire could also determine what happens on fracking across the rest of the UK.

As if that wasn't enough, the General Election is also right around the corner and we want to make sure that fracking is a real election issue. So far due to the strength and resilience of the anti-fracking movement we've kept fracking out of the UK for 4 years (since the first attempt in Blackpool). The UK anti-fracking movement is growing by the day and now is the time for us to stand together and throw everything – including the kitchen sink – at our campaign to make sure we keep Lancashire and the whole of the UK frack-free for good.

“I have been amazed at the determination, and persistence of the Frack-free Lancashire Groups. All members bring something different but everyone is united in their determination to stop our beautiful County of Lancashire and the UK as a whole from being ruined by fracking. Members continue to amaze me by the depth of their knowledge... they've become experts in their own right.”

Dot Kelk, Central Lancashire Friends of the Earth



1. 11 April – National Day of Action



This April it will have been 4 years since the last fracking and resulting tremors in Blackpool. Despite all of the Government's efforts – from Osborne's secret plans to push fracking (<http://www.foe.co.uk/news/frackgate-osborne-fracking-scandal>) through to tax breaks for the industry - they've still not managed to frack anywhere in the UK since then. Clearly our efforts are working.

We want to take this timely opportunity to celebrate our hard work and ramp up the pressure to keep fracking out of the UK for good.

The plan

- On 11 April we want to help people across the country to celebrate 4 years frack free and put the spotlight on Lancashire before the big decision.
- There are lots of ways to do this, including celebrating across social media, spreading the news and helping to share anti-fracking window posters (http://www.foe.co.uk/go/A4fracking_poster) and also throwing parties in your town or village.
- It would be fantastic if you're able to help create a celebration near you on this day. Here are some ideas that might help:

Top tips for throwing a party near you!

- **It's great to create fun little celebration stalls that will be inviting to passers-by.** It's important to be as approachable and welcoming as possible to help people feel comfortable about coming over.
- **Pick a place with lots of passers-by and enough space for a table for props and party things.** Make sure it's a public space and you have permission to be there.
- **We'll provide some big anniversary cards that people can sign (inside we'll collect signatures for our Lancashire petition <http://www.foe.co.uk/act/petition-stop-fracking-in-lancashire>) that we'll deliver in person to Lancashire Councillors later.**



- We'll also send you some window posters and stickers for people to take to help spread the word, and some handy fracking facts.
- We'll send a bunch of fun party supplies but it would be great to add to that with whatever takes your fancy: cakes, sweets, soft drinks (unfortunately these need to be shop bought due to health and safety regulations), party decorations, colourful clothes, face paint, flowers, music etc. Let your imagination run wild!
- It's good to let your local media know in advance that you're going to be there means they are more likely to turn up.*
- It would be great to get a photo of your group on the day – possibly with the card or the banner. This will be really useful for social media and spreading the word that people everywhere are standing up against fracking. Local media may also want to use these photos.
- Finally, don't forget to invite all of your friends down to join you and have a blast!

Get involved!

- All you need to do is sign up here: <https://www.foe.co.uk/page/celebrate-4-years-frack-free-britain> to let us know that you want to join the party and we will send you everything you need.
- We'll be having a chat about planning this day and some other upcoming activities on **Wednesday 31st March 7.15-8.30pm**. It would be great if you could **join and share your thoughts by dialling freephone 0800 999 3828 or 020 7490 2665. PIN number: 602294**. Please let Jennifer.rosenberg@foe.co.uk if you can join this chat.

Follow up

- It would be great if you could let us know how your party went and send any photos in to Jennifer.rosenberg@foe.co.uk
- It may also be a good idea to resend the press release with any photos you've taken to local media – more guidance on this in the footnote.

* We'll be sending you a draft press release that you can circulate to local media outlets to let them know what you're up to. You can email it over to local media contacts and maybe give them a call to make sure they received it. You may want to send it over in advance and then you can send it again with a photo of the hand-in it once it's happened. It's best to call them once you've sent it as well just to make sure that they've received it and ask if there's anything else they'd like to know. If they do want more information, you can either offer to fill them in or if you'd like support with this you could ask them to contact Donna Hume on 07975831655 or donna.hume@foe.co.uk



- **Most important is to send us the Anniversary Card with all of the signatures.** We'll be taking these to Lancashire Council in person and we won't have a lot of time before the decision day. So please do send these (using the original tube that they arrived in) to:

Friends of the Earth Supporters Service Unit
56-58 Alma Street
Luton, Bedfordshire,
LU1 2PH

2. The Lancashire Decision

Decision day demonstration – date TBC

- On the big Lancashire decision day (the date is yet to be announced) will be working with Frack-Off and others to promote coaches up to Preston and provide basic accommodation to make sure that we can get as many feet on the street as possible on the big day.
- It really helps the Councillors to see that people across the country care about the decision that they're about to make, and it will help them to feel supported in saying no to fracking. It's also really important that the communities fighting on the ground in Lancashire feel our support at this critical moment, so we're keen to support as many people as possible to get to Preston on the decision day.
- If you're interested in being part of this please let laura.mcfarlane-shopes@foe.co.uk know.

Solidarity with Lancashire

- In the run up to the Lancashire Council decision (this is likely to be at the end of April) about whether to say Yes or No to fracking on the ground, we'll be doing a **big push on our Lancashire petition**: <http://www.foe.co.uk/act/petition-stop-fracking-in-lancashire> Please sign and share this as widely as possible.
- One of the ways that we'll be collecting as many signatures as possible on this petition, and also of sending our support to communities fighting fracking on the ground in Lancashire is by **collecting solidarity photos** to use on social media and send to Lancashire groups.
- If you'd like to take a photo similar to the ones below or of your own design it would be great if you could send it to Amelia.collins@foe.co.uk so that we can share it with Lancashire groups and on social media. Here are some handy tips on taking photos <https://www.foe.co.uk/node/76242>

'We Stand With Lancashire'



'I don't want fracking in 'X' town'



- If you'd like to get involved with supporting the Frack Free Lancashire groups on the ground, you can find them here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/frackfreelancashire/?fref=ts> or by writing to info@frackfreelancashire.org.uk
- If you'd like to work together with anti-fracking groups and campaigners around the country to fight fracking in Lancashire and across the UK you can join the Frack-Free UK email list by writing to Rachel.kennerley@foe.co.uk and our climate and energy Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FOEclimate/?fref=ts>
- And finally if you'd like get involved with collecting anti-fracking letters from businesses and local residents in Lancashire to send to the local council please drop Jamie.peters@foe.co.uk a line.



3. Fracking and the Election

Window posters

As the General Election approaches one of the simplest ways to make sure that fracking becomes an election issue is to cover the country in anti-fracking messages so that candidates know that we care. Please print out and put up this window poster (http://www.foe.co.uk/go/A4fracking_poster) and it would be great if you could share it widely.

Writing to Candidates

In the run up to the election we think it's important that all Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) come clean on whether or not they would support fracking as an MP.

Soon we will be sending out a map that helps people write to their local PPCs to find out what they think. When you receive this please share this widely with friends and family – we want to make sure that they know we care about fracking and that we're watching closely to see what they say.

Local meetings before the Election

A very effective way of finding out what candidates think about fracking is to go along to a local meeting before the election (often called hustings) to ask candidates directly what they think.

If you're able to take part in this, we've suggested two versions of the question depending on whether your area has been earmarked for fracking or not (you can find out here: https://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/uk_fracking_map_41274).

Question if you live in an area where fracking is proposed:

"This question is for each candidate, our constituency has been earmarked for fracking- do you support fracking in [insert consistency name], yes or no?"

Question if you live in an area where no fracking is proposed at the moment:

"This question is for each candidate, our constituency is not currently at risk of fracking, but would you oppose fracking nation-wide?"

If you do plan to go along to one it would be great if you let our fracking and election campaigner Rose.Dickinson@foe.co.uk know. She will be happy to talk to you in advance, and we'd love to hear how it goes. We'll be keeping tabs on what candidates promise and letting the world know, so please do let us know if you find anything out from these!

If you have any other questions about any of the above, or for the fracking team in general please let us know at fracking@foe.co.uk

Thanks so much for being part of our powerful anti-fracking movement at this critical time. Together we can keep Lancashire and the UK frack-free for good.