



DAMASCUS CITIZENS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
CLEAN WATER, AIR AND LAND ARE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

"There would be no *GASLAND* without DCS!"

(Josh Fox, Director, of the Oscar-nominated film that is dedicated to DCS)

Dear Supporter,

Why is that important?

A new peer-reviewed study¹ from University of Iowa reports that the grassroots screenings of *GASLAND* were a fundamental part of raising awareness on the fracking issue, affecting the public debate about it, and fueling the anti-fracking movement itself. Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS) can pat itself on the back about it—and so can you, because it is your support that helped make it happen.

Soon after Oscar-nominated director Josh Fox was approached by landmen to sign a lease for drilling on his property, he attended a talk on the impacts and toxic nature of fracking presented by DCS. It was this eye-opening presentation that led to the making of the movie *GASLAND*, which is dedicated to us.

Since then, DCS has continued to supply the most current information on fracking to people here and around the world, and to journalists, researchers, policymakers and documentarians. We again worked closely with Josh Fox supplying information for his new film *GASWORK*, which exposes the injuries, deaths and life-threatening health impacts suffered by workers in the fossil fuel industry—people like Randy Moyer, seen at right, who lives with pain throughout his body every day. DCS has had a pioneering focus on the impacts to gas/oil workers via GasVets.org and companion FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/GasVets>.



Randy Moyer, former gas industry truck driver's face and body grossly swells periodically since his exposure to fracking liquid wastes.

But there's a ban in New York! Why keep fighting?

There's a fracking ban in New York, but Pennsylvania and other states—and countries around the world—are still in peril from actual drilling. Meanwhile, even New York is not immune from infrastructure development: pipelines, gas storage areas and compressor stations are popping up like weeds across New York as well as Pennsylvania, New Jersey and other states, reducing property values and releasing toxic air emissions every day. Many health impacts are hidden, such as low-frequency noise from compressors that never stops, causing disturbed sleep, broken ear drums, and internal scarring; and proven toxic air emissions impacts from compressors.²

And unfortunately, only high volume fracking has been banned in NY. Lower volume drilling continues with over 50,000 existing gas and oil wells—about 15,000 active, many unvisited for years, chemical staging areas, radioactive drill cuttings with heavy metals and toxic chemicals in landfills, and radon-infused gas emanating from stoves supplied with fracked gas in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey among other areas.

AND the biggie - climate change

It is now known that this year will be the HOTTEST on record ever! Although it's becoming well known that climate change is caused partly by high carbon concentrations in the air, the world is just beginning to understand that over a period of ten years, methane causes over 100 times CO2's global warming effect.

Natural gas is over 90% methane, and when methane leaks are measured, they add up to 3% to 9% of total natural gas production. So the impact of methane emissions is very large, even before taking other chemical emissions into account..

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¹ GASLAND study: <http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2015/09/gasland-hbo-documentary-key-driver-of-opposition-to-fracking/> doi: 10.1177/0003122415598534 American Sociological Review September 1, 2015

² Colborn, T.; Kwiatkowski, C.; Schultz, K.; Bachran, M. Natural gas operations from a public health perspective. Hum. Ecol. Risk Assess 2011, 17 (5), 1039–1056.

DCS has recently supported a peer-reviewed paper on how ground-level measurements can be used to calculate an emissions rate using examples from our NYC measurements and reports.^{3 4}

That's why we continue fighting to:

- * HELP THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED by assisting them in filling out our Health & Community Impacts Survey, and compelling the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (part of the federal Department of Health) to investigate the impacts they report.
- * MITIGATE FUTURE DAMAGE by:
 - Compelling the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate methane emissions from gas distribution facilities. We have filed a Citizens Suit Notice Letter and will follow with a lawsuit to assure compliance.
 - Compelling states to protect their citizens near oil and gas activities and infrastructure from the health and environmental impacts, as required under state laws and constitutions.
 - Keeping the Delaware River Basin Commission, whose mandate is to protect the river, from rushing to the lowest common denominator of regulatory protection via its "One process, one permit" proposal and working for a ban on all gas/oil drilling in the Delaware River Basin.
 - Performing more ground-level measurements of ambient methane, to provide a scientific basis for measuring the impact of drilling-related activities, showing how damage once done is continuing, and to provide a means of measuring methane emissions rates to show the true impact of gas.
 - Dealing with Radioactive Waste Issues, both solids and liquids, from shale development. Known as TENORM – Technologically-Enhanced, Naturally-Occurring Radioactive Material (PA, NY, OH and WV residents note: The Marcellus is at least 3X more radioactive than similar shale gas formations in other parts of the US.) The more drilling, the more radioactive matter brought to the surface. Much of the waste from gas development sites in PA is being shipped to landfills in Ohio, West Virginia and New York. To help disarm this "ticking time bomb", DCS is looking into possible legal action to stop this shell game of interstate shuttling of radioactive waste, approaching it for what it is - a bigger, regional health issue.
 - Working to TRANSITION TO A FOSSIL-FUEL-FREE FUTURE, by educating about renewable energy, affordable efficiency, new technology and better ways of energy functioning.

We insist that gas is just one more fossil fuel that needs to be phased out as rapidly as possible. Damascus Citizens continues its work to make fracking a thing of the past for the generations to come and to work for a sustainable, renewable future.

Please give as generously as you can again this year, and together we will continue to be the little, grassroots organization that makes a BIG difference.

And tell young people you know about the DamascusCitizens page on the fund-raising website, "Razoo"! www.razoo.com/story/Damascuscitizens



B. Arrindell
Director

Please make a contribution today!
USE Paypal /Credit Card via the DONATE BUTTON on
www.DamascusCitizens.org

Or send a check to: DCS • P.O.Box147• Milanville, PA 18443

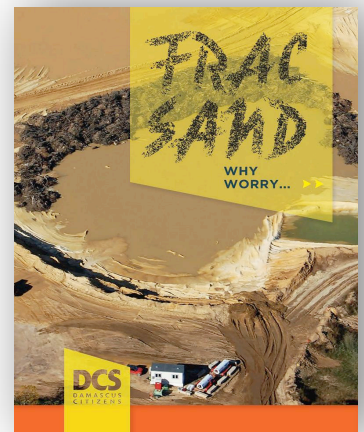
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, non-profit and your contribution is fully tax deductible.

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³ A proposed rapid method for measuring area methane emissions:an exploratory application in Manhattan, New York, USA
[3 Global Academic Meeting GAM 2015](http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2013/03/manhattan-natural-gas-pipeline-emissions-press-release/)

⁴our NYC measurements and reports.

<http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2013/03/manhattan-natural-gas-pipeline-emissions-press-release/>



In the past two years, we've distributed over 12,000 *What's in the Water* posters, plus over 5,000 of our new *Frac Sand, Why Worry...* poster have flown out the door this year to communities in ten states.