

Businesses Declare Victory: Fracking Banned in the Delaware River Basin

ASBC, NY, NJ, and DE SBCs and PA businesses applaud historic decision following years of advocacy

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-- The multistate [Delaware River Basin Commission \(DRBC\)](#) voted to ban high-volume hydraulic fracturing—known

commonly as [fracking](#)—after over a decade since the DRBC imposed a moratorium and years of public and private sector pressure and mounting evidence of the negative impacts from hundreds of scientific studies.



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It is time to celebrate this historic victory, resolving to protect our environment and communities now and in the future, to build an equitable, sustainable economy fueled by renewable energy.”

Bob Rossi, NYSBC

For the past several years, the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) has convened the New York Sustainable Business Council (NYSBC), New Jersey Sustainable Business Council (NJSBC), Delaware Sustainable Business Council (DSBC), and Pennsylvania business leaders in an effort to protect the Delaware River Basin and the regional economy dependent on its water. We applaud the DRBC for this momentous decision.

“Businesses in poisoned environments struggle against workplace absenteeism, reduced productivity, employee turnover, and increased healthcare costs—and to what

benefit?” asks Bob Rossi, Executive Director of NYSBC. “The only long term beneficiaries of fracking are the oil and gas executives who live nowhere near the fracking sites. We should instead be investing in our states’ growing renewable energy companies. They are employing local labor, spending money locally, and strengthening our regional economy in this time of economic crisis.”

The DRBC is an interstate agency with 5 ex officio members: the governors of the four basin states (New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware) plus a federal representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Since it formed in 2013, NYSBC has been working on the fracking issue in partnership with ASBC.

NYSBC's collaborative effort to engage over 1,000 business leaders to demand a ban on fracking in New York that helped lead to New York's Governor Cuomo ban on December 17th, 2014.

Today—February 25th, 2021—represents another critical milestone in US history. While the Delaware River Basin fracking ban will protect the water for 15 million people, it also sets an important precedent that we need to build on to protect more watersheds and regional economies, because clean water is good for business. As highlighted in ASBC's Business Case for Supporting Clean Water in the Delaware River Watershed, "the waterway contributes over \$22 billion in annual economic activity and supports 600,000 direct and indirect jobs, with \$10 billion in wages."

"ASBC's 2015 report The Business Case for Rethinking Fracking clearly demonstrated an economic case for transitioning from fracking to renewable energy, which would create more jobs per unit energy than natural gas and other fossil fuels and protect business from disruptions due to climate change," says David Levine, President and Cofounder of ASBC. "This decision helps us establish next steps."

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The New York Sustainable Business Council (NYSBC) is an alliance of over 2,000 businesses and business networks committed to advancing a vibrant, just, and sustainable economy in New York State.

The American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) partners with business organizations and companies to advocate for solutions and policies that support an equitable, sustainable, stakeholder economy. ASBC represents over 250,000 sustainable businesses in a wide range of industries and geographies.

Bob Rossi
New York Sustainable Business Council
+1 607-592-2222
[email us here](#)

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