

## Focus: Fracking

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### Investors Say Companies Disclosing More on Fracking

By Justin Morton, Bloomberg Briefs – December 15, 2016

Energy companies are growing more transparent about fracking activity, according to a new report, amid concerns from sustainable investors that the energy extraction method is causing water damage, seismic activity and methane leaks.

More than 70 percent of oil and gas companies engaged in hydraulic fracturing improved their scores on how they report policies to reduce risks from fracking, according to the fourth annual [scorecard](#) released Dec. 14 by investor groups **As You Sow**, **Boston Common Asset Management** and **Investor Environmental Health Network**.

However, many companies still fail to disclose details on what concrete measures they are taking to solve community and investor concerns, according to the report. Despite the improvements, most companies in the 28-firm review still earned disclosure scores considered "failing." The investor groups scored the companies on 43 performance indicators, such as use of dry chemicals, avoidance of seismic activity and total water use.

Companies this year increasingly disclosed information on efforts to reduce toxic chemicals used in fracking and efforts to reduce emissions, according to the report. But investors still lack information on reducing methane emissions, addressing seismic activity and health and environmental impacts of fracking activity, according to the report.

The **Environmental Protection Agency** found in a report this week that drilling can harm groundwater, Bloomberg [reported](#).

"Investors in the oil and gas space should continue to engage companies if they want to know the risks in their portfolios," **Richard Liroff**, executive director of Investor Environmental Health Network, said in an interview.

— with assistance from Emily Chasan, Bloomberg Briefs

#### As Trump Vows Drilling, Fracking Foes Try Court

Trump's naming of a fossil-fuel champion to lead the EPA has activists despairing. They're vowing to turn to the states and the courts to fight a technology they blame for water pollution, earthquakes and climate-warming methane emissions.

For drillers, Trump is a hero, unchaining an overregulated industry. To anti-fracking activists, he is "the absolute nightmare," said Karen Feridun, a co-founder of the group **Pennsylvanians Against Fracking**. "A lot of people are depressed. They know we have our work cut out for us." U.S. oil production surged 78 percent from 2011 to 2015 as improvements in hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling helped explorers pull oil and gas from previously inaccessible shale rocks, turning America into a petroleum powerhouse. [<full story on web>](#)

— Alex Nussbaum, Bloomberg News

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