

# Have you heard that...?

**MYTH 1. Fracking will reduce prices.** Both Ed Davey (Secretary of State for Energy) and Lord John Browne (chairman of gas company Cuadrilla) have said this is not the case, as we're part of an integrated European energy market and gas will go to the highest bidder – the higher the better for the gas companies

**MYTH 2. The lights will go out if we don't start fracking.** The World Energy Council puts the UK 4<sup>th</sup> out of 129 countries in their "Energy Trilemma Index", just behind Switzerland, Sweden and Norway with a triple-A rating.<sup>1</sup> And even if that weren't the case, it would be 10 or 15 years before shale gas made a meaningful contribution to our energy mix.

**MYTH 3. We need to be self-sufficient in gas in case Putin turns the gas off.** But we don't get our gas from Russia. According to the Government's figures we still produce roughly half the gas we need from the North Sea. Of the gas we import, just under 60% of the gas comes from Norway, 20% as Liquefied Natural Gas mainly from Qatar and 16% is piped in from The Netherlands (who produce nearly twice as much gas as the UK does)<sup>2</sup>. The rest comes in from Belgium from the European gas network, some of which may have originated in Russia.

**MYTH 4. It'll bring jobs to the area.** According to a House of Commons report, Cuadrilla in Lancashire are expecting to create around 40 new jobs for local people for a similar-sized fracking operation<sup>3</sup>. That doesn't sound like a lot when you consider the number of jobs in tourism and agriculture that may be put at risk.

**MYTH 5. It's less harmful to the environment than other fossil fuels.** On some measures, this is actually true – it's probably better than coal in terms of greenhouse gas emissions for example, but only if it is correctly regulated, and even this is disputed by some experts in the scientific community. However on two environmental measures – photochemical ozone creation (smog) and terrestrial toxicity (due largely to disposal of deep bore drilling waste) - it's the worst possible fuel source, including coal.<sup>4</sup>

**MYTH 6. Fracking uses as much water as a golf course.** Each fracking operation takes anywhere between 2-6 years' worth of water used by Royal Lytham and St Anne's golf course<sup>5</sup>. Given we only need a couple of dry-ish winters in a row to start talking about water shortages, never mind the lights going out, this could mean the taps running dry! (And you don't need to tanker out the waste water for specialist toxic/radioactive treatment after spraying onto a golf course).

**For more information visit the following web sites:**

[www.isfrackingsafe.com](http://www.isfrackingsafe.com)

[www.frackfreeryedale.org](http://www.frackfreeryedale.org)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.worldenergy.org/data/trilemma-index/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gas-section-4-energy-trends>, annually for 2013

<sup>3</sup> House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/SC/6073 "Shale gas and fracking" 4 December 2014

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306261914008745>

<sup>5</sup> <http://golfcoursemanagement.randa.org/en/Downloads-and-publications/2012/12/Open-Conservation-Booklet-2012.aspx>.