

Best Practices for Engaging Communities

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Research Fatigue in Rural Communities

HEI Energy
Human Exposure Research Webinar Series
July 19, 2022



#2018-68006-27648
#2015-68006-22850



**The primary way I interact with
people in communities I study is ...**

Poll question

74%

Of onshore oil produced in the United States in 2012 involved **non-federal resources**. (82% for natural gas.) Few states, and none in the West, mandate comprehensive EIA/IA processes for oil and gas infrastructure development.

Humphries, M. 2015. U.S. Crude Oil ... CRS Report R42432

During the shale boom, local impact monitoring and mitigation was often DIY.



Richland Co, MT



Pop. 11,570

County seat: Sidney

Area: 2,000+ sq. mi.

Service & population hub
center for Bakken



Photo credit Kris Smith



Communities in Action

2018. Haggerty, J. H., K. K. Smith**, T. Mastel, and P. Lachapelle. Assessing, Monitoring, and Mitigating Energy Boomtown Impacts in the U.S.: Evaluating a Public Health Model. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* 36(1): 115-127.

Photo credit Kris Smith

Local advocates, leaders, citizens

Wear many hats

Are often stressed and taxed

Want to address local concerns

Are experts

Aren't sure who to trust



These issues affect people I study ...

Poll question

Guiding principles for engaging with communities

Current Thoughts on Exemplary Practices for Research in Energy-Impacted Communities

Communication Among Researchers	Modifying Research Approaches	Sharing Results with Communities	Ethical Considerations for Community Engagement
Researchers studying energy-impacted communities need to be better coordinated to avoid replicating research, over-sampling a particular geography or type of energy community, and to best contribute to filling gaps in the knowledge base.	Be prepared to modify your planned research approach(es) to co-create community-driven research (what types of data does the community need?) and connect your local research to a larger national or international context.	There are many ways to share back research findings. What's most important is that you communicate and share information with the community over the course of the project. For example, you may present regular project updates at community meetings, create highly visual customized reports, or publish project updates in local media outlets.	Research can be empowering or extractive for the host community—and sometimes both. Think ahead of time about how your research impacts the community and ways it can be empowering. Have clear rationale for your engagement strategy and stay committed to it over the course of the project.

Communication

Coordinate with other researchers



FOSTERING CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

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What is the Issue?

The pace, scale, and intensity of energy development in recent decades is staggering: hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells, over 42,000 wind turbines, over 200 large-scale ethanol plants, tens of thousands of unconventional oil and gas wells, and more than 130 large-scale bio-diesel plants have been built in or near communities across North America.

Researchers across institutions and disciplines are increasingly documenting the positive and negative ways that energy development shapes communities and landscapes. However, many research discoveries lag well behind the pace and scale of transformational changes associated with energy development. Regional, disciplinary, and institutional parochialism are all major barriers facing energy development scholars.

The Energy Impacts Research Coordination Network aims to move beyond these barriers to provide an intellectual meeting ground for scholars of energy impacts across the social sciences. In so doing, we hope to make social science on energy development impacts both more useful and more insightful.



Purpose and Activities

The Energy Impacts Research Coordination Network works to minimize redundancy, maximize comparability, and expand the intellectual, educational, and professional contributions of energy impacts research by overcoming topical, disciplinary, and geographic silos to ultimately facilitate breakthroughs in understanding the social and community impacts of energy development.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Modifying approaches

August

2016



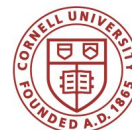
Energy
& Local
Economies

Communities in Action

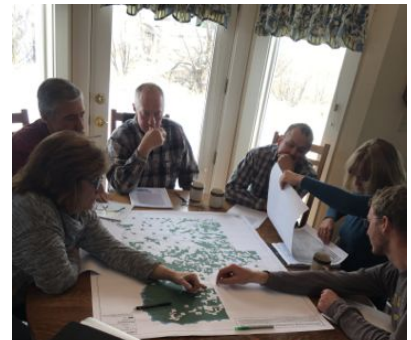
Program Evaluation

Report to Richland County Dept. of Public Health

Tara Mastel, Kristin K. Smith, Julia H. Haggerty,
Paul Lachapelle, Katie B. Walsh



Sharing results



Ethical concerns

Apsáalooke Energy Justice Project

Research and Data Management Protocol Handbook

Current Table of Contents

Project Overview	
Project team	
Project Advisory Board	
Ethics Statement	
Data Management & Confidentiality	
Consent Forms	
Oral History Release Form	
Data Sharing Agreement Template	
Human subjects data protocol per proposal	
Interview guides/protocol	
Focus group script	
Interview Guide: Service Providers	
Interview Guide: Oral Histories	
Data request protocol	
CITI Training Information	



The Arbor at Little Big Horn College.

Applications

**The workflow in my discipline
accommodates best practices for
engaging with communities...**

Poll question

Survey says ...

5.4. What obstacles do UOG-HSRs face in performing community engagement?

Some of the biggest obstacles that prevent UOG-HSRs from engaging with the community, especially for sharing research findings with their study participants, include lack of time on the part of the researcher, lack of funds, lack of interest from the community/communities, a lack of support from their employer, and lack of a suitable forum for doing so, among others. Survey responses did not produce discernible variations or patterns as a function of the study location or employment status of respondents.

2021. Jacquet, J., R. Pathak**, J. H. Haggerty, G. L. Theodori, A. Kroepsch. Research Fatigue in Unconventional Oil and Gas Boomtowns: Perceptions, Strategies and Obstacles among Social Scientists collecting Human Subjects Data. *Energy Research and Social Science*. Vol. 73. [10.1016/j.erss.2021.101918](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.101918)

<https://www.energyimpacts.org/educational-materials>

Understanding and Addressing Research Fatigue in Rural Communities



Meets: Self-paced: no time limit to complete

Location: Online: Self-Paced

\$39.00



[Digital Badge Details](#)

ENROLL YOURSELF

OR

ENROLL SOMEONE ELSE

Description

Fees

Energy Communities

This short (approx 10 minutes) video introduces the concept of "research fatigue" in rural communities. It is a must-watch for anyone involved in research in rural areas.





Students, researchers, and community members are encouraged to watch this video and discuss the implications of research fatigue in their own communities.

Energy impacts research network
Escaping the Resource Curse
Research Fatigue Course

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[Energy Communities](#) / [Research Fatigue in Rural Communities](#) / Unit 1: Overview of Research Fatigue

Unit 1: Overview of Research Fatigue

Fatigue - a state or attitude of indifference or apathy brought on by overexposure (as to a repeated series of similar events or appeals).

~Merriam-Webster dictionary

Research fatigue (also known as respondent fatigue) is a state of indifference or apathy brought on by overexposure to engaging in research, or being researched. Populations of people who are subject to being studied due to their situations can develop research fatigue and become reluctant to continuing engagement as participants in existing studies or future work. This can lead to deterioration of the quality of the data. Groups of people who are subject to continual and high volumes of research may exhibit a drop in motivation and attention, leading to increased "don't know" or "straight-line" responses to questionnaire surveys, short answers, or no answers at all.

[What Is Research Fatigue?](#)

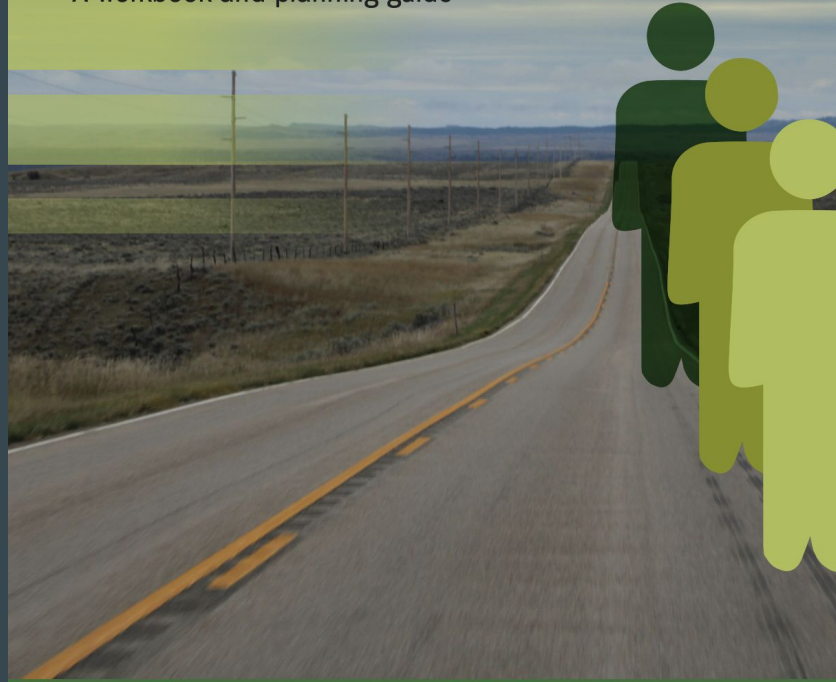
[What Causes Research Fatigue to Occur?](#)

[Consequences of Research Fatigue](#)

[Take-aways from Unit 1](#)

ENGAGING IN ENERGY COMMUNITIES: The role of the researcher

A workbook and planning guide



PennState



Sam Houston
State University



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



COLORADO SCHOOL OF
MINES

thank you



<http://www.montana.edu/energycommunities/>

www.resources4communities.org

