

Downstream Strategies

building capacity for sustainability



Downstream Strategies will begin two projects that analyze food sources and energy production in West Virginia. The first project focuses on the economic benefits of a well developed local agricultural system, while the second will be an assessment of the environmental impacts associated with natural gas production.

[Mapping the West Virginia Local Food System](#)

Downstream Strategies will partner with the WVU Extension Service and the West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition to develop a new web-based application that links producers, consumers, distributors, and other major players in the West Virginia food system. The goal of this project is to bridge existing information gaps, thereby facilitating increased production, distribution, and consumption of local food. The expansion of the local food market will create jobs in rural areas while circulating wealth throughout local economies.

[Understanding the Life Cycle and Regional Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing in the Marcellus Shale Basin](#)

A grant from the Robert and Patricia Switzer foundation has made possible a new study on hydraulic fracturing in the eastern portion of the United States. Downstream Strategies President, Evan Hansen, will collaborate with Switzer foundation scholars, and the non-profit organization Earthworks, to examine the impact of Marcellus shale drilling in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York. Researchers will develop a life cycle analysis of hydraulic fracturing waste water that can be used by local and state officials in their efforts to regulate drilling. This life cycle analysis will assess the risks of environmental pollution and groundwater contamination from hydraulic fracturing.

Best regards,

The Downstream Strategies team

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