

Harnessing Ohio's Natural Resources Under State Land



For decades, the Ohio natural gas and oil industry has safely and responsibly developed the state's natural resources, providing economic and community benefits to all Ohioans. This year, Ohio is looking to expand those benefits through the state's land leasing program. There is a lot of misinformation being spread about the industry and how development under state land will impact these communities. However, the facts are clear:

Economic Benefits

One obvious benefit the natural gas and oil industry has brought to Ohio is economic growth being seen statewide. A recent JobsOhio report found that since 2011 the industry has invested more than \$100 billion into Ohio.

Furthermore the industry has paid nearly \$770 million in tax revenue between 2010-2021. These taxes play a key role in supporting the local communities where we live and operate. The revenue supports local schools, municipalities, counties and other services Ohioans rely on.

There are so many additional ways the industry pours back into communities where they operate. In 2021 alone, the industry supported more than 350,000 Ohio jobs, generating \$25.4 billion in income.

Ohio And Our Country's Energy Needs

With increased pressure on the United State's power grids and global concern on energy development, natural gas and oil production has become an ever increasing essential part of American life. This is especially true in Ohio, one of the top 10 natural gas consuming states.

At the same time, Ohio is also one of the nation's largest producers. The state now produces more than twice as much natural gas as it consumes. This level of natural gas production happening in Ohio is assisting the United States in leading the world in emission reduction.

Furthermore, these natural resources are providing energy stability in our country. The United States no longer needs to rely on imports from around the world when we are producing essential energy at home. In addition we can provide our energy produced with strict environmental standards to other nations.

Impact On The Environment

Natural gas and oil producers follow strict, responsible guidelines when it comes to the environment and that will continue when producers begin work in state parks.

A multi-year University of Cincinnati study on groundwater found no impacts from fracking. Water withdrawals are also strictly regulated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency employs comprehensive water resource monitoring. Ohio's essential energy is also benefiting the environment in a broader way. The transition from coal to natural gas has reduced carbon dioxide and methane emissions by an average of 50 percent when producing electricity according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Case Study

This is not the first time that Ohio has seen a public-private partnership with the natural gas and oil industry. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District boasts 57,000 acres of land and has become a tourist destination for hiking, fishing, camping and swimming. MWCD has also invested more than \$200 million dollars into the park, funded by the natural gas and oil industry.

Over the years multiple producers have developed public land within MWCD. During this time park goers have had no restrictions in the park. This project is a clear example of how these relationships can not only work but allow the region and Ohioans to thrive.