



Ohio Economy Grew Slightly In 2012



Morning Update For June 7



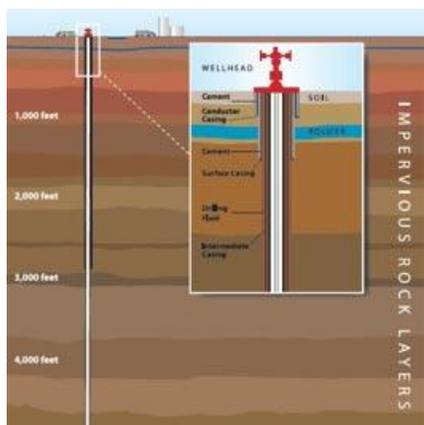
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Shale Conference Speaker Discusses Sustainable Development

By Megan Moseley
Dateline Athens, OH
Updated Wed, Jun 5, 2013 8:31 am



Earl Gohl, Co-Chair for the Appalachian Regional Commission, says when it comes to economic development, it's all about sustainability.

Gohl visited Athens on Tuesday as the capstone speaker for the Second Annual Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference: Shale and Beyond. The conference was open to the public and consisted of business professionals, local government officials and developers who discussed the short and long-term effects of the shale gas industry in the region.

Gohl, who works with the state to get investment funds for Appalachian communities for economic development, concluded the day's event by discussing the importance of focusing

not just on development, but sustainable economic developments throughout the region.

Discussing the impacts of the gas industry was one appealing aspect of the conference, Gohl said.

"Ohio University today and the Voinovich Center have really done great work here by sort of setting the table; by bringing folks together so that you can have the conversation in Ohio about how do you move forward? How do you make sure that the communities are protected in the long-term?" he said.

According to Gohl, that's one of the challenges of extraction industries.

"They do propose challenges. They provide opportunities, but they also pose challenges. Some might say the history of the timber industry and the history of the coal industry is a reminder to think about how development occurs and how do Ohioans move forward in a way that's beneficial to communities in the long run," he said.

Gohl says one way communities can do that is through food.

Though the conference brought Gohl to the region, he took it as an opportunity to visit local food initiatives such as the Chesterhill Produce Auction, Green Edge Gardens and Federal Hocking Middle School to talk about the influence local food systems have on providing sustainable development in Appalachia.

"Our work is really focused on developing local human resource assets of communities. We work with folks so they have the expertise and the ability and capital to not wait for



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someone to create a job for them, but so they can create a job and add their own value to their communities. Local food systems really provide a great opportunity for that type of activity," he said.

However, that's not to say Gohl isn't a supporter of extraction industries in Appalachia. He says it's all about making sure development occurs responsibly, through planning and conversation.

The conference attempted to do just that as panel discussions occurred about the various aspects of economic development through the shale gas industry. These include education and workforce development, community impacts, capturing wealth, jobs and economic development, and policy and environmental impact.

The conference was put on by OU's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, with support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

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Heather Cantino · 2 days ago

Wow, this is not the same conference (but it was) that I attended, which was almost entirely corporate oil and gas industry pr. How is it the business of a publicly funded university and its staff (whether or not the event itself was funded by an "economic development grant") to provide a free forum for the multi-billion dollar Chesapeake Energy corporation to give the keynote with absolutely no scientific rebuttal of claims made by its corporate spin machine? It is especially ironic that almost every panelist either worked for the industry or otherwise promoted the industry (other than a few feeble voices raising a few questions); questions were screened; no science was presented; and the only voice of open dissent, a local non-profit with no income or financial incentives -- Athens County Fracking Action Network -- had to pay \$100 for three feet at an informational table. No fliers were allowed to be distributed to attendees in the hall.

"Capturing wealth" -- one of the panels -- says it all. Our public wealth--our air, our land, our water-- are being captured by Chesapeake et al. with OU as pimp. Anyone who cares about our local organic food system, tourism, public health, air, water, and climate should speak out. Is this what Ohio University and academic integrity have come to? Visit www.acfan.org/ for the science and facts about jobs, climate, public health, and water that were not presented at OU yesterday.

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michele papai · 2 days ago

As a concerned Athenian and Athens City Council Member, I concur with Ms Cantino. Speaking outside with the Chesapeake VP, he agreed to industry mistakes and 'working smarter' but as the Governmental liaison I'd like to see him suggest to the legislature rather than having 'the industry' police themselves. ODNR is investigating a Belmont County spill of brine waste. Too late and costly after spill. Who pays? Also sustainability thru farming when you drill and inject on or near

reconfigure advisory committee



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who pays? Also sustainability thru farming when you drill and or inject oil or near that property is a gamble. If you've leased and are receiving O&G royalties, you can leave and stop farming. Sounds like farming becomes the tax write-off to me.

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