

SHARC FAQ

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Overview

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about Resources for the Future's (RFF) Shale Research Clearinghouse (SHARC) project.

What is SHARC?

SHARC is a regularly updated, curated catalogue of research on the impacts of oil and gas development. Along with a compendium of the latest research, it provides regularly updated literature reviews and issue briefs that summarize the state of the literature, evaluate the strength of existing evidence, and identify additional research needs.

What is the purpose of SHARC?

SHARC was originally envisioned as a tool for regulators and their staffs who are tasked with developing and implementing rules to govern oil and gas development, but who may not have the resources or expertise to thoroughly review and evaluate the most recent research. However, we welcome all users and are eager to inform anyone interested in the latest research on oil and gas development.

How is SHARC funded?

Seed funding for SHARC was provided by an individual donor. Moving forward, we hope that SHARC will be supported by a broad range of funders, including private foundations, governments, individuals, and potentially corporate funders. Regardless of funding, all analysis is carried out by RFF researchers, and all conclusions are made based on the judgements of RFF researchers.

How do you decide what studies to include in SHARC?

For the answer to this question, please see [\[link here\]](#)

How did SHARC come to be?

The idea for SHARC was originally conceived during a dialogue on Energy Governance at the Aspen Institute. This Dialogue, supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, was led by David Monsma of the Aspen Institute, and brought together roughly 15 experts on unconventional oil and gas development from academia, government, NGOs, and industry. In a series of meetings, the group identified lack of easy access to up-to-date research as a key challenge. Richard Newell, Alan Krupnick, and Daniel Raimi were all participants at different points in the Dialogue.

In the winter of 2018, an individual donor approached RFF after reading Raimi's *The Fracking Debate*, and offered to fund the initial development of SHARC. RFF researchers Daniel Raimi, Alan Krupnick, and Isabel Echarte developed the key elements of SHARC, which officially launched in the Fall of 2018.