



Hydraulic fracturing water use: A comparison

Aided by a process known as hydraulic fracturing, a typical well in the Cana shale play of western Oklahoma can produce upwards of 8 billion cubic feet of natural gas during its 40-year lifespan. That's enough natural gas to heat more than 2,700 homes for the duration of those 40 years.

It takes about 4 million gallons of water to frack a well. That total is roughly equal to the amount:

- Used by a Texas golf course every eight days during the summer. - **Source:** hillcountrywater.org
- Needed to irrigate enough cornfields to produce 5,100 gallons of ethanol. - **Source:** USDA Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey
- Emptied every one second from the Mississippi River into the Gulf of Mexico. - **Source:** America's Wetland Resource Center
- Needed to make 64 tons of steel. - **Source:** U.S. Geological Survey
- Used annually by 40 American households for indoor uses only. - **Source:** Sustainable Asset Management
- Used annually for outdoor watering by 90 typical American households. - **Source:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Used by New York City every six minutes. - **Source:** New York City Department of Environmental Protection