

**American Nurses Association
2012 House of Delegates**

Resolution

**Nurses' Role in Recognizing, Educating and Advocating for
Healthy Energy Choices**

WHEREAS:

The "Scope and Standards of Practice for the Registered Nurse" includes practicing in an environmentally safe and healthy manner and the American Nurses Association (ANA) adheres to the "Precautionary Principle" to guide nursing practice, policy and advocacy efforts; and

Studies have shown that the environment and our health are inextricably linked; and

Human and ecological health risks are directly related to the use of coal-fired power plants, mountaintop removal of coal, offshore and onshore oil and natural gas drilling, and hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking;" and

Nurses are well positioned to help educate other health professionals, the general public, and policy makers about the relationship of human health to critical energy issues that will require our thoughtful focus in the very near future; and

Nurses can help to encourage policies that promote and incentivize the healthiest options for long-term energy sources, energy conservation and sustainability; and

The ecological impacts of coal, oil, and natural gas extraction and use are contributing to contamination of drinking water for humans and farm animals, air pollution, reductions of water volume in local streams, increased noise levels, drilling accidents, and vehicular accidents; and

Adequate health monitoring, reporting mechanisms and regulations have been insufficient to ensure the health and public safety of individuals and communities where coal, oil, and natural gas extraction and use is taking place;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Nurses Association will:

Support education of its members about health issues associated with fossil fuel energy and the benefits of energy conservation and renewable energy sources; and

Support constituent member associations and affiliate partnerships to address health issues associated with energy use through education and policy/advocacy; and

Support activities that monitor, reduce, and remediate environmental health risks for individuals and communities where coal, oil, and natural gas extraction and use are occurring and legislative initiatives that require monitoring, reporting and regulatory reform to protect public health and the environment; and

Collaborate with others in calling for a national moratorium on new permits for unconventional oil and natural gas extraction (fracking) throughout the country until human and ecological safety can be ensured; and

Collaborate with others on energy policies that incentivize energy conservation and the development and use of safer, healthier alternative and renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar.