

The Baltimore Environmental Film Series at Loyola University Maryland

Presents: *White Earth* (Jensen, 2012) and *Groundswell Rising* (Cohen, 2014)

February 1, 2015 at 6:30 PM

Loyola University Maryland – McGuire Hall West

Event Synopsis

This event will open with *White Earth*, a short film about the oil boom in the Northern Plains – seen through the eyes of three children and an immigrant mother. This film was nominated for an Oscar for Documentary Short Subject in 2015. The feature film for the evening is *Groundswell Rising*, which connects us with the lives parents, scientists, artists, teachers, clergy, community organizers, and business leaders who are dedicating themselves to resisting, slowing down or stopping hydraulic fracturing AKA fracking. Following the feature film – there will be a response to the films from a panel and an opportunity for the audience to share their thoughts as well.

This event is part of Ethics Week and is co-sponsored by the Department of Law & Social Responsibility at Loyola Maryland.

Resources for Attendees

- White Earth Website <http://whiteearthmovie.com/>
- Groundswell Rising Website <http://groundswellrising.com/>
- The Great Plains Oil Rush – Transforming the Western Plains <http://www.npr.org/series/268211390/the-great-plains-oil-rush>
- In North Dakota, Boom, Bust & Oil http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/09/travel/north-dakota-oil-boom.html?_r=0
- What is Hydraulic Fracturing?
 - <https://www.propublica.org/special/hydraulic-fracturing-national>
 - <http://www.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing/process-hydraulic-fracturing>
- If Fracking a Good Idea? <http://www.usnews.com/debate-club/is-fracking-a-good-idea>

Discussion Questions

- In *White Earth*, Leevi and Elena's teacher asks the students "What is oil to you?" and asks them to list 5 things. James is not in school, but seems to have thought a lot about this question as well. What are oil, gas and coal to you?
- Elena's mother Flor hopes that her children will never have to uproot their families like many of those who are working in the oil fields. Has your family ever been uprooted? Why? What are some of the challenges associated with uprooting a family or having one parent away for long periods of time?
- Would you want to live near an oil, fracking well or coal mine? Why or why not? What do you think are some of the challenges people face when faced with this issue?
- These films specifically deal with the extraction of fossil fuels. What are some of the health and safety issues associated with fossil fuel extraction? Are these issues distributed ethically?
- Climate change and pollution disproportionately affects people of color ([example editorial](#)). How can conversations about race and the environmental issues inform each other?

Sponsors

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