

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY DAVID LAVALLEE

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH FOLLOWS CONCERNED CITIZENS LIVING ON THE FRONTIERS OF EXTREME OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION, BEARING WITNESS TO A GLOBAL CROSSROADS: THE END OF THE FOSSIL FUEL ERA.

90 MIN/60 MIN FOR BROADCAST

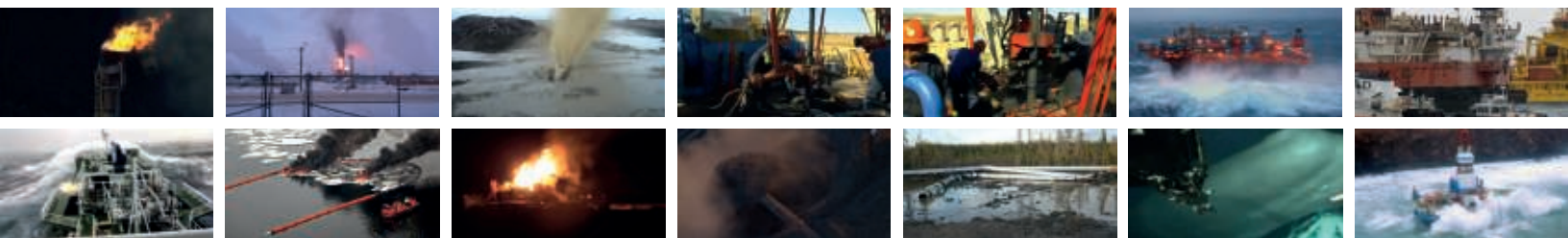
BRIEF SYNOPSIS

To the Ends of the Earth follows a group of concerned citizens and experts as they bear witness to humanity's descent further down the "resource pyramid." At the top of the pyramid, energy is easy to find and cheap, and it requires minimal labor and has the highest capital and energy return on investment, as in the case of Saudi oil. In the middle of the pyramid, resources are more difficult and costly to extract, as in the case of the Alberta tar sands and shale gas: "Drill, baby, drill" has become "mine, baby, mine," "steam, baby, steam," and "frack, baby, frack." At the bottom of the pyramid there are resources such as Utah's oil shale, the economic feasibility of which, despite billions in investments, remains uncertain.

After ten years of rather intensive global development, "unconventional resources" now comprise 42% of the planet's energy mix. In the words of interviewee and author Richard Heinberg, "In 2005... regular conventional crude oil production stopped growing. [Since then] all of the growth has been from unconvensionals: from tar sands, from fracking." Given that 95% of all economic transactions in our globalized economy bear the footprint of fossil fuels, does this spell the end of economic growth for our civilization?

To the Ends of the Earth brings forward the voices of those who not only denounce the rise of extreme energy, but also envision the new world that is taking shape in its stead: a future beyond the resource pyramid, a post-growth economy.

The many people we meet in our exploration of the resource pyramid are uniquely positioned to watch this global energy crossroads unfold. For example the mayor of an Inuit village in Canada's high Arctic (on Baffin Island) who is concerned that seismic testing for oil in the ocean is blowing up the eardrums of the seals and narwhals that the Inuit hunt to survive. Or the environmental lawyer who goes on a journey to areas that produce energy for the Tarsands of Alberta – he learns of the enormous inputs of energy that have to be put into this resource (e.g. natural gas, as well as hydro and nuclear energy – all used in the making of oil). Or the river conservationist in Utah who fights to protect the Colorado River from oil shale projects that would disturb its headwaters. Or the university professor who fights against a pipeline project that would carry extreme energy to the world – she feels a renewed sense of the hope that comes from democratic engagement and her participation in this process – despite the enormous risks she is taking. The experts (energy economists, writers, etc..) we speak to will provide context for these brief individual stories and the overarching issues as well.



**CONVENTIONAL
OIL & GAS
ARCTIC**

**UNCONVENTIONAL
TAR SANDS BITUMEN
ALBERTA**

**EXTREMELY
UNCONVENTIONAL
OIL SHALE
UTAH**

INCREASING

H₂O

NEGATIVE EROI

**EXTERNAL
SOURCES
OF ENERGY**

PRODUCTION NOTES

Directed and Produced by David Lavallee, Co written by David Lavallee and Fernanda Rossi.

Previous work: www.whitewaterblackgold.com

The project is in production, and parts of the film have been rough assembled. Production is ongoing.

\$152,500 CDN has been raised in development thus far (combination of tax credits and confirmed financing).

Total budget of the film is \$246,140 – seeking \$93,640 for completion

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/112437897>

Production stills:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/125629572@N03/with/14732450421>

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