Texas’ Barnett Shale is the birthplace of America’s shale revolution. Starting in the early 1980s, oil and natural gas visionary George Mitchell worked with a team of engineers to perfect the combination of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling that has made shale energy production viable. Located in North Texas, the Barnett formation holds enough natural gas to fuel all of Texas’ homes for nearly 200 years. The economic benefits of shale-gas production from the Barnett have been tremendous.

Since 2001, Barnett Shale development has:
- Generated 38.5% of regional economic growth
- Contributed more than $65 billion to the region’s GDP
- Created, and now supports, more than 100,000 jobs

By the numbers:

Employment in the Barnett region is about 8.7 percent higher and personal income about 8.5 percent more than it would be without the development of the Barnett Shale.

Between 2001 and 2011 economists estimate development of the Barnett Shale generated $5.3 billion in taxes for local governments and $5.8 billion for the state.