

How militarism fuels the climate crisis

Global Campaign on
Military Spending - UK

Festival of Debate
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1. War fighting

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Targeting of Oil Refineries - Ukraine 2022



Oil well fires - Iraq 2017



Destruction beyond the bombing

- Largest oil leak in history - Kuwait during the first Gulf War. Estimated **500 million gallons of oil** released into the gulf.
- Chaos in post-war Afghanistan brought unprecedented levels of deforestation due to increased illegal logging.
- Destruction of electrical grid in Iraq resulted in the long term use of thousands of diesel generators.
- This is before we consider the impact of reconstruction - especially in the context of the colossal impact of concrete production.

2. Military climate impact



What is the climate impact of the Military?

- Every sector of human activity is subject to carbon reporting and reduction targets with one single exception - the global military.
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change does not require Governments to report military emissions, so most do not.
- The US initially negotiated an exception for military emissions at Kyoto, subsequent attempts to close this loophole have resulted in emissions calculations are ill defined and 'voluntary'.
- For more information and data on the military emissions gap see:
MilitaryEmissions.org

U.S Military impacts

“The US military is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the world – with a carbon footprint greater than that of most countries. If the Pentagon were a country, its fuel use alone would make it the world’s 47th largest emitter”

Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War (Brown University, 2019)

A global problem...

“Britain’s military-industrial sector annually emits more greenhouse gases than 60 individual countries. Equivalent to 6 million average UK cars annually.”

[“The environmental impacts of the UK military sector”](#) May 2020, Scientists for Global Responsibility

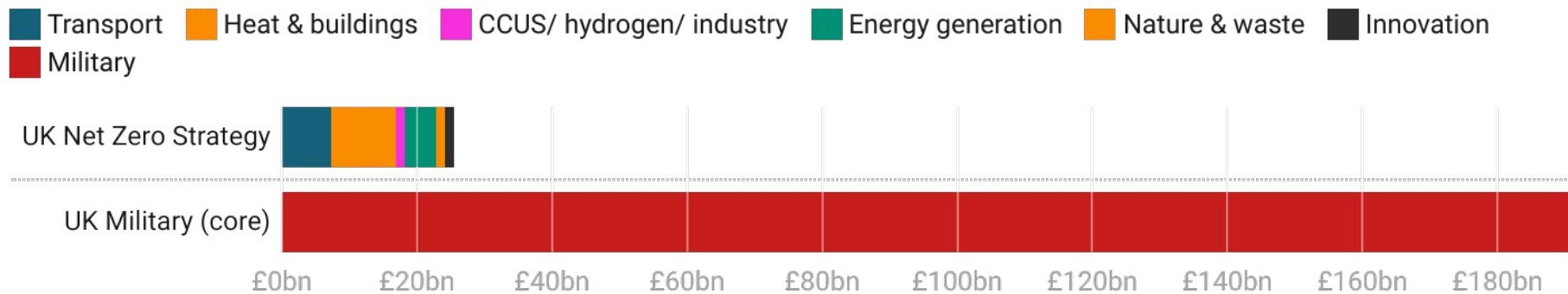
- Overall the military sector could contribute as much as **6% of total global emissions** - greater than that of civilian aviation.

3. Opportunity Cost



Reducing UK Carbon vs. Military Spending

Below is a comparison of the core military budget in this parliament (2021-25) with that for reducing UK carbon emissions as part of UK Net Zero Strategy.





**For every £1 spent
on reducing UK
carbon emissions
we spend £7.45
on the UK military**

**£190.9bn UK Core Military Budget 2021-25 vs.
£25.6bn UK Net Zero Strategy 2021-25 (HM Treasury 2022)**

demilitarize.org.uk



4. What could we do with that money?



Which would you choose?



£24.1bn

**Rise in UK
military spending**



£11.7bn

**Decent homes
for all**

[Read more...](#)

Climate finance - a broken promise

- Countries that have done the most to cause the climate crisis must compensate those most vulnerable to its impacts.

	Military Spending	Climate Finance
2020	\$1,982bn	\$79bn
2021	\$2,113bn	?

5. The Future?



Latest NATO military spending vs. Cold War

All figures given in constant USD (2020) to allow comparison (SIPRI 2022)



NATO 1988



Warsaw Pact 1988



NATO 2021



Russia 2021



Resisting military & fossil fuel expansion

We must not allow the suffering of the Ukrainian people to be used as an excuse to:

- funnel more public funds to the (booming) arms industry.
- push through new oil and gas exploration.
- push further public service cuts
- waterdown or undermine international commitments on climate action.



Responding to the drums of war

- The 2021 Defence Review already committed to a **14% budget increase** - the largest in almost 70 years. It also increased the limits on the UK's nuclear arsenal by over 40%. **UK military spending is now 3rd highest in the world.**
- Militarism is fueling insecurity. Genuine human security can only be based on facing common existential threats around climate, disease and poverty.
- **Join a campaign.** Raise these issues in your union branch, with your MP, in response to every article you read calling for more money for armaments.

Information & Resources for Action

Campaigns: Global Campaign on Military Spending - demilitarize.org - UK Campaign - demilitarize.org.uk - Global Peace Dividend Initiative - peace-dividend.org

Military emissions: Conflict and Environment Observatory - ceobs.org - Scientists for Global Responsibility - sgr.org.uk - Data repository - MilitaryEmission.org

Human Security: SIPRI Report May 2022 - sipri.org - Rethinking Security - rethinkingsecurity.org.uk - Common Security 2022 - commonsecurity.org

Any of our brilliant network of UK organisations from CND & Campaign Against Arms Trade to Global Justice Now - demilitarize.org.uk/supporting-organisations