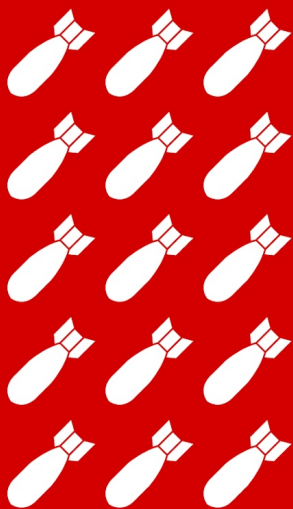


Militarism Fuels Climate Crisis



A pocket
guide for
change
makers

August 2022

All Carbon Counts

The military emissions problem

Every sector of human activity is subject to carbon reporting and reduction targets, with one, single exception - the global military.

While a handful of countries submit voluntary estimates these are limited in scope and don't contain specific reduction targets. Independent studies suggest the **military footprint could represent as much as six percent of global emissions**,¹ exceeding the impact of civilian aviation. For every year the military exemption continues, its relative impact increases.

The horrific ongoing war in Ukraine is not only a humanitarian disaster - it is also a climate disaster. While warfare emissions are significant, a far greater impact will come from the associated global military spending increases, renewed oil/gas exploration and the threat to hard-won climate commitments. If we are to avoid total climate breakdown we must come together and make change happen.

demilitarize.org.uk/climate

Move The Money

From arms to climate adaptation

Countries who've done the most to cause the climate crisis must compensate those most vulnerable to its impacts.

13 years ago at COP15, rich countries promised the poorest at least \$100bn a year by 2020 in climate finance. This promise has not been kept.

	Military Spending	Climate Finance
2020	\$1,982bn ²	\$83bn ³
2021	\$2,113bn ⁴	Unknown

The vast majority of climate finance has come not as grants but as loans, pushing poorer countries further into debt.³ Crucially, 70% of current finance is for mitigation, with just 21% for adaptation to climate impacts. The UN estimates over \$70bn is needed this year for essential adaptation, rising as high as \$330bn by 2030,⁵ before we even discuss 'loss & damage' costs.

The US has both the largest historical emissions (25%)⁶ and the largest military budget (\$801bn)⁴ but also the greatest climate finance shortfall. In 2022 the US increased climate finance by just \$1bn vs. an extra \$67bn for the military.

The **March 2021 'defence' review** pledged a **14% hike in UK military spending**,⁷ the largest in almost 70 years.⁸ It also abandoned decades of nuclear weapons reductions with an **increase of 44% in the nuclear stockpile**.

In **June 2022** Boris Johnson pledged to raise the UK's military burden from **2.1% of GDP to 2.5% by 2030**. For context, 0.4% of GDP is the estimated cost of all emergency measures to date, to address the current cost of living crisis.¹¹ Current leadership frontrunner Liz Truss has gone further, pledging an increase to 3% of GDP by 2030 if elected.

The **October 2021 Net Zero Strategy**⁹ and **Autumn Budget**¹⁰ detail all spending on national carbon reduction (transport, energy generation, heat in buildings etc.). The **High Court ruled the strategy 'unlawful' in July 2022** for failing to detail how it would meet binding UK carbon reduction targets.¹²

For a full breakdown by year and sector see **demilitarize.org.uk/budget**

UK Government spending plans 2021-25

Military (core costs)

£190.9bn

Reducing UK emissions



£25.6bn

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

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**.¹³

The estimated 2018 **carbon footprint of British military** spending is **11 million tCO₂e**¹⁴ equivalent to the average emissions of **six million UK cars** in a year.¹⁵

A conservative estimate puts the carbon footprint of the **EU militaries** in 2019 at **24.8 million tCO₂e**, with France accounting for one-third of this.¹⁶

The militaries of **China, India, Russia & Saudi Arabia** will all be significant contributors to global emissions.¹

New site for latest military emissions data:
militaryemissions.org

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