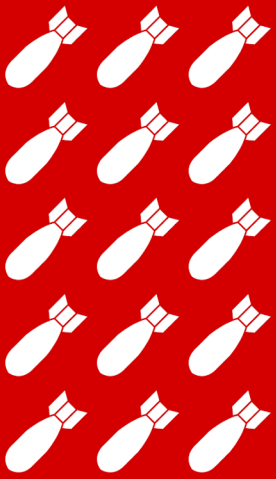
Militarism Fuels Climate Crisis



A pocket guide for change makers

June 2023

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 some countries submit voluntary estimates these are limited in scope and lack specific reduction targets.

Independent studies put the **military bootprint at 2,750MtCO_2e or 5.5% of total global emissions**,[1] exceeding the impact of civilian aviation.

Every year this military exemption continues, its relative impact on global temperatures will increase.

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 resulting global military spending increases, renewed oil & gas exploration and the threat to hard-won climate commitments. To have any hope of preventing climate breakdown, we must work together to stop this spiralling arms race.

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.

14 years ago at COP15, rich countries promised the poorest at least $100bn a year by 2020 in climate finance. This promise has *still* not been met.

	Military Spending	Climate Finance
2020	$1,982bn[2]	$83bn[3]
2021	$2,113bn[4]	Unknown
2022	$2,240bn[17]	Unknown

While OECD hopes targets may be met in 2023, Oxfam puts the **true value below $30bn**, with the rest given as loans, which push poorer countries further into debt.[3] **Rich countries spend 30 times more on their militaries than on climate finance.**[5] We need a radical shift, now, diverting arms spending to the new Loss & Damage fund.

The US has both the largest historical emissions (25%+)[6] and the largest military budget ($877bn)[17] but also the greatest climate finance shortfall. In 2022 the US increased climate finance by just $1bn vs. an extra $76bn 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 a 44% increase in the UK nuclear stockpile.

The October 2021 Net Zero Strategy[9] and Autumn Budget[10] detailed 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 binding UK targets would be met.[12] It was updated in March 2023 but with no significant new budget allocation this parliament.

In June 2022 Boris Johnson pledged to raise the UK's military burden from 2.1% of GDP to 2.5% by 2030. Liz Truss pledged to go still further to 3% of GDP in her brief stint as PM.

Sunak's first budget as PM saw the MoD given the largest increase of any govt dept.[12]

For a full breakdown by year and sector see

demilitarize.org.uk/budget

UK Government spending plans (2021-25)

Military (core costs)

£201.6bn

Reducing UK emissions

£27.7bn

For every £1 we spend reducing UK carbon emissions, we spend £7.30 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 tCO_2e[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]

For the latest military emissions data visit:

militaryemissions.org

References

1. SGR & CEOBs. Estimating the Military's Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions (SGR, 2022)
2. SIPRI. Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2020 (SIPRI, 2021)
3. OXFAM. Climate Finance Shadow Report 2023: Assessing the Delivery of the $100 billion commitment (June 2023)
4. SIPRI. Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2021 (SIPRI, 2022)
5. TNI. Climate Collateral: How Military Spending Fuels Environmental Damage (2022)
6. OWID; Global Carbon Project (2019)
7. UK Govt. Global Britain in a competitive age (HMSO 2021)
8. RUSI. A New Direction for the Ministry of Defence's Budget? Implications of the November Spending Review (2021)
9. BEIS. Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (HMSO 2021)
10. HM Treasury. Autumn budget and spending review 2021
11. https://www.harpermacleod.co.uk/insights/plans-to-achieve-net-zero-as-unlawful/
12.GCOMS UK. Military spending boosted more than health, education, environment or overseas aid (March 2023)
13. Neta C. Crawford, Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War (Brown University, 2019)
14. 'tCO2e' stands for 'tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent'.
15. Stuart Parkinson, The Environmental Impacts of the UK Military Sector (SGR/Declassified UK 2020)
16. Parkinson & Cottrell. Under the Radar: The Carbon Footprint of Europes Military Sectors (SGR, CEOBS 2021)
17. SIPRI. Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2022 (SIPRI, 2023)

Published by the **Global Campaign on Military Spending UK** in June 2023 as an update to our booklet produced for COP26.
Words & design: Matt Fawcett

The Facts.

- Global military carbon emissions account for ~5.5% of total global emissions[1]
- Military emissions are exempt from global mandatory reporting & reduction targets[15]
- The UK spends over seven times more on its military than on reaching its NetZero targets[12]
- Rich countries spend 30 times more on their militaries as they provide in climate finance[5]

Time for change. Spread the word.
#WarCostsUsTheEarth

demilitarize.org.uk
@GCOMS_UK

Global Campaign on Military Spending UK