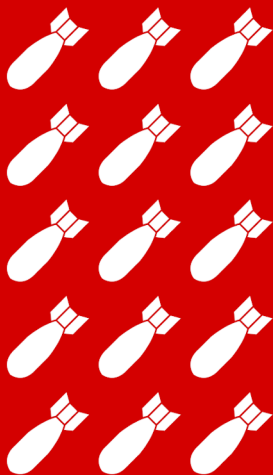


Militarism Fuels Climate Crisis



A pocket
guide for
change
makers

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 contribute as much as six percent to global emissions,¹ exceeding the impact of civilian aviation.

For every year the military is excluded from reduction targets, its relative impact increases. Military emissions aren't on the COP26 agenda, but campaigners are mobilising across the globe to ensure they can't escape scrutiny at COP27. This is the moment to make some noise for our future.



[**demilitarize.org.uk/climate**](https://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.

12 years ago at COP15, rich countries promised the poorest at least \$100bn a year by 2020 in climate finance. This promise has not been met. Yet even as the pandemic halted entire economies in 2020, global military spending continued to rise by a further 2.6%.²

Military Spending
£1,982bn²

Climate Finance
£79.6bn³

What little climate finance does exist comes largely as loans rather than grants, pushing poorer countries further into debt.⁴ Crucially, 70% of current finance is for mitigation, with only 21% for adaptation to worsening climate impacts. The UN estimates over \$70bn is currently needed each year for essential adaptation, rising to as much as \$300bn by 2030.⁵

The US has both the largest historical emissions (25%)⁶ and the largest military budget (\$778bn)². Biden has pledged to quadruple US climate finance to \$11.7bn per year by 2024. \$11.7bn is just 35% of last year's rise in US military spending.

Wrong Priorities

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

The **October 2021 Net Zero Strategy**⁹ and **Autumn Budget**¹⁰ detail all spending on national carbon reduction (inc transport, energy generation, heat in buildings etc.). The plan has only a **50% chance of meeting the government's own target**¹¹ for 2035, which many scientists already view as **insufficient to prevent runaway climate crisis**.¹²

For any hope of a liveable future for us & our ecosystem, **we must change direction now**.

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

Planned UK government spending 2021-25

Military (core costs)

£190.5bn

Reducing UK emissions

£25.6bn

**For every £1 we
spend reducing UK
carbon emissions,
we spend £7.40 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

References

1. Stuart Parkinson, The carbon boot-print of the military, Responsible Science Journal No.2, (SGR, January 2020)
2. SIPRI. Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2020 (SIPRI, 2020)
3. OECD. Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries: Aggregate Trends Updated with 2019 Data (2021)
4. Oxfam. Climate Finance Shadow Report (Oxfam, 2020)
5. United Nations Environment Programme. Adaptation Gap Report 2020 (UNEP, 2020)
6. OWID; Global Carbon Project (2019)
7. UK Govt. Global Britain in a competitive age, CP 403 (HM Stationary Office 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 (2021)
10. HM Treasury. Autumn budget and spending review 2021 (2021)
11. <https://www.endsreport.com/article/1730963/a-huge-let-down-uk-50-chance-missing-sixth-carbon-budget-net-zero-strategy>
12. Simms A . Turning delusion into climate action – Prof Kevin Anderson, an interview. Responsible Science, no.2. (2020)
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 Europe's Military Sectors (SGR, CEOBS 2021)



Published by the **Global Campaign on Military Spending UK** on 1st November 2021 as a contribution to discussions around COP26.
Words & design: Matt Fawcett

@GCOMS_UK

demilitarize.org.uk

contact@demilitarize.org.uk



**Global Campaign on
Military Spending UK**