

The U.S. Military, Climate Change, and the Green New Deal

The U.S. military is the world's largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels and the world's worst producer of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and many other toxic pollutants. The U.S. military accounts for almost 80% of the federal government's fossil fuel consumption. If the Pentagon were a country, it would rank 47th in annual fossil fuel consumption, ahead of 140 countries. Not included in this GHG emissions total are those produced by the Pentagon's massive use of concrete, electricity consumption, and other resources that also produce GHGs. The production of concrete is one the major sources of GHGs and other forms of pollution.



Since the onset of the so-called "Global War on Terror", which is better characterized as the U.S. Global War of Terror, the Pentagon has created more than 1.2 billion metric tons of GHGs from fossil fuel consumption, with 400 million metric tons produced directly from war-related use of fuel. The Pentagon's GHG emissions are generally overlooked in climate change studies because it is difficult to get consistent data. In an effort to get U.S. buy-in, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol exempted the U.S. military and UN/U.S. sanctioned military activities from the GHG totals, as a concession to U.S. imperialism. Despite this concession, the U.S. refused to sign the 1997 Kyoto Protocol which was signed by 191 countries while the U.S. Congress passed a law exempting the Pentagon from GHG limits. The U.S. military exemptions were eliminated in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, which the U.S. initially agreed to but has since announced its withdrawal from the Agreement.

The U.S. has more than 800 bases in more than 130 countries, imposing its neocolonial agenda on the peoples of the world. In addition, there are 6,000 military facilities within the U.S. Using its network of military installations, the Pentagon steals the world's resources, particularly fossil fuels, on behalf of Wall Street and the capitalist class and insures that such resources remain the private property of the billionaire class.

The Pentagon budget, more than \$650 billion annually and overwhelmingly supported by Democrats and Republicans, exceeds the total spent by the next seven largest military budgets combined (China, Saudi Arabia, India, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and Germany). This is more than 50% of the discretionary federal spending. The Pentagon budget does not include nuclear weapons, veterans, and CIA/NSA/Homeland Security/national security state expenditures.

Beyond GHG production, waging war is obviously catastrophic for the Earth's environment and peoples. **The Pentagon's budget must be redirected to fund programs such as the Green New Deal.**

Issued by Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice (MECAWI) and Moratorium NOW! Coalition

To get involved, join our weekly organizing meetings on Mondays at 7 pm at 5920 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 28202.