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NATO – Climate Killer

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is an exclusive military alliance of 30 predominately white, wealthy, Western Countries founded in 1949. It is dominated by the United States. Since its inception, the NATO Supreme Allied Commander has always been an American general.

NATO allies must be interoperable with the US military machine, which is the largest consumer of fossil fuel on the planet.

In 2006, NATO Defence Ministers agreed to commit a minimum of 2% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to defence spending. 20% of this spending must be on new weapons.

The contrast between NATO's objective of mitigation of climate change, and that of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) could not be greater. The IPCC states that fossil emissions must be reduced by 43% by 2030 to keep the temperature increase below 1.5°C.

NATO says their GHG emissions will be tracked and monitored, but since this methodology is not publicly available, there is no way of knowing what they will measure, or how they plan to achieve their stated objective. However, the NATO target refers only to the alliance's own assets such as its AWACS surveillance planes, its drones based in Italy and its headquarters in Brussels as well as military headquarters in other places like Mons (Belgium), Naples (Italy) or Brunssum (the Netherlands).

Militaries across the world are exempt from publicly reporting their greenhouse gas emissions, so GWUAN are grateful for the many capable studies already done on this work.

1. Since the Paris Agreement in 2015 NATO members have increased their military spending by \$200 billion annually, yet they have failed to meet their UN climate financing pledge of £100 billion per year for developing countries to adapt to worsening climate conditions.
2. The carbon footprint of EU military expenditure in 2019 was about 24.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) - about the same as the CO₂ emissions released by around 14 million cars every year.
3. US Department of Defense is the world's largest institutional emitter of greenhouse gases. Between 2001 and 2017 it was responsible for emitting 1.2 billion tons of greenhouse gases – equivalent to the annual emissions of 257m cars. In 2022 it burnt through 82.3 million barrels of fuel, more than the total oil consumption of Finland.
4. NATO's military fossil footprint grew 30 million tons from 2021 - 2023, equivalent to an extra 8 million cars on the road.



5. If all NATO members meet the 2% of GDP target between 2021 and 2028, their total combined military fossil footprint would amount to 2 billion tons. We would require an extra 6 billion MATURE trees to absorb this much carbon.
6. If all NATO member states achieve the commitment of at least 2% GDP, total expenditure between 2021 and 2028 will amount to an estimated \$1.68 trillion a year. The global cost of climate change damage is estimated to be \$1.7 trillion a year.
7. The embedded carbon costs of weapons manufacture of 15 major NATO arms companies is 150,533,044 tons of CO₂, which is the same as an average gasoline powered family car being driven 386 billion miles every year, or 1.6 million trips to the moon.
8. European NATO members must spend an additional €1 trillion to meet the 2% GDP target, roughly the same as the €1 trillion needed for the European Green Deal.
9. The 31 member states of NATO spent more than 16 times as much as Russia and its allies in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO, which includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan)
10. NATO member states export weapons to 39 of the 40 countries most vulnerable to climate change. This increases the risk of armed conflict and oppression at a time of dangerous climate crisis.
11. Militarism will get worse under the NATO Agenda 2030 and shareholders in the Military Industrial Complex will get richer. This highly irresponsible agenda is a blueprint for a carbon intensive arms race. As the US leads NATO countries into hot wars in China, Russia and the Middle East, the cost to the environment will spiral to irretrievable conditions.
12. The Ukraine war is so far responsible for 33million tonnes of CO₂. Postwar reconstruction uses up a vast amount of resources. The botched reconstruction of Iraq cost U.S. taxpayers \$60 billion. Rebuilding Ukraine will cause emissions of around 49 million tons of carbon dioxide – equivalent to the carbon footprint of 22.3 billion steaks.

**It is entirely possible for next generation to grow up in an economy that's about nurturing life,
not waging death.**

Abolishing NATO will be a first step.