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US action on climate change

What has the US done about climate change?

- The US is the largest carbon polluter in history.
- The US produces more plastic trash than any other nation. ([source](#))
- The US wastes 80 billion pounds of food a year, 30-40% of our food supply. ([source](#))
- Roughly 50% of all produce in the US is thrown away.
- In 2020 the US withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement. The US is set to miss its 2025 Paris Agreement target.
- Despite promising not to during his campaign, Biden recently announced he would reopen oil and gas drilling on public land.
- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 75 percent of the US waste stream can be recycled or composted, but we're only doing so for just over 34 percent of it. ([source](#))
- The US drops on average 46 bombs a day. ([source](#))

The US solution to climate change is to militarize their response. The Department of Defense has a climate risk analysis in which they describe climate change as "creating new security challenges for U.S. interests." According to the report, in order to defeat climate change they must be prepared "to train, fight, and win in this increasingly complex environment. This report does not address how the US military is responsible for the worsening climate situation.

What does the US military have to do with climate change?

- If the Pentagon were a country, its fuel use alone would make it the 47th largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world, greater than entire nations such as Sweden, Norway or Finland. US military emissions come mainly from fueling weapons and equipment, as well as lighting, heating and cooling more than 560,000 buildings around the world. ([Source](#))
- According to research done by Dr. Stuart Parkinson of the US-based organization Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR), the total carbon footprint of the US military adds up to 205 million tons, while that of the United Kingdom is 11 million tons. These numbers come from meticulous research and data compiling by organizations such as SGR and others, because comprehensive data on the subject is not available. ([Peoples Dispatch](#))
- Since the creation of the Red Hill Storage Facility in the 1940s the US navy has leaked over 180,000 gallons of petroleum into the groundwater aquifer that provides drinking water for over 400,000 residents and visitors from Hālawā to Hawai'i Kai. A 2021 study by Bennington College



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found that, since 2016, the US military is currently poisoning communities across the country by burning Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), a “forever chemical,” in working class communities. There are dozens of cases where the US military has poisoned its own population. “At 149 current and former U.S. military bases, the contamination is so severe that they have been designated Superfund sites by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, meaning they are among the most hazardous areas in the country requiring cleanup.” ([source](#))

- The US military sucks up money and resources that should be spent on climate solutions. Compared to the \$6.4 trillion spent on war in the past two decades, the cost of shifting the U.S. power grid to 100% renewable is an estimated \$4.5 trillion. ([source](#))
- Indigenous communities protesting plans to build the Keystone oil pipeline in South Dakota were met by police who targeted the unarmed demonstrators with tear gas, bean-bag rounds, and water cannons—intentionally deployed in below-freezing temperatures.

How does US foreign policy impact climate change?

- The US actively targets critical infrastructure when it invades/coups/bombs countries. In 2018, US armed and funded anti-government groups caused 1 billion in damages to hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, etc., destroying and rebuilding critical infrastructure necessitates resource extraction and emissions.
- The US arms & funds groups & countries that murder environmentalists: In Honduras, where far-right governments remained in power for 12 years thanks to the US, activists like Berta Caceres have been gunned down for trying to preserve their rivers. In 2018, there were 164 documented cases of environmentalists murdered around the world. ([source](#))