

Media advisory

20th October 2021 | For immediate release.

Media contact: Doug Weir +44 7928 560 629 doug@ceobs.org

COP26 in-person and virtual press conference Tues 9th November.

In person: Arctic Basecamp tent, Federated Hermes Fringe, access via West Greenhill Place, Glasgow. (By prior arrangement)

Virtual: Via Zoom webinar, registration: https://bit.ly/press_MEG

Dire state of military emissions reporting to be revealed at COP26

On November 9th, scientists will launch a new website dedicated to showcasing the dire state of military greenhouse gas emissions reporting to the UNFCCC.

The United States lobbied for military emissions to be excluded from the Kyoto Protocol. The Paris Agreement made reporting them voluntary. As a result, military emissions reporting lags far behind that of other highly polluting sectors. A new website – www.militaryemissions.org – will bring these voluntary reports into one place for the first time, allowing visitors to see what their countries do, and do not report, and just how big the military emissions gap is.

Researchers from the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS) and Lancaster and Durham Universities, respectively, analysed the submissions from all UNFCCC Annex I countries, and those for non-Annex I countries with high levels of military spending. They found serious under-reporting to be the norm. Where it was reported, data was often inaccessible or concealed in aggregated reporting.

The launch of militaryemissions.org comes amidst growing attention on the contribution that militaries make to the climate crisis. The US Department of Defense is the largest institutional emitter in the world, and if it were a country, it would rank between Peru and Portugal for emissions. In the last 12 months, there has been increasing recognition of the problem from NATO, and from countries that have adopted legally binding Net Zero targets such as Switzerland and the UK. Researchers and campaigners are urging governments to make military emission reporting mandatory.

Speakers

Introducing militaryemissions.org | Doug Weir, Research and Policy Director, CEOBS

The state of military emissions reporting | Linsey Cottrell, Environmental Policy Officer, CEOBS

Closing the military emissions gap | Dr Benjamin Neimark, Senior Lecturer, Lancaster University

Q&A

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 GMT November 9th.

Interview opportunities

In-person interviews are possible both on and off the Federated Hermes COP26 Fringe site West Greenhill Place, Glasgow on November 9th and the morning of November 10th. We are also available for Zoom or telephone interviews.

Linsey Cottrell, Doug Weir CEOBS – 07928 560 629
Benjamin Neimark, Lancaster University – 07961 977 733
Oliver Belcher, Durham University - 07756 106 756

Organiser information

militaryemissions.org is a collaboration between the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS) and the ESRC-funded project 'Concrete Impacts'.

CEOBS is a UK charity that works to research and publicise environmental data, develop methodologies to improve data collection and analysis, and scrutinise and contribute to developments in law and policy intended to reduce the environmental harm caused by conflicts and military activities. www.ceobs.org

Concrete Impacts is a UKRI-Economic Social Research Council funded collaboration between Lancaster and Durham Universities examining the socio-ecological effects of military supply chains and its wider environmental footprints. Kirsti Ashworth is funded by a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellowship (Grant no: DH150070).