

Fact Sheet

View the open-letter: [*Environmentalists Unite: War Fuels the Climate Crisis*](#)

United States military the #1 polluter on the globe (the elephant in the room):

- World's largest consumer of oil
- 4.6 billion gallons of fuel per year
- 2017: gas emissions totaled [over 59 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent](#)
- 2001: 1.2 billion metric tons of CO₂ in 'war on terror'.
- [War-related emissions between 2001 and 2017](#), including "overseas contingency operations" in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Syria, generated over 400 million metric tons of CO₂.
- Pentagon's fuel use alone would rank it as 47th largest greenhouse gas emitter if it were a country.

Over 800 overseas military bases in 80 countries:

- Over 170,000 active-duty troops stationed overseas.
- [60% are larger than 10 acres, typically house at least 200 military personnel.](#)
- Contaminate ground water, soil, air, lakes, rivers, oceans.
- US Indo-Pacific Command, housing over 200 of the military's 800-plus foreign bases, accounts for 22% of the Pentagon's energy use.
- Military presence in Guam led to the identification of multiple areas with severe environmental damage from toxins, near US Navy and Air Force bases.
- [Okinawans affected by the US military](#): 450,000 people (a third of prefecture's population) facing polluted drinking water, the worst environmental contamination in the island's history.

Environmental Impact of Destruction in Palestine:

- [The first 120 days of the genocide in Gaza alone](#) produced more emissions than 26 countries combined. The first two months alone produced more emissions than 20 of the most climate-vulnerable countries.
- The projected cost of rebuilding Gaza is projected to produce more emissions than 135 countries combined.
- Gaza's potable water shortage is exacerbated by climate change & Israel's restrictions on materials/fuel.
- [Sewage infiltrates Gaza's aquifer, flowing into coastal waters, damaging marine life.](#)
- [As of 2018](#), 97% of Gaza's water was unfit for human consumption; contaminated water caused 26% of illnesses, leading to child deaths.
- Israeli settlers consume six times more water than the 2.9 million Palestinian residents.
- [Israel has uprooted 800,000 olive trees](#) in the West Bank since 1967.

- Palestinian agricultural communities face land and water seizures, along with climatic shifts.

Environmental Impact of War in Ukraine:

- [Hundreds of thousands](#) of acres of Ukraine's forest has been destroyed, and the war has caused the emissions of at least [119 million tons of CO2](#) as of February 2024.
- [As of January 2024](#), the war has caused over \$56.4 billion in environmental damage, including widespread chemical contamination of air, water, and soil.
- [30% of Ukraine](#) is contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance.
- [The seizure](#) of Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and destruction of Nova Kakhovka Dam pose long-term environmental risks.