

"INVEST IN OUR PLANET"

MOVE THE MONEY FROM MILITARY SPENDING TO CLIMATE ACTION

\$300 billion USD

Is the money needed to stop the rise in greenhouse gases and buy up to 20 years of time to fix global warming, according to United Nations climate scientists.



\$300 USD billion is the world's military spending every 60 days.¹

Governments around the world waste over two trillion dollars on military expenditure each year² while they are unable to find even a fraction of the resources to tackle the greatest existential threat to humanity.



WAR COSTS US THE EARTH

The carbon footprint of global militaries and associated arms industries is responsible for a staggering 5% of total annual greenhouse gas emissions, with devastating impacts on our planet.

War and armed conflict pollute air, water, and soil, decimating biodiversity and affecting us all.

Every dollar spent on the military takes away resources that could have been used to tackle the ecological crisis.

THOUSANDS OF SOLUTIONS ALREADY EXIST.⁵ NOW IT'S TIME TO AMPLIFY AND UPSCALE GRASSROOTS SOLUTIONS EVERYWHERE!

If countries agreed to reducing annual military spending by just two per cent for 5 years, 1 trillion USD could be saved!⁶

At the same time, the risk of war would be reduced.

We could reinvest these resources to build **peaceful, regenerative, and care-centred local economies**. This includes by **supporting grassroots feminist organisations** and **protecting and funding Indigenous environmental activists**.



In Zimbabwe, we are currently scaling up the installation of biogas digester plants. These plants help to address desertification and prevent conflict as it avoids the logging of scarce trees for firewood. It also reduces women's burden of unpaid care work as it is their responsibility to supply fuel for cooking.

The waste from biogas digester plants can also be used as organic fertilizer in the fields. If we had more resources, we could install the biogas digester plants across the entire country, **ensuring decentralised access to renewable energy sources for all.**

– **Edwick Madzimure**,
President, WILPF Zimbabwe



In the United States, we have worked to expose the military's role in PFAS contamination. **These dangerous chemicals travel through air, water, and soil, contaminate drinking water and food, accumulate in our bodies, and are linked to serious diseases.**

We've been advocating for action, legislation, and clean-ups but an increase in resources would allow us to accelerate public support and mobilisation to end PFAS contamination."

– **Nancy Price**,
Co-Chair, Earth Democracy
Committee, WILPF US



This document was co-developed by the WILPF Environment Working Group. To learn more about our environmental initiatives and how you can support them, visit our **Environment page on wilpf.org**.

SOURCES:

¹ <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/want-to-limit-climate-change-two-months-of-global-military-spending-could-buy-the-world-time>

² <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2022/world-military-expenditure-passes-2-trillion-first-time>

³ <https://ceobs.org/estimating-the-militarys-global-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>

⁴ <https://ceobs.org/how-does-war-damage-the-environment/>

⁵ https://www.wecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WGC-brochure-EN_2022-11-03_web.pdf

⁶ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/christinero/2022/01/19/nobel-prize-winners-are-urging-every-country-to-cut-military-spending-by-2/?sh=6907259d36dd>