

Summary: Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War June 12, 2019

1.2 Billion Metric Tons of Greenhouse Gases

U.S. military emissions since the beginning of the Global War on Terror in 2001



The U.S. Department of Defense is the largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels in the world and a key contributor to climate change.

Between 2001 and 2017, the years for which data is available since the beginning of the war on terrorism with the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, the U.S. military emitted 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases. More than 400 million metric tons of greenhouse gases are directly due to war-related fuel consumption. The largest portion of Pentagon fuel consumption is for military jets.

These estimates are based on data from the Department of Energy because the Pentagon withholds fuel consumption data from Congress. The U.S. military has begun to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, but there is room for much steeper cuts.

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