

The climate crisis is global. Confronting the greatest security threat in human history will require not only unprecedented domestic policy change, but a systematic rethinking of U.S. foreign policy as well.

Climate change is a global crisis, increasing food and water insecurity, fueling conflict and mass displacement, and threatening the viability of the planet.

- The U.S. is the greatest historical contributor to climate change, and its massive military apparatus is a big reason why. The DOD emits more carbon than [140 nations](#).
- Climate change fuels mass displacement, resource scarcity, and violence. Mitigating the effects of the climate crisis is essential to preventing instability and global conflict.
- Immigration policy is climate policy. Because of the U.S.'s role in displacement, we must reform the domestic and international immigration systems to welcome climate refugees and migrants.
- Addressing the root causes of climate change and ensuring a just transition for people everywhere will require working diplomatically with other countries to rewrite the rules of global trade and economy through a global Green New Deal.

THE ROLE OF THE U.S. MILITARY

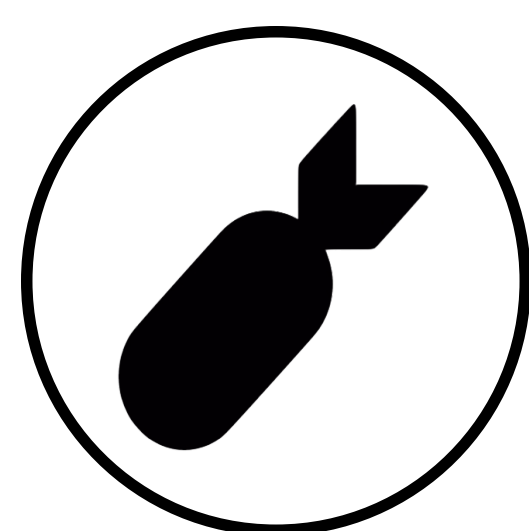
U.S. militarism is one of the leading drivers of climate change. Ending endless wars, scaling back the global military footprint, and investing in peace are climate imperatives.



- Maintaining a global military apparatus is carbon intensive. Emitting an estimated 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases since 2001, the Pentagon is the [largest](#) institutional emitter of greenhouse gases in the world. If it were a nation it would be the [55th](#) highest emitter in the world.
- Endless wars, 800 global military bases, and bloated weapons contracts cost trillions of U.S. taxpayer dollars. Just one percent of this year's \$740 billion military budget is [enough to fund](#) 128,879 green infrastructure jobs. The funds for a Green New Deal exist – and our security is better served on it than on war.

CLIMATE-FUELED CONFLICT

Mitigating the climate crisis is essential to reducing violent conflict and building human security around the world



- In 2019, the number of people displaced by extreme weather exceeded those displaced by all wars and conflicts – [three times over](#). By 2050 there [could be](#) up to 1 billion climate refugees. We must reform the domestic and international immigration systems to welcome climate refugees and migrants.
- Climate change plays a role in conflicts today including in Syria, Yemen, and the Sahel, where climate-related droughts, crop failures, and resource shortages helped aggravate discontentment, unemployment, and popular support for violent groups.
- U.S. foreign policy is often beholden to the fossil fuel industry and dictated by the desire to control global fuel supplies. Decades of disastrous interventions designed to keep the oil flowing have only made the world less safe.

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

Climate change is global. To solve it, the U.S. must cooperate with other countries to transform the global system.



- Rejoining the Paris Agreement was an important first step. Now, we must engage in extensive global cooperation, including with supposed “competitors” like China, for stronger multilateral commitments.
- Addressing the climate crisis will require transforming a global economic system that incentivizes extractivism and inequality. The U.S. should support a global Green New Deal including public finance for green development, investment in shared green technology, a new model of trade that reasserts public control over corporate power, reform of the International Financial Institutions, global regulatory floors, and more.





POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS

We only have one planet, so we must act NOW. Congress can take action to tackle the climate crisis by advocating for and enacting the following policy recommendations:



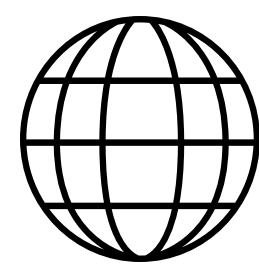
Demilitarize U.S. Foreign Policy

Slashing the exorbitant DOD budget, closing redundant and unnecessary military bases, repealing the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs, and ending endless wars – by massively scaling back the global military machine, the U.S. can cut emissions and devote resources to efforts that actually make people around the world more secure.



Fund The Green Climate Fund

The GCF provides financial assistance for developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Though the U.S. has pledged \$3 billion, it [has yet to deliver](#) \$2 billion of the promise – and many times more is needed.



Move Toward a Global Green New Deal

A domestic Green New Deal is a necessary step. But confronting the climate crisis also requires transnational solutions: building a [new multilateralism](#) for a global economy that is sustainable, prosperous, and equitable.



Choose Diplomacy, Not Competition

A global crisis requires global cooperation. That means prioritizing good-faith diplomacy with other nations over the current approach of hostility and aggression.

CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW

The responsibility for the climate crisis, and the burden of its impacts, are not distributed equally. The U.S. has historically emitted more greenhouse gases than any other country in the world, with the benefits of its growth accruing mostly to the privileged and powerful. The effects of climate change, meanwhile, disproportionately hurt the already-dispossessed. The U.S. has a unique responsibility to address its own climate emissions – through a domestic Green New Deal – before denouncing developing countries who are only now ramping up emissions. Climate justice means confronting the crisis in a way that will *redress* inequities, not reinforce them.

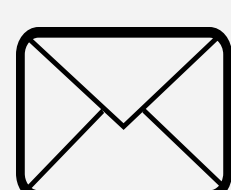
NO COLD WAR WITH CHINA

While the U.S. is the top historical emitter of greenhouse gases, and remains one of the top per capita, China today emits more total greenhouse gases than any other country. If these two countries cannot cooperate, there is little hope of confronting the climate crisis. U.S. warmongering, aggression, and trade wars are harmful in their own right – they're also deadly obstacles to climate cooperation. We must [end the new cold war](#) with China and put good-faith multilateralism and diplomacy first.

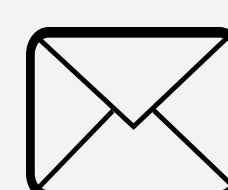
SELECT PAST LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- **Dec. 2015:** The Paris Agreement is adopted as a landmark international agreement for global cooperation on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **June 2017:** Trump announces U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Withdrawal did not go into effect until November 4, 2020.
- **Feb. 2019:** Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Markey introduce a pair of resolutions in the House and Senate respectively for the creation of a Green New Deal.
- **May 2019:** House passes the Climate Action Now Act by a vote of [231-190](#) requiring the president to form and update an annual plan for the U.S. to meet its contribution for the Paris Agreement.
- **Sept. 2020:** THRIVE resolution introduced to outline a domestic agenda for building a more just society.
- **Jan. 2021:** President Biden signs executive orders recommitting the U.S. to the Paris Agreement, revoking the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, and ordering federal agencies to assess more than 100 of Trump's presidential acts deemed harmful to the environment for reversal or redesign.

For further questions and additional resources:



ERIC EIKENBERRY, Govt. Relations Director
eric@winwithoutwar.org



SAM RATNER, Policy Director
sam@winwithoutwar.org