

Dear SPC Members and Supporters,

As we recognize and celebrate this 52nd Earth Day, the focus of this e-newsletter is on the connection between militarism and the environment, in particular militarism's connection with climate change (or as one booklet puts it, "How Militarism Fuels the Climate Crisis and Vice Versa"). As the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists recognize while setting the [Doomsday Clock](#) (which this year is at 100 seconds to midnight), climate change and nuclear weapons, especially in the age of disinformation, pose existential threats. As Upstate Drone Action states in their promotion of their Earth Day event (see below):

- The US military is the single biggest institutional consumer of oil, emitting more CO2 than most nations on Earth.
- A key purpose of the US military is to maintain access to and control of fossil fuel and other earth resources.
- The US military is exempt from environmental (EPA) regulations and is not required to comply with the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Militarism is devouring our resources and distracting our attention from the environmental problems that war can never solve.

Please learn more and act.

This newsletter contains:

- 1) Several actions you can take.
- 2) Resources on militarism and the environment (in particular climate change).

1) Actions you can take

a) [Ukraine & Beyond: A Fossil Free Future](#), a recorded webinar organized by CodePink and Massachusetts Peace Action, connects the dots between demilitarization and decarbonization (starts at 35 seconds in). **Learn about a bill (the Energy Independence and Security Act (S. 4013 and H.R. 7439) introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Cori Bush, to **redirect part of our military budget to transition to a green economy** (more on the bill [here](#); contact your member of Congress [here](#)).** In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration is doubling down on domestic fossil fuel production while appealing to Saudi Arabia's autocrats to increase exports of fossil fuels. This is wrong - now is the time to divert money for weapons to transition to a green economy. Speakers include:

- Aya Saed, Rep. Cori Bush's Counsel and Policy Advisor working on peace conversion.
- Matt Duss, the foreign policy advisor for Senator Bernie Sanders working on S. 938, a bill

- Seth Laxman, a Climate Campaigner with Greenpeace USA and transgender rights activist.

b) Upstate Drone Action invites you to join us in Syracuse on Earth Day, Friday, April 22 in saying: “Stop War on Mother Earth.” Since the first Earth Day, the Earth has gotten hotter. We have to go beyond changing our lightbulbs and recycling, and shake up the powers that be. **One of the key drivers of climate change is militarism and war**, and we will have to confront this in order to change the course of climate chaos. The US military is the single biggest institutional consumer of oil, emitting more CO2 than most nations on Earth. It's time to end militarism and decarbonize our society!

- Upstate Drone Action will be presenting a **short skit** on the connections of militarism and climate change in the Thornden Park Amphitheater area at various times between noon-3pm. Look for the Mother Earth banners.
- **Join us at 4-4:45pm at Hancock Air Base** (6000 E. Molloy Rd.) to stand vigil at the gate of the 174th Attack Wing - a major drone base which is used to surveil, threaten and kill people across the world. This will be a non-arrest vigil.
- Check out the 3:29 minute [video](#) made by members of Upstate Drone Action and some of the students of the Lehman Alternative Community School (Ithaca)

c) [Climate hearing in Syracuse on April 26!](#) **Tuesday, April 26, from 4pm to 7pm at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Gateway Center** (1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse). [Register to provide a comment](#) or come and listen in support. **Please come and wear green.** According to Alliance for a Green Economy, this public hearing is possibly the most important and impactful opportunity to take action on climate change we've ever had in Syracuse. We have to demonstrate public support for NY to do what is needed to help us make big shifts to reduce our climate emissions and decrease the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) was signed into NYS law in 2019, and the Climate Action Council (CAC), a 22 member panel, have been meeting for over a year to prepare a plan to achieve the State's bold clean energy and climate agenda. Syracuse's public comment hearing for the CAC's [draft plan](#) and we want to implement the CLCPA in a rapid and just manner.

Investor-owned utilities and fossil fuel industries are doing all they can to slow down the phase-out of fossil fuels and have launched a well-funded propaganda campaign. We cannot allow them to supersede the voices of thousands of New Yorkers who are demanding urgent climate action.

2) Resources on Militarism and the Environment

Webinar Recording: [Militarism and the Threat of Climate Catastrophe](#) is a 2-day webinar hosted by Chicago Area Peace Action. There are many recordings - of panels, breakout discussions, and more. Topics include "Situating Climate Resistance within Global Systems of Power," "Social Media as a Tool of Change: Communications Work 101," and more, with many panels youth-led. Definitely something to check out.

[Global Wars, Warming, Inequality: Three Interconnected Crises Threaten Our Planet](#), a 17-page engaging booklet from Brooklyn for Peace, is dense with graphics. The connections between global militarism, climate change, and social inequity are discussed. Learn how federal military funding in the United States actively endangers the planet, results in the neglect of other important sectors, and compounds existing social inequality across the globe. It is a scathing indictment of the US military industrial complex and its ramifications for intersectional justice.

The War Resisters League (WRL) has an excellent downloadable 2-sided leaflet, ["Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes Fiscal Year 2023."](#) Spoiler alert - the pie chart graphically shows that militarism accounts for almost 40% of the budget. WRL does this analysis every year. **Print and hand it out!**

[Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War](#) is a 2019, but still timely, report put out by Brown University's Cost of the War Project. *"Indeed, the DOD [Department of Defense] is the world's largest institutional user of petroleum and correspondingly, the single largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world."*

To stop wars for fossil fuels, we need to become less dependent on fossil fuels as a source of energy. [Alliance for a Green Economy](#) (AGREE) works for safe, affordable energy and the development of a green economy in New York State. AGREE works to promote this transition to a carbon-free and nuclear-free future and educates the public about alternatives that can revitalize the economy, while safeguarding human health and the environment. Follow AGREE's actions and initiatives on their [FaceBook page](#) and [website](#). SPC is a member group. Also, note that AGREE is hiring - check their webpage for details.

[HeatSmart CNY](#) is a community campaign making it easier and more affordable to improve the energy efficiency of our homes and buildings. They provide a comprehensive collection of information about heat pumps, the environmental significance of the technology, and avenues of assistance for residential and commercial buildings. Check out their [upcoming events here](#). Alliance for a Green Economy is one of the partner groups.

[Veterans for Peace's Climate Crisis and Militarism Project](#) warns that *“an arms race resulting from the invasion of Ukraine will hinder efforts of major polluting countries to lower their CO2 emissions and will doom any meaningful international agreements later this year at COP27. In other words, we are no longer ‘sleepwalking to climate catastrophe,’ we are running.”* They have some terrific resources:

- **Upcoming webinar** - [Averting Climate Catastrophe: No New Arms Race!](#) On Friday April 22 at 7pm ET. [Register here.](#) Speakers include Ann Wright (retired U.S. Army Colonel and U.S. State Department official), Dr. David Vine (author of *The United States of War*), and Erik Edstrom (Afghanistan war veteran and author of *UN-AMERICAN: A soldier's Reckoning of Our Longest War*).
- [Downloadable brochures](#) on “The Climate Crisis and US Militarism”
- [Downloadable brochure](#) on “Environmental Costs of War” (and a [half-page version](#))

[10 Ways that the Climate Crisis and Militarism are Intertwined](#) by Medea Benjamin is a very short, clear, overview of the topic.

[No Warming, No War; How Militarism Fuels the Climate Crisis and Vice Versa](#) is a 42-page well-researched booklet put out by the National Priorities Project at the Institute of Policy Studies. It has many supporting [resources](#), including [talking points](#) on the intersection of climate and militarism; a [discussion guide](#); a section on [Climate Change, Immigration, and Militarization](#); and more.