Ten Ways Congress Could Defund War to Fund Climate Solutions

The affordability and climate crises are interconnected, and spending on the Pentagon makes both worse. Tell Congress: not another dollar for war; fund a livable future instead.

Trump has requested an unprecedented $1.5 trillion war budget for FY 2027. The first step in achieving this record-shattering budget includes a $250 billion increase to last year's base war budget of $900 billion, to $1.15 trillion (the rest would come from separate legislation). While the Trump administration perpetuates war and seeks oil riches in Venezuela and beyond, communities around the country are reeling from severe storms, flooding, wildfires and other climate disasters.

Congress should oppose any increase in Pentagon spending, which is fueling the immoral, illegal, and unpopular war on Iran and ongoing genocide in Gaza. On top of the devastating human costs, excessive war spending worsens both the affordability and climate crises, fuels data center expansion, and empowers billionaires and oil executives who profit from endless war and climate collapse. More money will not fix a bad foreign policy strategy; it only throws more gasoline on our already burning world. Here are ten better investments than adding $250 billion to the endless war chest:

10 Investments Totaling $250 Billion that Would Address the Affordability and Climate Crises Instead of Fuel Endless War	
Program	**Cost**
Transition jobs from the war economy to a green economy	$100,000,000,000
Install solar panels on 3.5 million homes, boosting total residential solar installation by more than 50%	$82,600,000,000
Expand green affordable housing	$30,000,000,000
Ensure public transit systems remains safe by closing the maintenance budget gap	$15,200,000,000
Fully fund the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	$12,000,000,000
Restore the electric vehicle (EV) tax credit for 500,000 people	$3,750,000,000
Fully-fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	$3,368,140,000
Restore funding for renewable energy and climate resilience projects on Tribal lands	$1,500,000,000
Fully fund land conservation assistance for farmers and rural communities	$1,050,000,000
Restore $1 billion for International Climate Finance	$1,000,000,000
TOTAL	**$250 Billion**

A $250 billion investment in solutions for working families instead of war profiteers would transform millions of lives.[1] This isn't just a moral imperative; investing in climate solutions results in greater economic benefits and job creation than dollar-for-dollar investment in the Pentagon. It's also about the integrity of our democracy. Voters want Congress to invest in making life better for our families, our environment, and our futures on this planet - not bombing families abroad.

How does unaccountable military spending worsen the affordability and climate crises?

- Military-related operations - from combat, to daily training, to manufacturing - are environmentally devastating. The military's degradation and pollution of water, land, and air is a leading cause of public health crises near military sites at home and globally.
- The Pentagon is the world's largest institutional oil consumer and fossil fuel emitter. The U.S. is already a global outlier, responsible for the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions that are warming our world - and doing the least about it. Instead of investing resources as the world's wealthiest nation into transitioning away from oil, the Trump Administration is now using 'national security' as a justification to drill and burn even more climate-destroying carbon. Military-related carbon pollution will likely worsen as carbon-intensive data centers become more integrated into the U.S. national security apparatus.
- The Pentagon budget eats away at investments that would make our communities less susceptible and more resilient to climate crises. In 2025, the average U.S. taxpayer paid $4,049 for weapons and war vs. just $394 for the Environmental Protection Agency, our National Parks, and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs *combined*. That's 10 times more taxpayer dollars going towards endless war than to protecting our environment and ensuring a livable future for our children and the planet.

[1] Full methodology available on the National Priorities Project website at https://www.nationalpriorities.org/analysis/2026/ten-ways-congress-could-defund-war-fund-climate-solutions/