

# SAVE THE EARTH END WAR

*“I call money ‘green energy,’ because where we plant it, it will grow! If we plant it in systems of oppression and violence, then that is what we will grow. However, if we plant our green energy in organizations, businesses, and people who are at work helping heal our world and planet, then we grow more beauty, connections, equity, and health.”*

JULIA BUTTERFLY HILL, Activist and war tax resister

## The U.S. federal budget prioritizes militarism far above environmental preservation and restoration:

- The Pentagon is the largest user of oil in the world, burning 350,000 barrels of oil per day in 2010. Estimates today raise that to about 1 million barrels a day.
- An F-16 jet on a training mission ignites more fuel in a single hour than the average car owner consumes in two years.
- Every hour, the federal government spends \$60.71 million dollars for the Pentagon, and only \$3.23 million for the environment, according to the National Priorities Project.

U.S. military officials have stated on numerous occasions that climate change threatens U.S. security. So they’re working hard to convince us that with the right “green” technology and policy choices, the military can become environmentally friendly. There is nothing environmentally friendly about mas-



sive resource consumption and worldwide deployments. We must demand an end to this grotesque contribution to climate change that comes with the global unrest, death, and oppression. Let’s make that demand with our money, our “green energy,” as Julia Butterfly Hill calls it.

The current military budget, now over \$700 billion, could be used instead to slow and stop climate change. The government could develop sustainable energy sources for residences and businesses, retrofit houses for energy efficiency, regulate industry, clean up SuperFund and other polluted areas, and more. Individuals and organizations could put that money to work developing local agriculture, creating sustainable economies, installing decentralized renewable energy generators, and cleaning up polluted sites.

The government subsidizes and promotes climate change through the military with money from U.S. taxpayers. In 2016, about half of each tax dollar will go to the military.

Thousands of people around the United States have taken a step to boycott the Pentagon by refusing to pay war taxes. They double the impact of the protest by giving resisted taxes to organizations that use it for human and environmental needs.

You can legally refuse the federal income tax by lowering your taxable income, or commit an act of civil disobedience by refusing to pay some or all of your federal income tax or federal excise tax on local telephone service.

*“Wars are fought over resources and oil (energy) is currently the hot commodity. The organization that needs the most oil and gas is the same one charged to wage war.”*

COLEMAN SMITH, Activist and war tax resister

Let’s use our money to save the earth, not destroy it.

Find out how: [www.nwtrcc.org](http://www.nwtrcc.org)

For citations and more information look for the “Environment, Taxes & War” link at [nwtrcc.org/war-tax-resistance-resources/readings](http://nwtrcc.org/war-tax-resistance-resources/readings).



## National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee

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