Why the Environmental Movement must support Peace!

Since the first Earth Day in April, 1970, environmental activists have focused on clean energy sources (solar, wind, water); on organic farming; on pedestrian, bicycle and mass transportation; and on controlling fossil fuel, industrial, and other forms of pollution.

More recently, seventy members of Congress have co-sponsored a Green New Deal, calling for massive public investment in green jobs and green infrastructure.

Rarely has there been any mention of the biggest single polluter in the world: the Pentagon. Here are nine reasons why saving the environment necessitates working for Peace:

1. War is an environmental nightmare that continues to poison people and the planet long after the fighting ends.

2. The Pentagon is the largest consumer of fossil fuels in the world.

3. The Pentagon is the largest emitter of CO2 gases in the world.

4. Wars are fought for oil and other energy resources. The main goal of the Pentagon is fighting and threatening wars to control oil and gas, and the pipelines and shipping routes that carry them. This includes the Middle East, Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Arctic, particularly Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Venezuela, the South China Sea.

5. The military consumes well over 50% of all discretionary spending. War and preparation for war divert financial and human resources needed to meet social needs, including investment in renewable energy and a sustainable energy system.

6. The manufacture of arms and other military gear adds considerably to the carbon burden of the world.

7. The military-industrial complex is fully integrated with and dependent upon the fossil fuel energy complex, serving as its enforcer as well as its client.

8. To successfully address the climate crisis requires creating a sustainable new economy, but that is impossible so long as our economy remains dominated by the military-industrial-security-energy complex.

9. To achieve a just transition to a new sustainable economy will require that the environmental movement see its connection to movements for social justice, economic justice and peace. The quest for peace is also a social justice struggle.

The environmental movement must stop avoiding the connection between our militarized foreign policy and the challenge of climate change. We must replace the pipeline to the Pentagon with a pipeline to Peace. We must stop the War Profiteers. FUND HUMAN NEEDS, GREEN JOBS, NOT WAR!

Distributed Sunday, April 28, 2019
JOIN US TO RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR!
https://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com

Since 1999, the New Haven Sunday Vigil has been held here every week from 12-1pm at Broadway, Park and Elm Streets in New Haven, CT, to emphatically say NO to the state of permanent, ongoing war against the world being waged by our government and its allies, a war which is terrorizing the planet and destroying lives in order to consolidate enormous power and wealth in the hands of a very few people.

Often people ask us what we mean when we say, "RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR." We mean that the serial wars fought by the US and its allies are really one war being waged on many fronts. Men, women and children are being slaughtered, maimed, traumatized, and driven from their homes all over the world.

The weapons of this war include: drone attacks against human beings many thousands of miles away; mass deportations of immigrants and refugees; systemic dismantling of infrastructure and social programs; destruction of the environment; undermining workers' rights; refusal to pass a national minimum living wage.

This state of endless war has been escalated on all fronts. With its blatantly racist and xenophobic rhetoric and policies, its disregard for the US Constitution and international law, the Trump administration has made transparent the existential threat posed by the 1% to all our lives and to the future of our planet.