



WRITING TO YOUR LOCAL POLITICIAN

BEFORE YOU START

Make sure you're writing to your local representative from a NATO member country. Often, local politicians and their offices can only deal with correspondence from within their own areas.

Research your representative. Are they passionate about the climate crisis? Will they need a little more persuasion? Look at their voting record and their social media to find out, and then adapt your approach appropriately.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Dear ...,

My name is ... and I live in your area, I'm writing to you today about NATO's response to the climate crisis.

INTRODUCE THE ISSUE

It's likely that your MP won't be familiar with this as an issue, but they are more likely to be familiar with talking about the climate crisis. Introduce the issue with some key facts, and explain the basics- here's an idea of what you could write:

Militaries are huge users of fossil fuels. This summer, NATO announced plans for the organisation to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and work towards Net Zero by 2050, using a new NATO designed methodology. Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said of the new methodology, "it sets out what to count and how to count it, and it will be made available to all Allies to help them reduce their own military emissions." Climate action is needed urgently and whilst this target is a step in the right direction, I am concerned that NATO has not shared its plan to achieve Net Zero, nor its methodology for counting emissions.

Since militaries are exempt from reporting their emissions to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the sector is lagging behind on measuring and reporting emissions. This leaves a huge blind spot for global climate action. Without transparency around emissions counting and reporting, these targets risk being little more than military grade greenwashing. I believe NATO should make its methodology public.



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MAKE IT PERSONAL

Personalise your letter and tell your representative why the climate crisis is important to you. Are you looking ahead to your children's future? Or are you a young person who'll inherit the crisis?

MAKE YOUR ASK CLEAR

Think about who it would be best to raise this issue with in your government. This could be a defence minister, an environmental minister, or your country's Ambassador to NATO.

As my representative, I'm asking you to raise this issue with ...

FINISHING UP

Read back and check your tone. It's important to be measured and considerate, even if this is an issue you feel passionately about.

Make sure you are clear in your request for action and be sure to ask for a follow up on any action taken.

When your representative replies to you, let us know by emailing our Campaigner Ellie at ellie@ceobs.org. We'll be able to support you and your representative in the next steps.

SPREAD THE WORD

Share this guide with a friend and let's see how many politicians we can get to pressure your government to act.

