

Newcastle Apartheid Off Campus

FOSSIL FUELS COMPLICITY REPORT

Why you should divest.



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An Introduction

This document aims to outline Newcastle University's investments^[1] in companies partaking in or assisting in the fossil fuel industry as well as those same companies complicity in the genocide in Palestine with the hope Newcastle University will divest from these companies. This is the only correct course of action if Newcastle is a University with the intent to demilitarise and decarbonise. After hours of research, Newcastle Apartheid Off Campus can definitively say that Newcastle University cannot be a University of Sanctuary, nor can it be a climate-friendly University as long as it invests in the companies disclosed in the following document.

Newcastle University's Ethical Investment Policy (EIP) lists any companies that assist in the extraction or production of fossil fuels as not permitted for investment^[2]. Investing in companies helping produce or extract fossil fuels is also contradictory to Newcastle University's declaration of a Climate Emergency^[3].

5. Policy

The University is an educational charity and its long-term investments comprise endowment assets. The University's endowment assets are invested with the main objective of maximising the benefit from those funds in accordance with the donors' wishes and with reference to the public benefit of the University; to advance education, learning and research.

The University is committed to investing in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. It does not permit investment in:

- tobacco related companies.
- companies making revenue from extraction and production of fossil fuels.
- companies manufacturing armaments.

The University is working towards aligning its approach to investments with its commitments to social and environmental justice, including its Climate Action Plan and wider sustainability objectives.

Current measures include:

- Only procuring investment managers who are signed up to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) and encouraging membership of the Net Zero Asset Manager Initiative.
- Only procuring investment managers who will provide the University with reports on the carbon footprint of publicly quoted companies within their portfolio to inform the University's carbon accounting and climate action.
- Actively engage with appointed fund managers on matters relating to its core values a minimum of once per year.

Newcastle University's ongoing efforts in sustainability, particularly in environmental and societal resilience, can only be fully realised by eliminating investments that conflict with its climate objectives. By divesting from fossil fuels and the military-industrial complex, the university can reaffirm its commitment to a net-zero future and contribute meaningfully to the fight against climate change.

In conclusion, the ties between demilitarisation, decarbonisation, and the threat of greenwashing are crucial for Newcastle University's ethical stance on climate action. Investments should reflect the university's values, fostering genuine sustainability efforts that resonate with its mission to support climate resilience. As we navigate the climate emergency, it is imperative to ensure that our financial choices align with our environmental goals, reinforcing the notion that peace and sustainability are inherently interconnected.

Content warnings:

Mentions of Sexual assault

Descriptions of warplanes and armaments

Details on Human rights abuses

Animal Abuse



Greenwashing

Greenwashing, as defined by the UN, is the deliberate practice of misleading consumers and/or shareholders by portraying the company as more environmentally friendly than it is ^[4]. This can manifest in a myriad of ways, including but not limited to: claiming to be on track to net zero with no credible plan in place, overemphasising a single environmental attribute or isolating brand activities (e.g. producing clothing from recycled materials but in high emitting factories), and using vague language without specific standards such as ‘green’ or ‘eco-friendly’^[5].

In this document, Newcastle Apartheid Off Campus will be unpacking Newcastle University’s greenwashing by examining their endowments disclosed in July 2024.

The university is ranked top 100 in the world for sustainable development, claiming that “social and environmental justice are core values” ^[2], and publicly declared a climate emergency in April 2019 ^[3]. Additionally the university states that it does not allow investment in “companies making revenue from the extraction and production of fossil fuels” as well as “companies manufacturing armaments” ^[2].

Newcastle University has completely violated its claims of sustainability through its continued investment in companies like Barclays, Wabtec, and TE Connectivity. These companies are fundamentally not sustainable. Despite this, the university continues to invest in them despite the fact their core business models do not align with the university’s supposed values of sustainability and its commitment to tackling the climate crisis ^[6]. This discrepancy between public image and investment choices is greenwashing - especially as the Finance Committee had decided to willfully withhold information on the ethical bond RLAM fund (which contained information on Barclays) in their release of the annual endowment list in May 2024.



Demilitarisation and Decarbonisation

The military-industrial complex is not just an existential threat because it's a major industry entirely dedicated to killing and maiming human beings, but because it also poses a serious threat to the climate. By demilitarising you are decarbonising as it helps to eliminate one of the leading causes of anthropogenic climate change. Furthermore, demilitarisation prevents conflict by addressing its root causes. It includes transparency and accountability for the ecological impacts of military activity and conflicts; implementation of international disarmament and arms control agreements; reallocation of military spending to climate action; investment into diplomacy and environmental peacebuilding; and a just transition from war economies to green care economies and the regeneration of the planet.



Militaries are not able and willing to decarbonise at the speed and urgency required. For example, they continue to count on the production and availability of fossil fuel-powered fighter jets, ships and vehicles for decades to come. Even if the decarbonisation of militaries was possible, it would not suffice to address their overall impacts as militaries' resource consumption would continue to pose significant environmental, human rights and conflict risks. Their highly energy-intensive operations require extensive use of finite natural resources, making even 'green' militaries costly in both ecological and financial terms. For example, the carbon emissions from the creation, transportation, management and usage of munitions and armaments has been estimated to produce 1–6% of global greenhouse gas emissions ^[7]. Nation states know this and that's why military emissions were agreed to be exempt from calculations during the signing of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

One year's military spending by the top 10 military spenders would pay for the promised international climate finance for 15 years (at \$100 billion a year). \$70 billion of climate adaptation could be paid with just 3% of annual global military spending. ^[8]

The projected emissions from the first 60 days of the genocidal Israeli military campaign on Gaza is greater than the annual emissions of 20 individual countries and territories ^[9].



Pollution Trading

The trading of pollution is a method of greenwashing that we want to highlight for the ways it uses the vastly misunderstood concept of markets to mislead the public into believing companies and states are making a concerted effort to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

Instead of committing to deep decarbonisation by setting credible pathways to reduce their own emissions, many companies are choosing to ‘neutralise’ them, through the purchase of carbon credits on the voluntary carbon market (offsetting).^[10]

The voluntary carbon market is a system for creating and trading carbon credits (units intended to represent reduced or avoided greenhouse gases) – in the name of emissions reductions. Not only is this ineffective, but the market is riddled with issues that allow companies to overstate their climate actions^[11]. The problem is that the voluntary carbon market is not designed in a way that ensures any of the carbon credits on offer represent actual decarbonisation or avoided emissions.

This is highlighted and exemplified by research from ANU and UNSW, the Australia Institute and a number of independent researchers and academics who have highlighted integrity issues with Australia’s own national carbon credits, called ACCUs.^[12]

There is significant evidence that up to 75% of ACCUs are not resulting in real emissions reductions or are not ‘additional’. Their research found that ‘avoided deforestation’ projects, which make up 1 in 5 of all carbon credits in Australia, do not represent genuine abatement. In most cases, credits were issued for protecting areas that were never going to be cleared. That’s like reducing tobacco use by paying non-smokers not to smoke.^[12]

This also creates a situation where companies that are horrific carbon emitters can claim net neutrality without having ever worked to reduce carbon emissions in their supply chain, by buying carbon credits with money received from the sale of their own carbon credits which don’t even represent a reduction in emissions. This was the case for BP, a company that buys carbon credits but had a subsidiary that was found to be selling bogus carbon credits, in the same manner as the aforementioned ACCU forest protection based credits^[13]. This ridiculous bastardisation of simple economics means that companies could even create an infinite loop of profit if their own misleading credits bring in more revenue than it costs to buy enough credits to claim net neutrality.



Newcastle University and Climate Action

Newcastle University has positioned itself as a leader in climate action, both locally and globally, taking steps it claims will address the climate crisis. In a Press Office release on April 18, 2019, Newcastle University declared a climate emergency ^[3] making it one of the first universities nationally and globally. It has since committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2030 ^[14]. By early 2020, it announced the full divestment of its endowment funds from companies involved in fossil fuel extraction ^[15]. And as of March 2023, their new ethical policy has been in effect ^[2]. Furthermore, it has introduced a comprehensive climate action plan ^[6]. It continues to promote its alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) ^[16].

However, despite these public commitments the university continues to maintain significant ties to the fossil fuel industry and military-industrial complex (MIC) through their investments, raising concerns about the consistency of its sustainability efforts. By maintaining ties with these entities, Newcastle University not only violates its own ethical policy ^[2], but multiple of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals ^[16].

The university states that it does not allow investment in “companies making revenue from the extraction and production of fossil fuels” as well as “companies manufacturing armaments” ^[15]. Additionally, the following goals set by the UNSDG ^[16] are violated through the MIC and fossil fuel industry.

Goal 1: No Poverty

Fossil fuel extraction exacerbates the ‘resource curse’, a phenomenon where, despite the country’s wealth in national resources, there is an unequal distribution of wealth amongst the population ^[17]. An alarming example of this in recent times is Nigeria, where despite oil generating an estimated \$600 billion since the 1960s most of the population lives in poverty without adequate access to clean water or health care ^[17].

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitisation

The extraction and use of fossil fuels can contaminate water sources with toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and radioactive materials. This makes it unsafe for consumption and difficult to dispose safely ^[18]. Additionally, fossil fuel production generates large amounts of wastewater that contain harmful pollutants. Storage of wastewater makes it possible for it to leak into waterways ^[19].

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Clean energy is energy that produces little to no greenhouse gas emissions or



other pollutants when used ^[20]. By continuing to invest in fossil fuel companies, the university is playing a role in facilitating the fossil fuel industry and further intensifying climate change.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Fossil fuels are the largest contributor to global climate change, accounting for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions ^[21]. Additionally, in 2023 global carbon emissions from fossil fuels had risen again ^[22].

Goal 13: Climate Action

The UN's 13th goal is to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact ^[16]. The University of Newcastle upon Tyne cannot take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact if it profiteers off the climate crisis by investing in companies making revenue from fossil fuel extraction or production, as stated in their ethical policy.



Who are Wolters Kluwer?

Wolters Kluwer N.V. is a Dutch information services company active in more than 175 countries that was formed from a merger between Kluwer Publishers and Wolters Samson. They operate four main divisions, which are Legal & Regulatory, Tax & Accounting, Health, and Financial & Compliance Services.

A key part of what they do includes creating and providing software solutions regarding risk and performance management, aiming to increase productivity. For instance, Enablon is a platform by Wolters Kluwer which assists operations management used by clients in the oil and gas industry and defence industry [23].



Wolters
Kluwer

As of July 2024, according to the endowments disclosed by Newcastle University, £535,195.00 is invested in TE Connectivity through the Janus Henderson Global Sustainability Equity Fund.

Newcastle Apartheid Off Campus consider Wolters Kluwer's contributions to oil and gas significant. Therefore, we highly recommend Newcastle University divests with the intent to reinvest in a company directly assisting the production of green energy that does not participate in the destruction of our world and its beautiful global communities. We hope Newcastle University would also commit to not engaging in any further investments into Wolters Kluwer.



Links with the Defence Industry and israel

Wolters Kluwer produces BowTie software that works to monitor safety management systems and ensure compliance with safety standards, in addition to developing standard operating procedures by learning from previous incidents to better respond to future emergencies; essentially overviewing plausible incident scenarios and lists out barriers available to mitigate the risks. This BowTie methodology is meant to manage risks at various organisational levels, which is available as software to be implemented as part of Safety management Systems (eg. for manufacturers of military technology, militaries and air forces, ministries of defence, regulators) ^[24].

Wolters Kluwer's client list

Their listed defence clients include:

- Boeing (long term involvement with IAF, providing Apache attack helicopters and other fighter aircraft)
- Royal Air Force
- BAE Systems (manufactures components of F-35s, a fighter jet used to massacre thousands of civilians)

Manufacturing clients include:

- Philips (deeply involved with israel since 1948, have multiple major sites and acquisitions in israel) ^[25]
- Rolls Royce (involved in producing engines for israeli aircrafts)
- Hyundai (making heavy machinery to demolish Palestinian neighbourhoods in Jerusalem) ^[26]



Involvement with Oil and Gas



They provide similar software for companies involved in the oil and gas industry to improve safety performance. BowTie software is used in various disciplines of drilling, service providers, exploration and production, refining, offshore and onshore, retail, etc. to prevent major accidents. Although Wolters Kluwer is not directly involved in the retrieval and processing of fossil fuels, they profit from other companies that do, therefore still

benefiting from destruction of the environment. ^[27]

This software has been bought or used by: Al Hosn Gas, Noble, Schlumberger, OMV, Transocean, bp, Petronas, Gasco, Petrotrin

Relationship with israel Discount Bank

israel Discount Bank uses Wolters Kluwer's compliance solutions deposit E-form module (DEMx) expansion pack to streamline and enhance management of document disclosure practices ^[28]. This product enables banking institutions to tailor disclosures to specific policies and offer them in multiple channels and jurisdictions, via consistent disclosure language and delivery methods. They have claimed this is a "more robust document disclosure system". israel Discount Bank finances construction in, and provides services to, illegal israeli settlements in stolen Palestinian land, and because of this, is included on UN PHCHR's list of business enterprises active in illegal israeli settlements ^[29].

Who are Wabtec?

Wabtec Corporation is an American-based rail company that primarily manufactures locomotives and railcars but also participates in the mining industry, making \$9.7 billion in revenue in 2023. They boast over 150 years of experience and operate in more than 50 countries. In their words

they are 'a leading global provider of equipment, systems, digital solutions, and value-added services. Whether it's freight rail, transit, mining, industrial or marine, our expertise, technologies, and people - together - are accelerating the future of transportation'.^[30] Wabtec's values include safety, innovation, operational excellence, and teamwork.



As of the July 2024 list of endowments disclosed by Newcastle University, £1,154,895.00 is invested in Wabtec Corporation through the Janus Henderson Global Sustainable Equity Fund.

In 2019, Wabtec merged with GE Transportation in an \$11 billion deal. GE Transportation was previously owned by General Electric, one of the world's top weapons manufacturers.

Wabtec state, on their company website, that sustainability is at the heart of everything they do however their actions state otherwise. Over their 150 years of experience they have contributed significantly to the climate crisis and the practice of pollution trading. Furthermore, demilitarisation and decarbonisation should always come hand in hand. The carbon footprint of war includes direct emissions from jet fuel and diesel, as well as indirect emissions from heating, electricity, and troop deployment. The damage caused by war and post-conflict reconstruction also contribute to the carbon footprint. War can never be environmentally sustainable, and the emissions that come from military activity must be addressed.

Newcastle Apartheid Off Campus consider Wabtec's contributions to oil and gas significant as well as relationship with General Electric making them complicit in arms manufacturing. Despite their customers' climate denial and actions in Indigenous



communities, the Democratic Republic in Congo as well as other countries in Africa, Wabtec continues to supply companies like Glencore and Peabody, making them complicit in serious and continuous human rights abuses around the world. Therefore, we highly recommend Newcastle University divests with the intent to reinvest in a company directly assisting the production of green energy that does not participate in the destruction of our world and its beautiful global communities. We hope Newcastle University would also commit to not engaging in any further investments into Wabtec Corporation.



Involvement in Fossil Fuels

Digital Mining

Wabtec frequently boasts their advancements in digital mining. A digital mine is a mining operation that uses digital tools and cloud technologies to improve safety, environmental performance, and overall efficiency. They offer an end-to-end solution which helps mining and metals companies realise the productivity benefits of digital transformation faster, with minimal risk and business disruption. These digital solutions modernise the mining industry - allowing it to continue and therefore continuing to kill the climate.

Underground Drill Guidance Solution

Wabtec also provides Underground Drill Guidance Solution (DGS)^[31] to “increase the efficiency and profitability of mining operations” for which they claim to be the global leader. It is stated on their website that they have helped ‘underground coal operations drain gas and water for over 28 years’. They also promote that these guidance systems increase the amount of coal extracted from each mine, repeatedly emphasising the aim to improve profitability.



Wabtec has a strong & loyal customer base including several Key Mining Houses and Drilling Contractors around the globe for promoting a solution that enables safe, accurate, reliable drilling performance. One company they provide for is Peabody, a coal mining company headquartered in Missouri, who in 2022 had reportedly sold 124 million tonnes of coal. In 2014, Peabody Energy's CEO told a coal industry conference that coal-fired electricity generation would bring public health benefits in developing nations, specifically improving cold-chain refrigeration of a potential future Ebola vaccine. Peabody's claim was criticised by three public health academics as "an insult", and an "opportunistic attempt and somewhat desperate to relate corporate self-interest to a massive public health crisis" ^[32]. Peabody has also funded multiple climate denial groups ^[33] such as the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change whose chairman, Craig D. Idso, also happens to be the former Director of Environment Science at Peabody Energy.^[34]

Collision Avoidance Systems



Another of their innovations is Collision Avoidance Systems (CAS)^[35]. CAS comprises varying components that work together to remove the chance of human error, reducing injury and increasing profits. CAS is often used in vehicles transporting resources such as coal at mine sites. These components include live camera feeds, delineators (alongside roads on site) and sensors with

360-degree detection. In September 2024 CAS systems were implemented in the Glencore site in New South Wales (Australia)^[36]. Glencore is one of the world's largest natural resource companies and has been involved in environmental and human rights controversies including forced expropriations, child labour, and paramilitary massacres in countries such as Colombia^[37] and the DRC^[38].

Link to Glencore

As mentioned above, Wabtec supplies equipment and software such as the Collision Avoidance System to Glencore. In May 2022, Glencore pleaded guilty to foreign bribery and price manipulation, in the context of a settlement^[39] that the company reached with authorities in the US, the UK and Brazil. Glencore admitted to paying over \$100 million in bribes to government officials in the aforementioned countries through a series of subsidiaries, middlemen, and intermediary corporations in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Glencore's principal objectives were obtaining unfair business advantages, acquiring state-owned operations, and mitigating or outright dismissing legal liabilities.

They have subsidiaries in many resource-rich countries, such as the DRC, Brazil, Cameroon, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Venezuela, and Equatorial Guinea^[40].

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Content warning - mention of gang-rape

In 2009, Glencore partnered with Dan Gertler, an Israeli businessman known for acquiring oil and mining licences from the DRC and selling them to multinational companies or the DRC government^[41]. Glencore secretly gave Gertler a \$45 million USD loan conditional upon successful negotiations, essentially recruiting him to help negotiate the acquisition of Gécamines^[42]. They managed to negotiate a \$440 million discount upon signing the state-owned mining company, paying \$140 million instead of \$585 million - a huge loss on the DRC's end, who lost approximately equivalent of one-tenth of its budget from this deal^[43].

Then in 2017, over \$100 million in payments meant to be paid to Gécamines were paid to a firm controlled by Dan Gertler instead. Glencore said it was made to Africa Horizons Investments Ltd. owned by Gertler^[44]. Following an investigation by the US Department of Justice in 2022, Glencore settled with the DRC for \$180 million for "alleged acts of corruption" from 2007 to 2018.



This compensation was to be given to those who "suffered personal and financial harm as a result of corruption" by Glencore^[45]. However, the destination of this sum has yet to be disclosed and the government has

yet to conduct an investigation to demand transparency ^[46]. According to another corruption case from the Swiss Federal Council, the over \$180 million owed to the DRC is not being returned to the Congolese people, because the “statutory requirements for repayment have not yet been met” ^[47].

Kamoto Copper Co. - one of the largest copper mines in the DRC owned by Glencore, is also said to owe the DRC over \$894 million USD, yet it is said these disputes have not affected the production of cobalt and copper at the mine ^[48].



The cobalt mined from Glencore’s operations also supply companies directly complicit in the genocide of Palestinians, such as Microsoft. On top of its corruption and bribery allegations, Glencore is reported to have the worst human rights record for companies that work in green metals extraction, yet has never been held accountable for it. These human rights abuses include complicity in

environmental pollution, child labour, hazardous working conditions, and forced relocations ^[49]. The Centre d’Aide juridico-Judiciaire (CAJJ), a legal aid centre in the DRC, found workers at industrial cobalt mines had low pay, long hours, and the situation was “dire and exploitative”. There has been a huge lack of attention on the workers’ rights violations at such mines, while Glencore declined to comment, other companies including KCC owned by Glencore, have provided vague statements denying any wrongdoing ^[50].

The mining industry in the DRC has been a key target of multinational companies due to its large reserves of copper and cobalt, leading to atrocious human rights abuses locally. Forced evictions take place regularly as companies seek to expand their mining projects, and their homes are often demolished to make way for companies. Furthermore, extremely violent measures have been taken to evict residents from their homes; one stated the military were burning houses, resulting in severe burns and life-altering scarring. Additionally, during such evictions, fields of crops were bulldozed without any notice of eviction; one woman reporting she was gang-raped by 3 soldiers while others watched as she tried to harvest her crops before they were destroyed ^[51].

Nigeria, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, South Sudan, Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela

In August 2011, two Glencore executives from the West Africa desk flew to South Sudan by private jet, carrying \$800,000 in cash. The money had been withdrawn from the cash desk at Glencore Plc’s Swiss headquarters and recorded as expenses for “opening [the] office in South Sudan”. The money was paid via a local agent to officials in the newly established government in South Sudan, who had established independence only a month earlier, and this was followed by a further \$275,000 in cash.



Between 2012 and 2015, another Glencore trader withdrew a total of \$8.2m in cash from the company’s Swiss cash desk, recorded as “office expenses”, despite there being limited evidence of any office operating in the country. This, along with \$5.5m of “service fees” withdrawn in cash by a Nigerian agent, was periodically flown, again on private jets, to Cameroon. It was used to bribe officials in the country’s

national oil and gas companies in order for Glencore to begin further mining operations across Africa. ^[52]

Lisa Osofsky, Director, Serious Fraud Office said: *“The SFO has today brought justice to bear and exposed what was a deliberate and endemic culture of bribery at Glencore. This has been a landmark case in UK anti-bribery enforcement, marking the first time since the introduction of the Bribery Act 2010 that a corporate has been convicted for the active authorisation of bribery, rather than purely a failure to prevent it. For years and across the globe, Glencore pursued profits to the detriment of national governments in some of the poorest countries in the world. The company’s ruthless greed and criminality have been rightfully exposed.”* ^[53]

Columbia and Peru

Glencore owns a copper mine in Espinar, Peru, in the southern Andean region of Cusco, which is an ancestral territory of the Quechua and K’ana Indigenous peoples, called the Coroccohuayco project. ^[54] As well as displacing a large number of residents, with the mine covering up to 85% of the communities land, since mining arrived in the region 40 years ago there have been higher rates of cancer, kidney and blood disorders and



learning difficulties in children born in the area. Animals have also become sick. Oxfam has reported that Glencore must take serious action in order to repair the damage they have done to the community in Espinar.

When paramilitaries seized El Prado in Columbia - a patch of land next to Glencore's Calenturitas coal mining concession in 2002, at least 10 people were murdered; evidence was later accepted in Colombian court that the massacre occurred as a result of wanting to establish an open-cast coal mine. However, Glencore argued they 'never intended to own the El Prado land'. More recently, documents have revealed Glencore paid \$1.8 million for 'improvements' to new occupiers of the El Prado land, and under a 2009 swap agreement, they would've ended up owning El Prado, but the deal did not go through due to a shortfall on the Colombian authority's end ^[55].

Cerrejón is a mine in Colombia owned by Glencore covering 690 square kilometres of barren land that used to be home to many Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities that were forcibly evicted when the mine was established. Global Legal Action Network is now calling for the closure of the mine, because of its human rights violations, and hopefully hold the companies liable for such abuses. Local water sources have been contaminated by toxic waste, the communities remaining in the area have been inhaling poisonous dust from the mine for almost four decades, leading to food scarcity and many health complications. Forced evictions as recent as in 2016 were done violently: using metal projectiles and tear gas, alongside bulldozers to destroy homes ^[56].



Liquefied Natural Gas



Wabtec's product Next Fuel is a component, able to be retrofitted, that allows locomotives and other machinery to run on liquified (LNG) or compressed natural gas (CNG). LNG and CNG are made up of various hydrocarbons, primarily methane, making it a fossil fuel. Next Fuel machines can also run on diesel. LNG is approximately 600 times less voluminous than in its gaseous state meaning Next Fuel vehicles are able to travel for longer periods of time without being refilled however it requires more storage. LNG produces less carbon dioxide and other harmful compounds than coal and oil. However, it's still carbon-intensive and emits methane throughout its life cycle.

Heat transfer systems

As part of their Heat Transfer & Energy Solutions, they specialise in diesel and gas engine cooling. Wabtec has a variety of engine cooling products to be used in diesel and gas engines, which are described to be used in oil and gas, and mining markets ^[57]. The coolers and pumps they produce through subsidiary Unifin aim to reduce top oil temperature, increase cooling capacity and eliminate oil leaks ^[58]. Alongside the coolers themselves, they produce valves and pumps designed to be installed in coolers for low maintenance long term use ^[59].

In 2007, they acquired GE Tidewater (formerly known as GE Heat Transfer Products), which had been building generator coolers for General Electric for almost 90 years, allowing Wabtec to expand their repertoire of cooling technology. They offer replace and repair services for coolers as well, covering a large range of designs, including those by General Electric ^[60].

Elastomers

Wabtec are able to produce and mould elastomers (think rubber) ^[61], they use these capabilities to serve the oil and gas industry with things such as shock cells, blowout preventer components and sealing elements with key customers in this field being oilfield service companies and aftermarket equipment suppliers ^[62].

Drill motors

Wabtec boasts on their website that they have been a reputable source of drill motors for drilling contractors for over 60 years ^[63]. They make parts and equipment for drilling rigs that include mud pumps, rotary tables and cement pumps; all which have been adapted to work efficiently in harsh conditions ^[64]. This is used in the oil & gas industry for both onshore and offshore drilling ^[65], marine, dredge, and industrial industries as well.



Wabtec partnered with Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited in 2019 to produce 143 AC drill motors for an onshore rig project, in support of India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) - a state-owned petroleum explorer, to work on replacing older onshore drilling rigs. The new drill motors will have increased production levels and have been described by Wabtec's general manager of Marine, Stationary, and Drill as being "quiet, reliable and powerful" that can significantly improve ONGC's drilling efficiency and capability ^[64].

Dredging

Dredging is a worldwide excavation activity that involves removing sediment from a sea, river, or lakebed and depositing it at a new location ^[67]. This activity is a major environmental threat through marine habitat destruction, water pollution, and through massive carbon emissions from the enormous Wabtec diesel engines and from disturbing carbon stored in marine sediment.

Wabtec creates the engines for some of the biggest marine dredging vessels in the world, for example the Frederick Paup will be the biggest US Hopper Dredge ever constructed ^[68]. In an article on Wabtec's website, promoting the construction of the new fleet of dredging vessels they cite "Heavy regulatory controls on the environment, emissions, pollutants, dredge spoil management, and maritime operations." and "Growing local community oversight of exhaust opacity and noise controls, creating a new tide in proactive company self-regulation to stay in front of the issue." as "pressing challenges", this company's values clearly do not align with the stance that Newcastle University has taken or the UN Sustainable Development goals that Newcastle University uses as its framework for its "climate action plan" ^[69]. Furthermore let us show



The marine sediments that Wabtec aids in disrupting are thought to be the ultimate long-term carbon store; once buried below the active layer, organic carbon can remain unmineralized for millennia to aeons ^[70]. However, disturbances to the seabed by human activities threaten the permanency of this marine carbon and release it into the sea and atmosphere^{[71][72]}. Companies like Wabtec will defend this by claiming that this sedimentary carbon does not actually make

it into the atmosphere and contribute to the greenhouse effect, however studies show that at least 50% of this carbon does make it into the atmosphere ^[73]

A review of 45 case studies worldwide, accounting for a total loss of 21,023 hectares of seagrass vegetation due to dredging, is indicative of the scale of the impact of dredging on seagrasses ^[74]. Although often overlooked, seagrass is one of the most productive ecosystems in the world and provides shelter and food to an incredibly diverse community of animals, from tiny invertebrates to large fish, crabs, turtles, marine mammals and birds.

National Security Multi-mission vessel

Content warning: mention of gang rape

In 2020 Wabtec won a federal contract to produce diesel engines for vessels commissioned by the US Maritime Association (MARAD), these vessels were to be known as National Security Multi Mission vessels ^[75]. These NSMVs have a very real possibility of use by and in aid of the neocolonial US Military, in MARAD's own words: "MARAD vessels serve as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency." ^[76]

MARAD claims they are to be used for "training the future American Mariners" and for "disaster response and humanitarian needs" ^[75]. While Wabtec and MARAD would have you believe these vessels would have no military use, we know that MARAD has close ties with the US Navy and Department of Defense (DoD). For example, MARAD maintains a Ready Reserve Force (RRF) for the US Navy on standby to hand over operational control to the military under an agreement with the DoD ^[76]. There is no reason that the NSMVs, that Wabtech builds engines for, could not end up under the operational control of the imperial military of the US.

MARAD themselves on the Department of Transportation website tell us that "Forty RRF ships supported the initial deployment of our Armed Forces in Iraq, providing nearly 13,000 operational days of service including transporting troops and supplies in support of our military." ^[76]. Between 2003 and 2011, Amnesty documented US forces' engagement in rampant human rights violations - including indiscriminate attacks that killed and injured civilians, secret detention, secret detainee transfers, enforced disappearance, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment ^[77], as well as gang rape of children as young as 14 ^[78].



This presents ethical concerns for Newcastle University as it is well known the US has been guilty of war crimes ^[77]. To be investing in companies that aid a military regime guilty of war crimes goes completely against the Code of Ethics published in 2019, particularly mentions of "social justice", "public benefit", and "respecting the rights of others" ^[79].

General Electric

Acquiring GE Transportation

In 2019, Wabtec acquired General Electric (GE) Transportation after it was divested from GE and subsequently merged with Wabtec. At the time it was valued at \$11.1 billion and the merger also resulted in GE receiving \$2.9 billion in cash.

Pioneering the application of AC technology to oilfield equipment, GE Transportation has more than 4,000 AC units installed on more than 1,000 rigs worldwide. The company's AC motors have been field proven in the harshest conditions, compliant to a broad range of industry certification.

General Electric is a US-based publicly traded multinational conglomerate company active in the fields of power, renewable energy, aviation and healthcare. The company's aviation division provides jet engines, components and integrated systems for military aircraft^[80] and is ranked in the top 25 arms traders globally^[81]. Furthermore, they manufacture weapons systems that have been consistently involved in war crimes against Palestinians. For example, their involvement in many military offensives in the Gaza Strip such as "Operation Breaking Dawn" in 2022 which killed over 33 Palestinians, and war crimes committed by israel have been recorded by Amnesty International^[82].

Wind Farms



Wind farms in the Occupied Syrian Golan

GE provides wind turbines and maintenance services to two large wind energy projects in the occupied Syrian Golan, "Emek Habacha" and "Ruach Beresheet", the largest renewable energy projects in israel.

Ruach Beresheet Wind Farm

Ruach Beresheet (Wind of Genesis) wind farm is the largest renewable energy project in israel. The project is built by Enlight Renewable Energy^[83] in an investment of NIS 1.25 billion and is located in Mount Peres (Tel el Farass) area in the occupied Syrian Golan. The project is established in partnership with the settlements of Yonatan, Alonei HaBashan, Ramat Magshimim, Mevo Hama, Natur, Kanaf, Avnei Eitan and Ma'ale Gamla.

The project consists of 39 wind turbines made by General Electric company, which is also responsible for the production, supply, transportation, hoisting, and running of the turbines at the project site. According to an agreement from 2021, General Electric is to provide operation and maintenance services for the turbines for 20 years. As of June 2021, 20 turbine bases have been built.

The project includes the construction and expansion of 35 km of roads and a high-voltage line that will include optical fibres that will be spread across the Golan and will enable high-speed Internet for the settlements in the area.

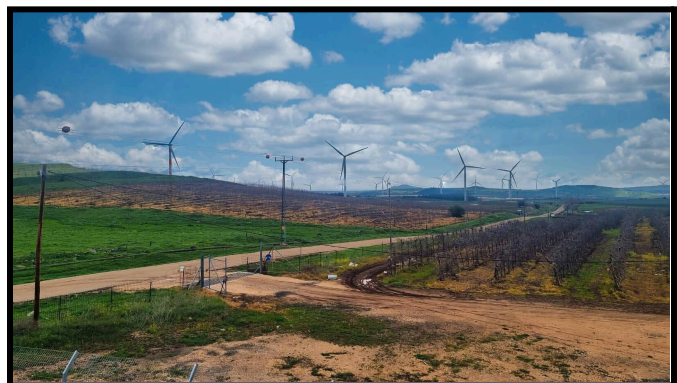
About 35% of the workers in the project are residents of the settlements. The project is expected to generate profit for local service providers in the areas of fuel services, food, hospitality, security and more.

The farm is expected to produce an annual electricity supply equivalent to the consumption of 60,000 households in occupied Palestine.

Emek Habacha Wind Farm

Emek Habacha wind farm is located in the occupied Syrian Golan. The project was developed by Enlight Renewable Energy in collaboration with 6 settlements in the Syrian Golan: Kidmat Zvi, Elrom, Alonei HaBashan, Odem, Neve Ativ and Ortal, and NIS 700 million was invested in its construction

^[83].



The project was inaugurated in March 2022 and consists of 34 wind turbines made by General Electric. The company employs electrical engineers and field Technicians on the wind farm which provide maintenance services, management and training of subcontractors, purchase orders and work with suppliers, equipment ordering and inventory management.

CEO of Wabtec

The President and CEO of Wabtec is Rafael Santana, who has close to thirty years of leadership experience in transportation, mining, and energy sectors. Before becoming CEO at Wabtec, Santana was the CEO of General Electric (GE) in Latin America, he also worked in the oil and gas sector of GE's Turbomachinery Solutions Business ^[84].



Turbonetics, Melett and Napier



In February 2013, Wabtec acquired Napier Turbochargers Ltd., a UK-based provider of turbochargers and related parts for the worldwide power generation and marine markets. At the time, Napier had annual sales of approximately \$55 billion. Then, in July 2013 Wabtec acquired Turbonetics Holdings Inc., a manufacturer of turbochargers and related components for various industrial markets. At the time,

Turbonetics had annual sales of approximately \$15 billion. Along with the acquisition of Mellet^[85] and Precision Turbo and Engine, these companies make up the Wabtec global Turbocharger group.

Turbonetics serves the oil & gas industry as well as the U.S. army's "new armoured vehicle", it also appears on their website that they help to provide power for military UAVs ^[86].

Napier Turbochargers support the oil & gas industry, specifically offshore oil rigs, rig support vehicles and LNG carriers as well as petrochemicals, refinery, production, LNG, pipeline and gas storage ^[87]. Napier turbochargers also are used on military marine coastguard vessels ^[88] and Napier turbochargers.

Turbonetics released a news article in 2014 claiming they'd received Caterpillar's highest "Supplier Quality Excellence Process" Award for the second time, an award given to suppliers that best improve the quality of Caterpillar's products ^[89]. Napier Turbochargers received a similar accolade from Caterpillar for being a "recognised supplier to Caterpillar" in 2016 ^[90].

Caterpillar is an American multinational manufacturer making military and civil engineering machinery. This includes mining equipment, natural gas engines and industrial turbines. The bulldozers they produce have been used for the construction of illegal settlements on occupied Palestinian land, in addition to destroying Palestinian homes with occupants still inside ^[91]. Additionally, they supply the IOF with armoured excavators and other armoured bulldozers; the IOF fits Caterpillar's D9 bulldozers with armour and weapons ^[92]. It has also been used in the construction of the separation wall in the West Bank and the wall surrounding Gaza.

Who are TE Connectivity?

TE Connectivity is an Irish-domiciled electronics company, manufacturing products for multiple industries but, namely, arms and defence. In 1941 they originated as an aircraft and marine manufacturer during World War II, benefiting from the wartime boom in industry. After this, they quickly adapted into a security company after being acquired by Tyco International. After a series of gross misconduct, including racketeering charges, Tyco split up into 3 different sub companies - one of which was the TE Connectivity that we now know.



As of July 2024, according to the endowments disclosed by Newcastle University, £565,735.00 is invested in TE Connectivity through the Janus Henderson Global Sustainability Equity Fund.

Currently for the defence and weapons industry they aid in the production of components for several different types of missile^[93], Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)^[94] warheads, seeker/guidance systems, as well as military ground^[95], air^[96] and marine vehicles^[97]. They write extensively on their belief they have the ability to foster the future of hypersonic missiles^[98]. In addition to this, TE Connectivity's acquisition of SEACON in 2014, aided in establishing their place in the oil and gas industry^[99]. Seacon produces subsea connectors for oil and gas lines as well as subsea vehicles^[100]. SEACON products are additionally used for defence and military applications^[101] such as surveillance, mine counters and marine military vehicles. TE Connectivity brag of their enhanced oil drilling capabilities, additionally working alongside DEUTSCH Offshore and Rochester Wire and Cable, by using their components to create and enhance oil and gas pumps, compressors and pipeline heaters^[102].

Newcastle Apartheid Off Campus consider their contributions to oil and gas significant as well as their arms manufacturing making them complicit in the genocide in Palestine in addition to the deaths of innocent civilians in Ukraine. Therefore we highly recommend Newcastle University divests with the intent to reinvest in a company directly assisting the production of green energy that does not produce armaments. We hope Newcastle University would also commit to not engaging in any further investments into TE Connectivity.



Supplying to Companies Contributing to Genocide

Power Distribution Units

A power distribution unit is a device that is used for controlling and sharing electrical power in a data centre to various IT equipment^[103]. For military use, these devices are adapted to the optimal current, frequency, and voltage requirements^[104] in order to ensure efficient power management during military operations^[105].

TE Connectivity states that they have over 50 years of experience in providing PDUs to military and aerospace industries, and are focused on creating designs that are more light and compact, in addition to reducing cost by making the installation process more efficient and easier to maintain. It is advertised that they design PDUs with 'state-of-the-art' sensors, materials, and packaging^[106]. They also offer custom designing to meet power distribution requirements using their range of contactors developed to distribute different amperes^[107].

Some applications of their PDUs listed include the Boeing 767 and 777, and Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II, McDonnell Douglas AH-64 Apache^[108].



A heavily customised Boeing 767 is used as israel's presidential aircraft, called the Kanaf' Zion (Wing of Zion'), having just made its first official flight to Andrews Air Force Base in the US in July 2024^[109]. This modified plane also incorporated a laser-based directional infrared countermeasure system by Elbit Systems - israel's biggest military supplier^[110], in addition to other threat awareness systems and secure communications equipment^[111]. The Boeing 777 is also listed

in the fleet of EL AL israel Airlines^[112]. The Boeing Company itself is a large military company that has long term ties with the israeli military by providing attack helicopters, missiles, fighter jets etc. Their weapons have been recorded to contribute to war crimes against the Palestinian people since 2007, including the mass destruction of civilian infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and homes. The Boeing GBU-39 Small Diameter Bombs were used in an attack on Al-Shati refugee camp in 2021, killing 10 civilians including 4 children^[113]. Furthermore, Boeing's AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, equipped with Hellfire missiles have been used in a plethora of major assaults on Gaza and the West Bank; for example in Jenin in June 2023^[114]. The Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits made by Boeing to guide MK-80 bombs by General

Dynamics have also been used in strikes on the Jabalia refugee camp in November 2023, and on a relief centre in South Lebanon in March 2024^[115].

F-35 fighter jets by Lockheed Martin have been used extensively in israel's bombing of Gaza. In December 2023, Lockheed Martin was awarded a \$10.5 million contract for its continued supplying and maintenance of F-35s for israel^[116]. One instance of the use of F-35s on Palestinian civilians is the attack on Al-Mawasi 'safe zone' in July 2024, causing substantial damage and loss of civilian life^[117]. This is only one example of many air strikes using F-35s in a year of genocide against Palestinians, and human rights organisations are compiling insurmountable evidence of violations of international law Lockheed Martin are actively responsible for^[118].



The McDonnell Douglas AH-64A Apache is an attack helicopter, built to hold up to 16 Hellfire anti-armor missiles or 76 7cm folding-fin air ground rockets. It has been used by israel's air force (the IAF) for active service since 1993 in Lebanon. Currently, the IAF have two AH-64 squadrons with over 40 of such attack helicopters in service, some gifted by the US Army^[119]. In 1996, these AH-64 helicopters killed six Lebanese civilians when two Hellfire missiles were fired at an ambulance. In Palestine, they are regularly used to patrol the skies, in addition to being used during the al-Aqsa Intifada to kill several senior figures of Hamas, as well as in 2008 in Gaza^[120].



The Hellfire missiles held by these AH-64 Apache helicopters have also been used throughout the last year of genocide in Palestine. Between October 7 and November 14 of 2023, approximately 2000 Hellfire missiles were delivered to israel from the US, and has been one of the main weapon types used for aerial attacks in Gaza^[121].

Even before then, these Hellfire missiles have been reported to target homes in Palestine, killing at least 4 civilians and injuring over 20 others in 2012 in Shaja'iyah^[122].

Another incident saw the destruction of Sayidina Omar Ibn al-Khattab mosque in Syria with two Hellfire missiles, killing thirty eight civilians ^[123].

Supply to Airbus

Several TE Connectivity products are listed on Airbus' approved suppliers list ^[124], which is described to be a list of key aerospace suppliers. The product groups below are listed, some in duplicate in the document:

- AFM-001-8 AEROSTRUCTURE ELECTRICS STD PARTS - UK
- AFM-001-8 AEROSTRUCTURE ELECTRICS STD PARTS - US, Morocco, Spain
- AFM-001-4 AEROSTRUCTURE DISTRIBUTOR ONLY - Switzerland
- EQP-001-1 EQUIPMENT & SYSTEMS - Switzerland

The Tyco Electronics (former name of TE Connectivity) RF Coaxial catalog includes a variety of connectors and adapters with military and aerospace applications. A product group listed by Airbus as being supplied by TE Connectivity involves a part of their SMB Connectors (Crimp Tooling), which are made for circuit miniaturisation for broadband, communication, and switching equipment^[125]. Another product group listed by Airbus is linked to TE Connectivity's integrated military harness systems; products built for military use in harsh environments, including compatible shielding and electrical systems^[126]. Examples of typical applications of these harness systems are for military communication and test equipment, use in military vehicles, and other military aerospace and marine applications^[127].

Airbus is one of the largest arms companies in the world^[128], and is heavily complicit in arming israel in its genocide against Palestine. In 2018, they signed a deal worth \$600 million with israel Aerospace to lease Heron TP drones to the German military; these same drones are used to patrol the skies of Gaza Strip^[129]. They are recorded to have been in use throughout the last year of genocide to gather intelligence for the IOF^[130] Additionally, between 2008 and 2021, they applied for a weapons and military technology export license to israel from the British government ^[131]. Furthermore, Airbus produced fighter jets used in Yemen ^[132].



TE Connectivity promotes its endorsements by companies complicit in the genocide of Palestinians. Polamco is a 'Backshell, Connector, Custom solution and Interconnect accessory manufacturer' acquired by TE connectivity in 2015. One of the products they are listed to make are rectangular and circular connectors for aerospace and defence industries. A document describing the variety of products made by Polamco lists 'customer approvals', which includes: BAE Systems, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, Thales, Rolls Royce, and Lockheed Martin^[133] - all companies, some mentioned above, that manufacture weapons and other defense equipment to be used on the genocide in Palestine.



Illegally supplying to China and Russia

TE Connectivity were complicit in the illegal sales of parts for armaments to both Russia, post-Ukraine invasion, and China.

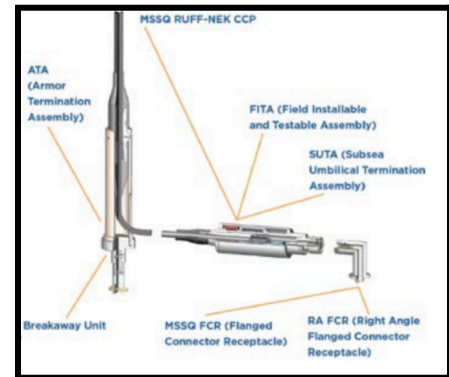
In August 2024, TE connectivity agreed to pay \$5.8million to settle with the U.S Department of commerce for illegally shipping items to parties tied to Chinese hypersonics, drone and military electronics programmes^[134]. In total, they violated US export control laws 79 times between 2015 and 2019. The Chinese parties in question are believed to pose a threat to US security. TE Connectivity had illegally exported \$1.74million worth of goods on the restricted 'Entity List'. After the fact a spokesperson declared that '[TE Connectivity] have a strong commitment to compliance with trade laws'.

A report written by the International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR) and the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (NAKO)^[135] listed TE Connectivity as one of the companies found on a leaked Russian 'shopping list' of components the Kremlin required to sustain it's war effort - this list was released by POLITICO^[136] in September 2022. TE Connectivity are listed to have sold 2 parts - both backplane connectors (5352068-1 and 5352152-1) - it is unknown what these parts are explicitly used for. Backplane connectors are a group of electrical connectors placed next to each other to form a computer bus. Many of these computer buses are placed next to each other to form a whole computer system - therefore the backplanes supplied by TE Connectivity could have been used for a large variety of reasons. Furthermore, TE connectivity has reportedly been the supplier of 479 imports into Russia with a total value of \$1.8million after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Despite ceasing direct supply in May 2022, components were still being imported through suppliers via Turkey, Taiwan, Morocco and India. While the specific components sold to Russia are unknown, NAKO and the IPHR report that it is clear *'that the suspected war crimes documented in Ukraine, coupled with the clear evidence of western-made components being found in Russian weapons, should present grave ethical concerns for businesses involved in the manufacturing of such components.'* Their recommendation is that *'businesses must enhance their due diligence, 'know your customer', and end-user surveillance to ensure their products are not being used in ways that do not align with their ethical and legal commitments. Ignorance as to a product's end-user should not be relied upon as a moral or legal defence.'* Despite this, TE Connectivity's most recent Sanction Report does not list Russia as a 'no-sale' country.^[137]



The Climate Crisis and Fossil Fuels

Despite TE Connectivity's commitment to CO2 emission reduction, they provide many services to aid the extraction and procurement of fossil fuels such as oil and gas. This is a form of pollution trading - where a company works in industries that emit large amounts of carbon while also committing to green energy products and industry, making them exponential money as both industries feed each other. The climate crisis is therefore used as an opportunity to profit rather than a general concern to companies like TE Connectivity. In their website's words '*TE has a long history of providing high quality solutions to the Oil and Gas industry*^{138]} and that '*TE helps you go deep, whether it's to the ocean floor, the bottom of a mine, or down an oil well.*^{139]} Their website details multiple products that help oil and gas production rigs to withstand the harshest of environments in order for them to extract fossil fuels with increasing efficiency. One specific component is the RUFF-NEK SEACON Subsea Drilling Connector, described as a solution for the hunt for new oil having to take place in increasingly deeper waters. The connectors are underwater cables used for drilling rigs and vessels and designed to prevent the increased pressure of deeper water from bursting pipes. Their acquisition of SEACON in 2014 '*significantly strengthens [TE Connectivity's] position in the high-growth oil and gas industry,*' said Tom Lynch, TE Connectivity Chairman and CEO.



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