



Scientists for Global Responsibility



Annual Report 2021-22



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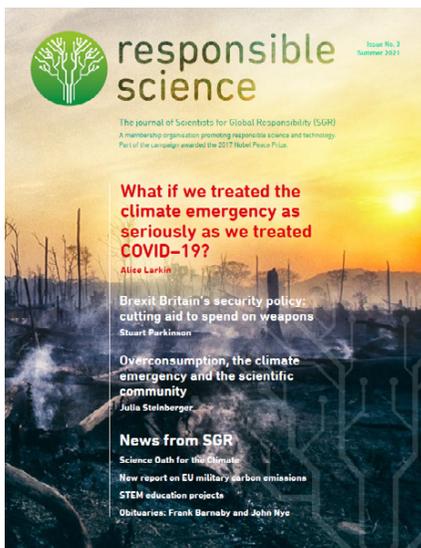
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Front Cover Photos (L-R): Dr Lewis Akenji speaking at SGR's 2021 online conference; *The Guardian* article during COP26 summarising SGR's work on military carbon emissions

Design: the Argument by Design - www.tabd.co.uk

STAFF

Executive Director:
Dr Stuart Parkinson

Assistant Director:
Andrew Simms MA

Education Director:
Dr Jan Maskell CPsychol

Office Manager:
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Responsible Science Campaigner:
Dr Liz Kalaugher

Assistant Campaigner:
Liam Killeen¹

Communications Assistant:
Lucia Simmons²

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

Chair:
Dr Philip Webber

Vice Chair:
Dr Jan Maskell CPsychol

Committee Members:
Dr Keith Baker³
Steve Ballard⁴
Nico Edwards⁵
Dr David Hookes⁴
Liam Killeen
Simon Reed FIAP
Dr Gillian Smith CEng⁴

¹ from 1 June 2021

² from 11 October 2021

³ from 5 February 2022

⁴ until 6 October 2021

⁵ from 6 October 2021

Reporting period:
March 2021 to
February 2022
(inclusive)

SUMMARY

As SGR's reporting year was ending, President Putin ordered Russian forces to invade Ukraine, leading to the largest war in Europe since 1945 – and hugely increasing the potential for nuclear war. With the world still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic – estimated to have been responsible for at least 15 million excess deaths in 2020–21 – and thoroughly inadequate progress being made at the COP26 climate negotiations in Glasgow, we are indeed in tough times. SGR's mission – to promote responsible science and technology – has never been more critical. Nevertheless, by expanding our project funding, we were able to promote our objectives even more effectively.

Our key achievements over the reporting period:

- We played a leading role in pushing the much-neglected issue of military carbon emissions up the political agenda. Our original research on these emissions in the UK and EU was quoted extensively by mainstream and specialist media, and peace and environmental campaigners – and by military analysts – especially during the COP26 climate negotiations.
- The number of signatories of our 'Science oath for the climate' reached nearly 400, including over 180 professors. Signatories spoke out on the need for urgent action on the climate emergency.
- We joined with other peace campaigners to protest against the shocking government decision to increase the size of the UK's nuclear arsenal, which followed on the back of the largest increase in British military spending for 70 years.
- We published a series of updated briefings on the financial links between UK professional science and engineering bodies and the fossil fuel and arms industries. There were some notable improvements in policy and practice since our last investigation, but more still needs to be done, so we used our latest work to push for further progress.
- We launched a new online resource 'Globally Responsible Careers in STEM' to help students and professionals make more ethical choices. Meanwhile, another of our science education projects, One Planet – One Life, was completed having run climate change and sustainable living workshops for over 1,300 children.
- We supported environmental campaigners in opposing new fossil fuel extraction – including presenting evidence to the public inquiry on the proposed Cumbrian coal mine – and peace campaigners opposing the development of lethal autonomous weapons.
- Our upgraded website reached even larger audiences, with over 82,000 page-views during the reporting period – a 27% increase over the previous year.

We would like to thank our membership, our trust funders, and individual donors – all have been essential in SGR's successes. We also thank our staff and volunteers who worked very hard during the year.

Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director
Philip Webber, Chair

PROJECTS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MILITARY

Following the publication of two reports on military carbon emissions during the previous reporting year, SGR carried out a lot of dissemination and campaign work on this issue during 2021–22. A particular focus was the COP26 climate negotiations in Glasgow in November. Stuart Parkinson was a keynote speaker at an in-person workshop on climate change and militarism at the People’s Summit for Climate Justice. Stuart also spoke at a protest rally on this issue. In addition, SGR’s research outputs on military carbon emissions were widely used by peace and environment campaigners during the whole fortnight of the negotiations, and together our co-ordinated campaign activities gave the issue a prominence which had never been achieved before. Indeed, a tweet featuring a journalist asking leading US politician, Nancy Pelosi, about the issue – and her faltering reply – went viral.

Following on from our activities in Glasgow, SGR joined a successful funding bid for a new research and advocacy project called the ‘Military Emissions Gap’ – focusing on trying to deduce robust estimates for international military carbon emissions and pressure nations to reduce them. The project is co-ordinated by the Conflict and Environment Observatory and funded by the Minor Foundation. As an early output of this project, SGR published a technical paper highlighting



Stuart Parkinson speaking at COP26 event

the extensive inconsistencies between different official statistics covering UK military carbon emissions.

Media coverage of SGR’s work on this issue appeared at a rate of one article per week during the whole year, including numerous high-profile publications (see p.6). Stuart also spoke on this topic at three webinars during the year, including an international Quaker event, and Liz Kalaugher spoke at two webinars. There was also a great deal of interest in the materials on this topic on our website (see p.6).

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE CAMPAIGN

A key element of this campaign – SGR’s Science oath for the climate – went from strength to strength during the reporting period. The number of signatories tripled reaching nearly 400 – about 180 of them professors, and almost half of them from the UK. Signatories have spoken about their support for the oath in public fora, including on social media. Liz Kalaugher spoke about the oath at two events during the year, including a webinar on science activism as part of the People’s Summit for Climate Justice at COP26. Andrew Simms also spoke about the oath at several events.

SGR's advocacy work to encourage professional science and engineering bodies to cut their financial links with the fossil fuel and arms industries also made some important progress during the year. Updated briefings on nine UK professional bodies were compiled, documenting any progress made and highlighting areas for improvement. These briefings were used to encourage the bodies to take further action. Notably, the Royal Meteorological Society, the Geological Society, and the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining had significantly strengthened their policies and practices – but more progress was still found to be needed across the sector.

Work also continued to develop a set of behaviour change targets for oath signatories and others to sign up to, to publicly demonstrate their commitment to reaching a 1.5°C-compatible lifestyle. This will be launched later in 2022.

Project work was carried out by Liz Kalaugher, Liam Killeen, Stuart Parkinson, and Andrew Simms. It was funded by the ClimateWorks Foundation and The Martin Ryle Trust.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS THREAT

With Putin's invasion of Ukraine beginning in late February 2022, the threat of nuclear war was greatly heightened. SGR responded by using our existing materials to explain to wide audiences this enormous, but largely forgotten, threat to civilisation.

Updates on these activities will appear on the SGR website.

Earlier in the reporting year, SGR took part in several activities highlighting nuclear threats, especially joint campaigning against the UK government's disturbing decision in March 2021 to expand its arsenal after years of cuts. We also joined the new 'No First Use' campaign, and Philip Webber spoke at an international conference highlighting the links between nuclear weapons and climate change.

GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE CAREERS IN STEM

In November 2021, SGR launched a new online resource aimed at science and engineering students looking to pursue ethical career options. The materials will also be useful to scientists and engineers who are at a later stage in their career, but are looking to move in a more ethical direction.

Entitled 'Globally Responsible Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics' (GRC-STEM), these resources outline key ethical issues relevant to STEM careers using the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as a starting point. Users are then encouraged to fill out a self-assessment questionnaire to help identify individual strengths, interests and ethical concerns. Next, they are given a number of options for Globally Responsible Careers in STEM, and a selection of case studies, which helps them home in on a suitable career path.

The resources were compiled by Jan Maskell and design and web-support provided by The Argument by Design. Funding was provided by The Martin Ryle Trust and Scurrah Wainwright Charity.

PROJECTS (CONTINUED)



SGR's project, One Planet – One Life, which ran a series of workshops on climate change and sustainable lifestyles for schools in the Morecambe Bay area, was completed in November. The project exceeded its targets with 1,345 children attending over a three-year period – despite interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Evaluation of pre- and post-learning was carried out using 'sticky dot' exercises and behaviour change pledges, with feedback from teaching staff being very positive. The workshops were run by Jan Maskell. Funding was provided by Ørsted's Walney Extension Community Fund.



Science4Society Week in March 2021 was a pared down affair due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able, however, to partner with the Malvern Festival of Science to stage two interactive webinars, run by Bryony Maskell, entitled 'Climate kitchen' and 'What's the environmental impact of washing your hands?' The project continued to be co-ordinated by Jan Maskell.

NEW PROJECT WORK

At the end of the reporting year, SGR joined a consortium running a new project called 'Closing Loops' – focused on reducing food waste.

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE CONFERENCE



Following the success of our first online conference and AGM the previous year, we again used this format for our 2021 event in October. The title for the conference was **From science to activism: how should action follow climate research?** and it was chaired by Andrew Simms. The keynote speaker was Dr Lewis Akenji, from the Hot or Cool Institute, who presented findings from his organisation's latest report on lifestyles compatible with the 1.5°C target in the Paris Agreement – including how scientists could promote equitable, sustainable lifestyles more widely. Other speakers covered SGR's project work and how it was being used to encourage more activism among the wider science and engineering community. These speakers were Liz Kalaugher, Stuart Parkinson, Emily Heath, Jan Maskell, and Andrew Simms. Over 70 people attended.

At the AGM which following the conference, members voted to support a proposal from SGR's National Co-ordinating Committee to explore transitioning the organisation to a Company Limited by Guarantee, which is viewed as having numerous beneficial aspects. A final vote on this transition will be taken at the AGM in autumn 2022.

OTHER CAMPAIGNING

SGR's other campaigning activities during the reporting year focused on climate change in the run-up to the COP26 negotiations in Glasgow, and recent major increases in spending on military technology.

In the months leading up to the climate negotiations, SGR supported campaigns calling for a halt to the development of new fossil fuel resources, including supporting a new Fossil Fuel Treaty, and opposing a new coal mine in Cumbria and new North Sea oil and gas fields. In September, Stuart Parkinson gave evidence to the public inquiry into the coal mine, a government decision upon which is due to be taken in summer 2022. We also supported the campaign by Culture Unstained to end fossil fuel industry sponsorship of the Science Museum, co-signing several letters to the management about the inappropriate nature of new financing from Shell and Adani.

At COP26 itself, Andrew Simms chaired a side-event on the potential for rapid transition, and was interviewed on COP26 TV about the same issue. Also, during the year, Jan Maskell gave seven talks on environmental behaviour change, including at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society and to students at the 2050 Climate Group conference.



Our work also challenged the increasing militarisation of science and technology. In March 2021, Stuart Parkinson wrote a briefing paper criticising the huge increases in UK military spending recently announced by the government as part of its defence and security review – and showed how this was more than *seven times* greater than public spending on reducing UK carbon emissions. This was used by campaigners during the Global Days of Action on Military Spending.

Emily Heath ran a petition calling for UK universities to sever their financial links with corporations which export arms to human rights-abusing governments. SGR also supported campaigners against lethal autonomous weapons, helping to publicise new evidence on UK university involvement.

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA

SGR's work received an especially high level of media coverage during the reporting year. In particular, our project work on climate change and the military was reported, on average, once a week during the whole period – including by *BBC News online*, *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, *TIME Magazine*,



The Guardian, *Business Green*, *The Conversation*, *Declassified UK*, *Reuters*, *Climate Home News*, *The Morning Star*, *Talk World Radio*, *Deutsche Welle*, *Middle East Eye*, *La Repubblica*, *EurAsian Times*, and in reports by the European Parliament, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and the Conflict and Environment Observatory. As part of the campaign to end fossil fuel sponsorship of the Science Museum, with Culture Unstained, we received coverage in *The Independent*, *Reuters*, *Yahoo Sport*, and *DeSmog* among others. We also received coverage in *NBC News*, *The Ecologist*, *openDemocracy*, *BMJ*, *France 24*, *The Canary*, *Independent Catholic News*, *Brave New Europe*, *The Herald* and numerous other specialist and local media outlets during the year.



SGR WEBSITE

SGR's website continued to be one of the main ways we communicate with the world, especially when social contact was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. There were 82,000 page-views during the reporting period, an impressive 27% increase on the previous year. Among the most popular outputs were: *The carbon boot-print of the military* (2,800 page-views); *The Science Oath for the Climate* (nearly 2,700 page-views); and *Nuclear weapons: a beginner's guide to the threats* (nearly 2,400 views).

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE JOURNAL

In summer 2021, we published the third edition of the *Responsible Science* journal, with 40 pages of high-quality material. There were 15 features articles, including: *What if we treated the climate emergency as seriously as we treated COVID-19?*; *Brexit Britain's security policy: cutting aid to spend on weapons*; *Overconsumption, the climate emergency and the scientific community*; *Are UK universities being drawn into developing autonomous weapons?*; and *Hacking the Earth: what could go wrong with geoengineering?*

SOCIAL MEDIA

We continued to run two email lists – SGRforum and SGRupdate – as well as using Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram to promote our activities. To improve the visual presentation of SGRupdate messages, we migrated it to new software, and this helped us grow the number of subscribers. Including social media accounts run by staff and committee members, at year end, we had nearly 21,000 followers through these channels.

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

STAFF

Stuart Parkinson continued as Executive Director, Andrew Simms as Assistant Director, Jan Maskell as Education Director, Emily Heath as Office Manager, and Liz Kalaugher as Responsible Science Campaigner. We also welcomed two new temporary staff members: Liam Killeen as our Assistant Campaigner working closely with Liz, and Lucia Simmons as our Communications Assistant, leading on publicity for Science4Society Week 2022. We thank all our staff for their hard work.



New staff: Liam Killeen (left, Assistant Campaigner) and Lucia Simmons (Communications Assistant)

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

The NCC – chaired by Philip Webber, with Jan Maskell as Vice-Chair – continued to provide oversight of SGR’s activities. At the 2021 AGM, Gillian Smith, Steve Ballard and David Hookes stepped down from the NCC. Phil, Jan, and Simon Reed were re-elected, and Nico Edwards and Liam Killeen were elected as new NCC members, with Keith Baker co-opted to join them soon afterwards. Many thanks to all of these volunteers for their time and expertise.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

This year we began reviewing SGR’s environmental policy and resource use, estimating our organisational carbon footprint, and developing an action plan to reduce it. (Even though it is already very small!)



We aim to achieve level ‘Bronze’ accreditation with Investors in the Environment – www.iie.uk.com – in 2022/23.

Over the previous two years we have eliminated commuting-related emissions through relocating our office and office-based staff, and significantly reduced business travel by holding our conferences and NCC meetings online.

We are now looking at ways to reduce our energy consumption (our electricity is already from 100% renewable sources) and paper use, and to encourage SGR staff and members to make their lifestyles even more sustainable.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

SGR's finances for this reporting period (from March 2021 to February 2022 inclusive) continued to be healthy, helped by grant income, legacies and donations from the annual membership appeal.

A detailed breakdown of our income and expenditure is shown in the tables and figures.

Total income grew slightly compared to the previous year. We received project-related grants (including overheads) of: £21,026 from Climate Works Foundation for internationalising our Responsible Science Campaign; £4,117 from Ørsted's Walney Extension Community Fund for our 'One Planet - One Life' workshops with schools in the Morecambe Bay area; £5,571 from The Left Group in the European Parliament and £3,774 from the Minor Foundation, both for research on the climate impacts of the military, and £500 from Local Giving for Science4Society Week. We received grants towards core costs from The Martin Ryle Trust totalling £13,817.

Income from membership subscriptions was similar to the previous year. The apparent large increase in appeal income is mainly because of administrative delays which meant that some of the income from the previous year's appeal was included in this year's accounts. Donations were increased by legacies from the estates of two former SGR members.

OVERALL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Balance on 01.03.21	£52,693
Income	£87,566
Expenditure	£80,932
Income minus expenditure	£6,634
Balance on 28.02.22	£59,327

NB All figures rounded to nearest pound

Income (£)	2020-21	2021-22
Membership subscriptions	£18,700	£18,661
Membership appeal	£3,907	£10,863
Grants	£61,771	£48,805
Donations	£1,625	£9,216
Conference income	£0	£0
Sales of publications	£36	£2
Interest	£38	£18
Total	£86,077	£87,565

NB All figures rounded to the nearest pound; totals may not sum exactly due to rounding

Conference registration income remained at zero as we again held a free online event instead of an in-person meeting, reducing costs and carbon emissions as well as COVID-19 risks. At the end of the reporting period, we had 664 members and supporters.

We are very grateful to all who supported SGR's work this year.

Expenditure increased significantly this year, primarily because of the expansion of our project work. The Responsible Science campaign ran throughout the whole year and included international strands. A new section of the website was created for Globally Responsible Careers, which included new digital resources, and we enhanced the social media promotion of Science4Society Week. Our *Responsible Science* journal was longer than usual, which increased the design and printing costs, and it was published later in the year, affecting the financial year in which some costs were incurred. This was our first full year of being based in central Lancaster, with a higher rent than for our previous office, but in a more accessible location and a more energy-efficient building. We distributed several thousand joining leaflets with *The Friend*, *CND Campaign* and *Ethical Consumer* magazines in an effort to recruit new members.

Expenditure (£)	2020–21	2021–22
Core wages (including NI and pensions)	£30,555	£28,344
Office rent, insurance and utilities	£2,664	£5,242
Recruitment	£490	£1,591
<i>Responsible Science</i> Journal	£1,044	£3,493
Conference, AGM and annual report	£1,422	£1,312
Other core costs	£3,789	£7,332
One Planet – One Life project	£3,360	£3,017
Science4Society Week	£0	£2,323
Globally Responsible Careers project	£1,125	£6,850
Responsible Science campaign	£5,596	£20,933
Climate Change and the Military project	£5,992	£496
Total	£56,037	£80,932

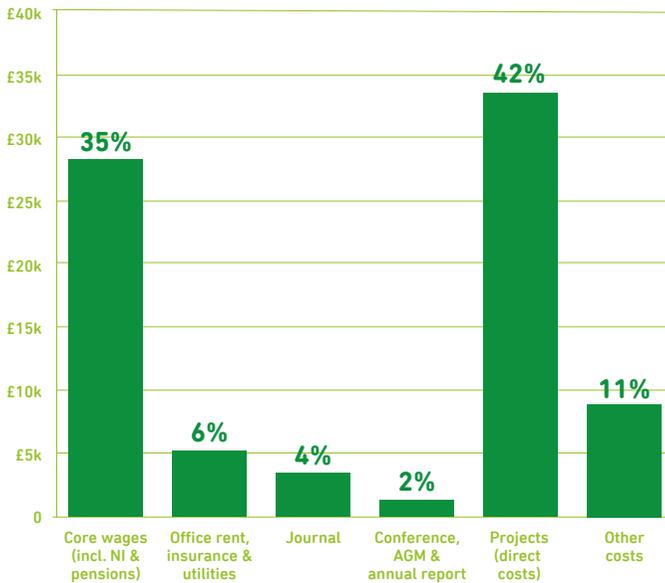
NB All figures rounded to the nearest pound; totals may not sum exactly due to rounding

SGR entered its new financial year with a healthy bank balance. However, much of this balance is restricted to specific project work which will be delivered in the coming year, and our core operating costs (including salaries, rent and utilities) are projected to rise in 2022/23. As ever, our finances continue to depend on the success of grant applications and the generosity of donors.

INCOME 2021-22



EXPENDITURE 2021-22



SGR
responsible science

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