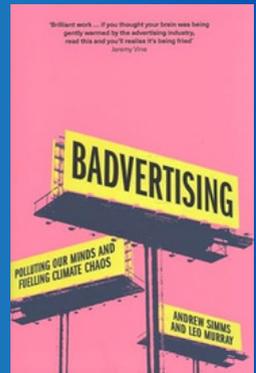
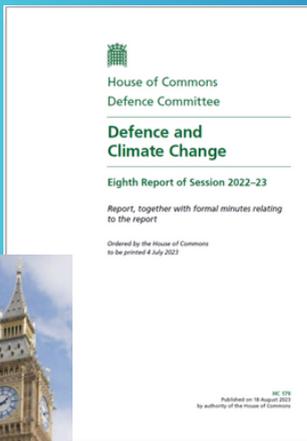
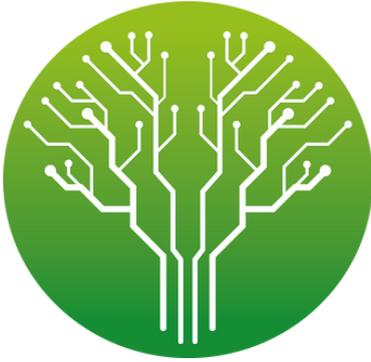




Scientists for Global Responsibility

Annual Report 2023-24





**Front Cover Photos
(clockwise from top left):**

- Prof. Lorraine Whitmarsh MBE, Prof. Paul Rogers and Beth Stratford speaking at SGR's 2023 online conference
- Cover of SGR's Responsible Science Journal no. 5, May 2023
- Cover of 'Badvertising' book co-authored by Andrew Simms, Nov 2023
- SGR's Fair Lifestyle Targets campaign
- Dr. Stuart Parkinson and others outside Westminster for the 'Big One' protest with Extinction Rebellion, April 2023
- Cover of the House of Commons Defence Committee report on Defence and Climate Change, July 2023

Design by: The Argument by Design
www.tabd.co.uk

Layout by: Emily Heath

**Reporting Period:
March 2023 to February 2024
inclusive**

STAFF

Executive Director:
Dr Stuart Parkinson

Assistant Director:
Andrew Simms MSc

Education Director:
Dr Jan Maskell CPsychol

Finance and Membership Manager:
Dr Emily Heath

Communications Assistant:
Liam Killeen (1)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr Philip Webber (Chair)
Dr Jan Maskell CPsychol (Vice-Chair)
Dr Emily Heath (Secretary)
Dr Keith Baker
Dr Stuart Parkinson
Simon Reed FIAP

ADVISORS:

Nico Edwards
Philip Inglesant (2)
Fiona McOwan (2)
Andrew Simms

(1) From June 2023
(2) From September 2023

SUMMARY

With temperature records being broken across the globe, weather-related disasters increasing in frequency and magnitude, and armed conflicts on the rise, SGR's mission – to promote responsible science and technology – continues to be essential.

Our main achievements during the reporting period:

- Our work on military carbon emissions continued to have widespread influence in the UK and internationally. In particular, we published a new technical briefing and its findings, together with those of our previous work, were quoted repeatedly in a report by the House of Commons Defence Committee, with some of our recommendations on emissions reporting and target-setting being echoed by the committee. Our work critiquing the concept of 'green militarism' also gained a lot of interest.
- A new book, 'Badvertising: polluting our minds and fuelling climate chaos' – authored by SGR's Assistant Director – was published, highlighting the hugely damaging contribution of the advertising industry to the climate crisis. It gained many high-profile endorsements.
- We published evidence on the historic scale of the bombing campaign by the Israeli military on Gaza – and highlighted the role of AI in increasing the speed and scale of destruction.
- Our rebranded 'Fair Lifestyle Targets' helped scientists and others to exemplify 1.5°C-compatible living – and gained a great deal of interest via social media.
- We produced two new teaching resources aimed at schools on ethical and scientific issues related to nuclear weapons. These were launched to coincide with the new Hollywood movie 'Oppenheimer' to maximise interest.
- As part of a project on sustainable food, we delivered 'Carbon Conversation' workshops and gave advice on curriculum-based education activities.
- Through our annual conference and presentations at numerous events – both in the UK and internationally – we provided valuable information on issues including the climate crisis, nuclear risks, the militarisation of science and technology, emerging technologies, and environmental behaviour change.
- Our website gained a record number of visitors. It received 94,000 page-views during the reporting period, with two journal articles – one on the need for urgent climate action and the other on risks to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant due to the Ukraine war – gaining a particularly large readership.

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 for their hard work throughout the year.

Stuart Parkinson, *Executive Director*

Philip Webber, *Chair*

PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNING

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MILITARY

SGR continued its research and campaigning on military impacts on the climate during the reporting period. This issue has gained increasing interest from the media, climate campaigners and policy-makers.

Stuart Parkinson wrote a new technical paper on the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from UK military bases. This and SGR's previous work on Britain's military carbon footprint was quoted repeatedly in a report by the House of Commons Defence Committee published in August 2023. Some of our recommendations on more transparent and robust reporting, and more ambitious target-setting for military GHG emissions were echoed by the committee.

In September, SGR helped the Conflict and Environment Observatory organise a conference in Oxford on military greenhouse gas emissions, which attracted an audience (both in-person and online) of 145 academics, policy-makers and campaigners. Stuart spoke on a panel alongside the head of climate at the Ministry of Defence.

Stuart and Phil Webber gave talks on military environmental impacts at several other events across the UK, as well as a webinar to an Austrian audience. Nico Edwards also ran a workshop during a London conference organised by War Resisters' International.

In December, a report written by Nico Edwards on green militarism and climate injustice was published by the World Peace Foundation. A related online campaign toolkit, co-hosted by SGR, can be downloaded from: <https://sites.tufts.edu/wpf/debate-on-arms-trade/>

Nico also published several articles challenging greenwash in the arms industry, and spoke at a webinar on the topic.

SGR-led research on military emissions - especially our estimate that the global military carbon footprint is approximately 5.5 percent of the world's total GHG emissions - is now widely quoted by campaigners, journalists, researchers, and policy-makers.

Stuart was also interviewed by numerous international media outlets, including appearing in a TV debate on Al-Jazeera and in a video by leading German channel, DW. The German video was viewed over 20,000 times in the first two weeks after production.

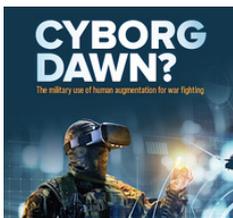
We would like to thank the Minor Foundation for funding some of our work in this field.

MILITARISATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SGR continued to warn of the dangers of increasing militarisation of science and technology, not least in the area of emerging technologies.

PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNING (CONTINUED)

With Drone Wars UK, we co-hosted a webinar on the problems of military research into 'human augmentation'



technologies. These are intended to 'enhance' the battlefield performance of soldiers. Stuart Parkinson also gave a presentation on the military influence on UK science at a seminar in London, organised by Action on Armed Violence. In addition, we contributed to evidence submitted to the House of Lords Committee Inquiry on Artificial Intelligence in Weapons Systems.

WAR, AI AND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES

As international security continued to deteriorate during the reporting year - with major new wars starting in Gaza and Sudan, as well as continuing conflicts in countries like Ukraine and Yemen - SGR continued to support peace campaigning and provide timely analysis.

In Gaza, SGR was horrified especially at the intensity of the Israeli military offensive - assisted by artificial intelligence (AI) technologies - and the lack of efforts to safeguard civilians. As evidence of war crimes and even genocide mounted, we supported ceasefire calls through social media and email networks, including those urging the UK government to stop supplying arms to Israel.

In December, Phil Webber and Stuart Parkinson wrote an analysis of the scale of the military onslaught for the SGR website -

pointing out that the destruction was comparable with the Allied carpet bombing campaign of German cities during World War II. They also highlighted that the use of AI and other modern weapons technologies had enabled the devastation to be achieved in a much shorter space of time. The SGR Board published a statement condemning both the Israeli offensive and the Hamas attack on Israel which preceded it, and calling for an immediate ceasefire.

SGR also continued to warn of other war-related dangers - especially those from nuclear weapons and from nuclear power stations in Ukraine. In particular, Phil and Stuart spoke at several events, including the Festival for Survival in Glasgow in November. Phil also wrote several updates to his article on the risks arising from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant - as featured in Responsible Science, no.5. By the end of the reporting period the article and its updates had been viewed over 13,500 times on SGR's website.

In July 2023, SGR published two new teaching resources in partnership with the Peace Education Network, entitled 'Atomic scientists' and 'A beginners' guide to nuclear weapons', authored by Phil Webber and Jan Maskell. These were launched to coincide with the cinema release of the movie 'Oppenheimer', and were downloaded 500 times in the following two weeks, with many more since. They are free to download from: www.tes.com/teaching-resources/shop/peace_edu_network_uk



PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNING (CONTINUED)

At a broader level, SGR submitted evidence to the 'Alternative Security Review' organised by the Rethinking Security network. This aims to challenge the government's military-focused 'defence and security reviews'. Stuart also continued to write 'budget briefings' published by the UK branch of the Global Campaign on Military Spending. These critically analysed the government's announcements on new military spending, and compared them to alternative options such as overseas aid or low carbon energy.

FOSSIL FUELS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SGR was involved in a wide range of fossil fuel and climate campaigns during the reporting year.

The UK government's plans to allow hundreds of new fossil fuel exploration licences remains a huge concern, and SGR actively supported campaigns against new coal mines (e.g. at Whitehaven, Cumbria) and oil fields (e.g. Rosebank and Cambo in the North Sea). Recent activities included co-signing letters targeted at UK and EU politicians and banks involved in the financing of fossil fuels, as well as speaking at campaign events.

As the reporting period came to an end, SGR started a new research project examining the data on the carbon emissions of sporting tournaments, such as the men's football World Cup. This is part of a wider campaign challenging sport's role in promoting and contributing to high-carbon lifestyles.

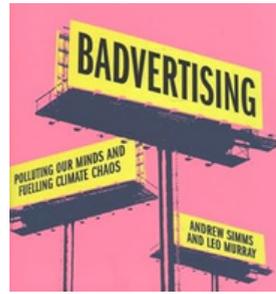
Overlapping with this is a campaign which SGR is supporting to end 'badvertising' - the prominent advertising and sponsorship of events by high-

carbon industries including oil corporations and airlines. Andrew Simms (with Leo Murray) published a book entitled 'Badvertising: polluting our minds and fuelling climate chaos' (Pluto Press, 2023). This led to many speaking engagements in the UK and northern Europe. The campaign seeks a tobacco-style ban on high carbon advertising and such policies are being taken up already by several UK local authorities, including Edinburgh and Sheffield.

Andrew also published two opinion pieces in The Guardian - on flying and Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs). Both articles have been republished on the SGR website. Andrew also spoke on climate refugees at The Green Gathering in Chepstow, and on the Green New Deal at the Planet Local Summit in Bristol.

In the summer of 2023, Jan Maskell spoke on behaviour change and climate action at two events for psychology professionals.

Finally, SGR continued to collaborate with the US-based Union of Concerned Scientists on a campaign urging Elsevier, a leading international publisher of science journals, to break its ties with the fossil fuel industry. In the autumn of 2023, a new group called the Climate Rights Coalition was set up to take the campaign forward.



PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNING (CONTINUED)

SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Jan Maskell continued to contribute to Closing Loops - a five-year North Lancashire-based project funded by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund. The project aims to reduce waste in the food system and develop a thriving local food system that is healthy, resilient and fair. The project coordinates sustainable food related activities, including gleaning, composting, education and working with chefs and caterers. During the reporting period, Jan delivered 'Climate Conversations' training, worked on a Closing Loops Curriculum for local students, and supported the project teams to produce evaluation strategies and plans.

FAIR LIFESTYLE TARGETS

SGR renamed its '1.5°C Living Targets' to 'Fair Lifestyle Targets', both to foreground the issue of climate justice and in recognition that the target enshrined in the Paris Agreement - to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C - is rapidly slipping out of reach. Alarming, the global average temperature in 2023 was 1.48°C hotter than the pre-industrial level.

It is becoming ever more urgent for scientists and others to 'walk the talk' of climate leadership, by reducing our own lifestyle carbon emissions to a global fair share of around 2.5 tCO₂e/y (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year). In February 2024, SGR launched short videos by high-profile scientists who have already taken steps towards this.



The videos were created by Liam Killeen, and social media posts promoting them were viewed over one million times. By the end of the reporting period, over 50 people had signed up to at least some of SGR's 10 Fair Lifestyle Targets.

SCIENCE4SOCIETY TEACHING RESOURCES

SGR updated its standalone website of education resources at www.s4s.org.uk. This provides valuable downloadable materials which can be used by teachers to run classroom activities promoting the responsible use of science and technology, and sustainable living. Among the most popular resources are 'Food Trump Cards'; printed packs can be ordered from SGR.

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE CONFERENCE

SGR held its annual conference online again in 2023 in order to maximise membership participation from around the country. 78 people attended the event.

The conference was entitled 'Responsible science and the polycrisis: new hope versus false solutions'. The main speakers were:

Prof. Lorraine Whitmarsh,
Beth Stratford (pictured),
Prof. Paul Rogers and
Dr. Stuart Parkinson.



The conference explored why behaviour change is a better bet for climate action than speculative technology; the degrowth vs. green growth debate; the connections between security, economy and environment; and the role of R&D in tackling the polycrisis.

COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA

SGR's work received a very high level of media coverage during the reporting year.

Highlights included:

- Contributed to at least 15 reports, books and academic papers, including the UNEP's 'Broken Record - Emissions Gap Report 2023' (November)
- A TV debate on 'Are militaries driving the climate crisis' - Al-Jazeera (May);
- A widely republished Reuters article on 'World's war on greenhouse gas emissions has a military blind spot' (July)
- Articles in The Guardian by Andrew Simms, on the 'badvertising' of air travel (July) and polluting Sports Utility Vehicles (February)
- Several articles in The Guardian included a link to the SGR/CEOBS report on military carbon emissions (November-January)
- Our research informed a BBC World Service feature on the impact of war (January).

SOCIAL MEDIA

We continued to run two email lists – SGRforum and SGRupdate – as well as using Twitter/X, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram to promote our activities.

Including social media accounts run by staff and committee members, at year end, we had about 27,500 followers in total, a 20% increase over the previous year.

SGR WEBSITE

SGR's website continued to be one of the main ways we communicate with the world.

There were 94,000 page-views during the reporting period, an impressive 46% increase over the previous year. Among the most popular pages were: 'Nuclear power in Ukraine: what would happen if Zaporizhzhia was hit?' (viewed 13,500 times); 'Getting real: what would serious climate action look like?' (10,000); and 'Fair Lifestyle Targets' (3,000).

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE JOURNAL

In May 2023, we published the fifth edition of the *Responsible Science* journal, with 36 pages of high-quality material.

There were 10 features articles, including:

- 'Getting real: What would serious climate action look like?'
- 'Lessons from lockdown - how a 'discontinuity event' opens up possibilities';
- 'Small modular reactors: the last chance saloon for the nuclear industry?';
- 'The war in Ukraine: assessing the human and environmental costs';
- 'Offsets get the red card'; and
- 'UK universities and the further development of killer robots'.



ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

STAFF

Stuart Parkinson continued as Executive Director, Andrew Simms as Assistant Director, Jan Maskell as Education Director, and Emily Heath as Finance and Membership Manager. Liam Killeen rejoined SGR's staff team in June as our Communications Assistant.

The staff team are pictured below with SGR's Chair Phil Webber.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023-24 was our first year of operating as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) - still on a non-profit basis.

The co-ordinating body of the CLG is the Board of Directors, which comprised Philip Webber (Chair), Jan Maskell (Vice-chair), Keith Baker, Emily Heath, Stuart Parkinson, and Simon Reed.

The board was supported by several advisers: Nico Edwards, Andrew Simms, Fiona McOwan and Philip Inglesant.

ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Having achieved 'level Bronze' accreditation with Investors in the Environment (iE) last year, SGR began working towards 'Level Silver'.

Unfortunately we had to put that work on hold due to a lack of staff resources.

However, our environmental footprint remained very low. We have continued to encourage members to opt for digital communications to reduce paper usage and delivery miles. Most SGR staff continued to work from home, so there was no commuting to work. No flights or car journeys were taken by staff for SGR business purposes.

All SGR staff and advisors have signed up to some of our Fair Lifestyle Targets.



DR. STUART PARKINSON
Executive
Director

ANDREW SIMMS
Assistant
Director

DR. EMILY HEATH
Finance & Membership
Manager

LIAM KILLEEN
Communications
Assistant

DR. PHIL WEBBER
Chair of the Board
of Directors

DR. JAN MASKELL
Vice-Chair and
Education Projects
Director

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Over this reporting period (1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024), income increased significantly compared to the previous year, and expenditure decreased. Expenditure exceeded income by £4,069, largely due to a delay in receiving some appeal income.

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

INCOME

Total income increased by 33% compared to the previous year.

We received project-related grants (including overheads) of: £8,490 from the National Lottery Climate Action Fund for the Closing Loops (sustainable food) project; £5,043 from the Minor Foundation and the Conflict and Environment Observatory for our work on climate change and the military; and £6,000 from the Martin Ryle Trust to fund our new Communications Assistant. We also received grants towards core costs from The Martin Ryle Trust (MRT) totalling £8,029, plus a £3,800 grant from the 1970 Trust.

Income from membership subscriptions, donations, our annual conference and the annual appeal were all slightly higher than in the previous year. However, around £2,500 of our 2023 appeal income, donated via People's Fundraising to the Martin Ryle Trust, was not received by SGR until the 2024-25 financial year, contributing to a small apparent deficit this year.

We temporarily sub-let spare space in our Lancaster office (with our landlord's permission) to help towards our increased rent costs.

OVERALL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Opening balance 01.03.23 | £30,942 |
| Income | £61,927 |
| Expenditure | £65,996 |
| Income minus expenditure | -£4,069 |
| Closing balance 29.02.24 | £26,873 |

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

| INCOME | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Membership subscriptions | £16,502 | £17,405 |
| Annual appeal | £5,258 | £5,675 |
| Grants | £22,381 | £32,231 |
| Donations | £2,128 | £2,746 |
| Conference income | £254 | £393 |
| Office sub-letting | £0 | £794 |
| Publications, lectures, consultancy, etc | £57 | £2,324 |
| Interest | £120 | £360 |
| Total | £46,700 | £61,927 |

Stuart Parkinson secured several speaking engagements and article commissions which also generated additional income.

At the end of the reporting period, we had 603 members and supporters.

EXPENDITURE

Compared to last year, our expenditure decreased significantly, mainly due to our major 'Responsible Science Campaign' project having ended. We continued to work on the Closing Loops and Military and Climate projects.

SGR ended the 2023-24 financial year with a slightly lower level of reserves, equivalent to about 4 months core operating costs. Plans are in place to increase our reserves during the next financial year, both by increasing income and reducing core costs.

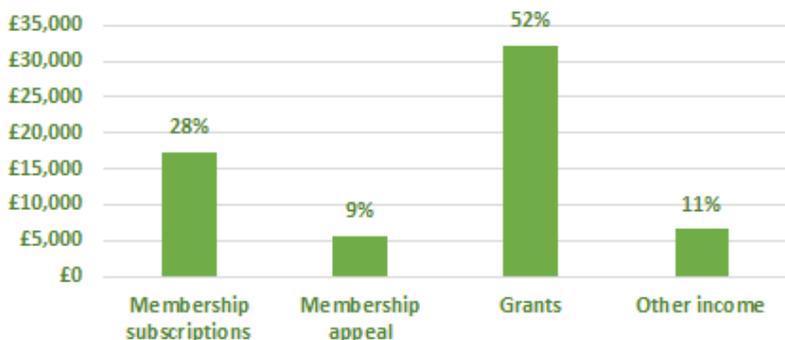
As ever, our finances continue to depend on the success of grant applications and the generosity of donors.

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

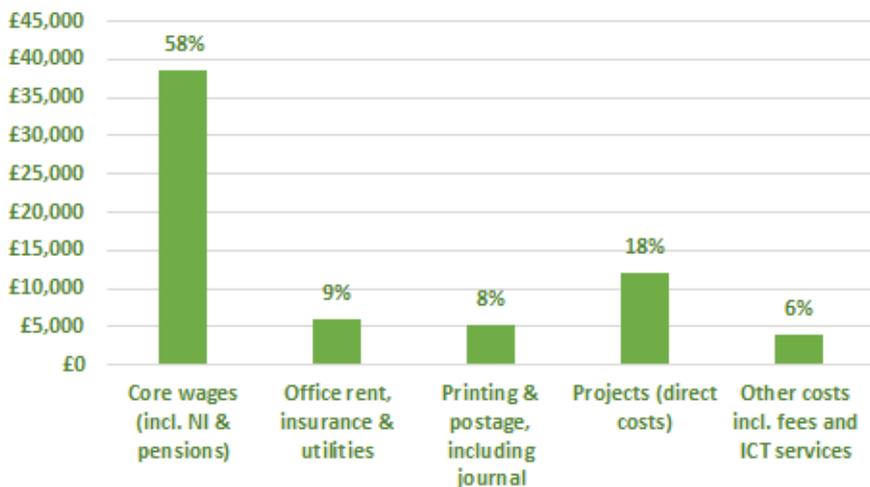
| EXPENDITURE | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Core wages (incl. NI & pensions) | £31,248 | £38,550 |
| Office rent, insurance, utilities | £4,798 | £6,079 |
| Printing & postage, incl. Responsible Science journal | £5,846 | £5,224 |
| Other core costs | £7,418 | £3,981 |
| Science 4 Society Week project | £575 | £75 |
| Globally Resp. Careers project | £188 | £0 |
| Responsible Science Campaign | £15,188 | £0 |
| Military & Climate project | £3,824 | £3,927 |
| Closing Loops project | £6,000 | £8,160 |
| TOTAL | £75,085 | £65,996 |

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

INCOME 2023-24



EXPENDITURE 2023-24



SGR
responsible science

Scientists for Global Responsibility
PO Box 943, Lancaster LA1 9NZ, UK
info@sgr.org.uk
07584 057414
www.sgr.org.uk