



Great Britain: Climate killer No. 6

Greenhouse gas emissions: 658 million t (Mt)
Carbon dioxide: 565 million t (Mt)

This figure puts Great Britain sixth place among the G8 countries.

Average per capita emissions: Approx. 9.5 t CO₂ per inhabitant

In a global comparison, Great Britain's per capita emissions are in the upper mid-range.

Trend: 15 percent reduction

Great Britain is the only country that has already outperformed its Kyoto commitment, which is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5 percent. The country had already slashed its emissions by 15 percent in 2005, CO₂ emissions having been reduced by 14 percent. Transportation is a troublesome sector: Here, carbon dioxide emissions are continuing to rise – by 9.6 percent.

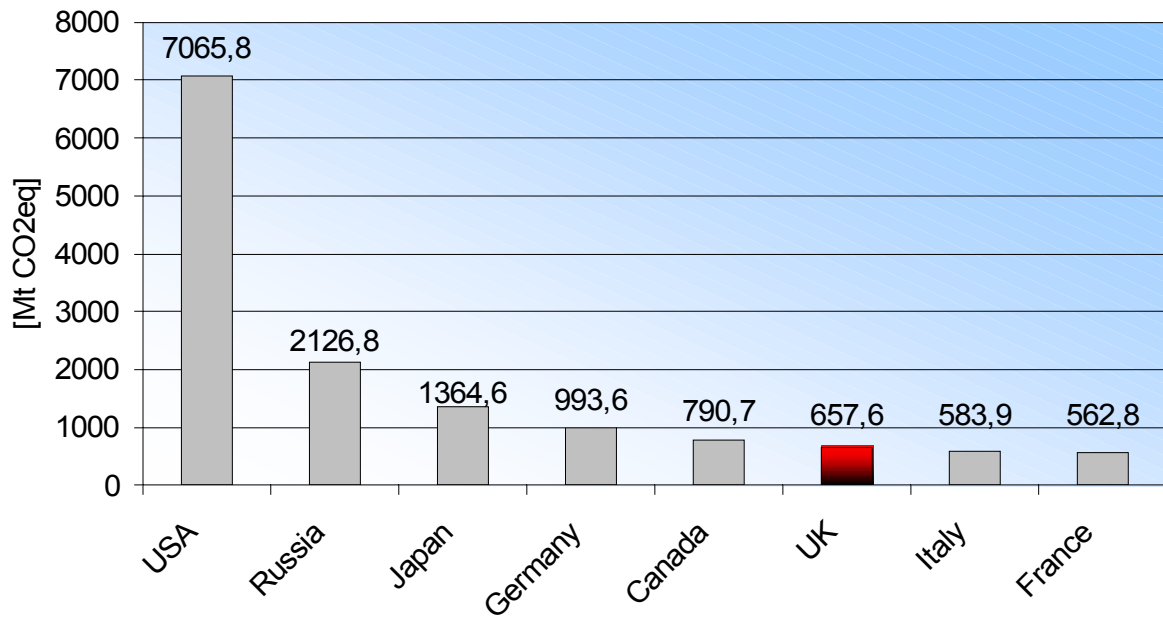
There is still great scope for improvements in efficiency: Energy intensity, meaning the amount of energy consumed to generate a unit of gross national product (kg mineral oil equivalent per € 1000), figured 225 in Great Britain in the year 2001. That figure was well above those of e.g. Germany (168), France (189) or Italy (188). Renewable energies can also be used more intensively. With a contribution of only 0.3% to primary energy supply, Great Britain's use of renewables is the poorest within the G8.

Political will: Given?

Great Britain ratified the Kyoto Protocol in May 2002. The UK has had some easy wins to meet a Kyoto greenhouse gas target that was unambitious for the UK the target was already almost achieved when it was set in 1997. Since reaching the Kyoto target in 1998 Tony Blair has made poor progress and in fact CO₂ emissions in the UK are climbing - in 2005 UK CO₂ emissions were 5.8 million tonnes higher than they were in 1997. The UK government's 2010 domestic target for CO₂ will be missed by a wide margin."

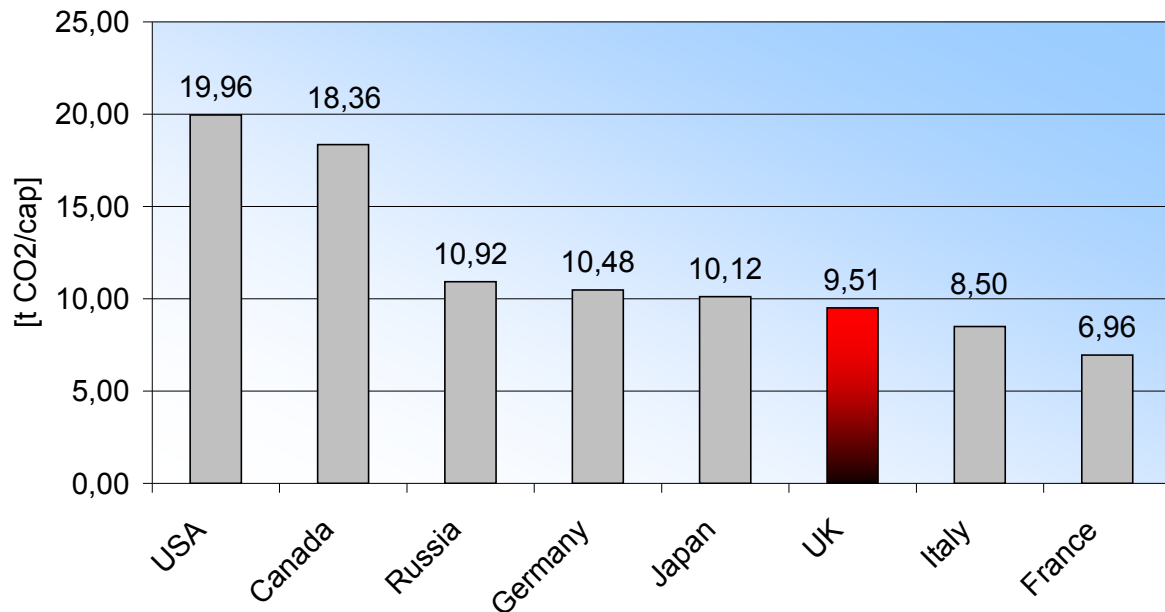
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GHG emissions of the G8 countries 2005



Source: Ziesing, Hans-Joachim: Trotz Klimaschutzabkommen: Weltweit steigende CO₂-Emissionen, DIW Berlin Wochenbericht 35/2006.

per-capita CO₂ emissions of the G8 countries 2005



Source: own calculation, from Ziesing, Hans-Joachim: Trotz Klimaschutzabkommen: Weltweit steigende CO₂-Emissionen, DIW Berlin Wochenbericht 35/2006 und World Development Report 2006, Weltbank