

Japan: Climate killer No. 3

**Small country, big killer: 1,365 million t greenhouse gases
1,294 million t carbon dioxide**

Japan's greenhouse gas emissions are third largest among the G8 states. Worldwide, the small country's emissions are fourth largest.

Average per capita emissions: Approx. 10 t CO₂ per inhabitant

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

Trend: Poor, 7.7 percent growth rate

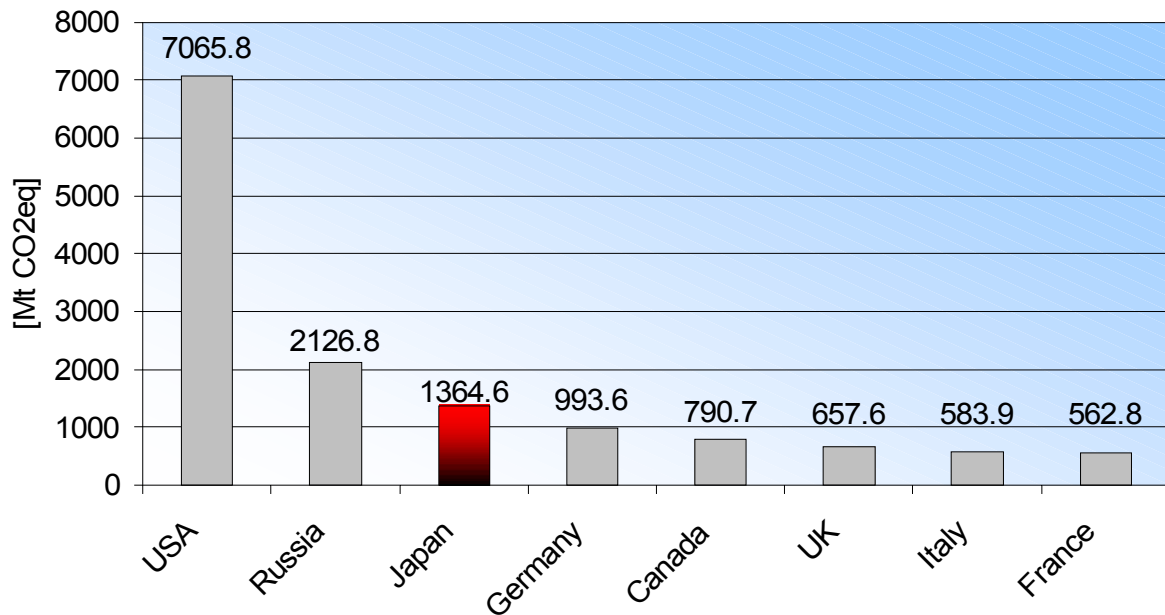
Greenhouse gas emissions in Japan rose by 7.7 percent between 1990 and 2005, while energy-related carbon dioxide emissions rose by 13.6 percent during the same period. Under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol, Japan had actually committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by six percent by the year 2012. One positive aspect is that Japan has achieved distinct reductions for all the other greenhouse gases regulated under the Protocol (CH₄ -22%, N₂O -13.9%, HFCs -39.2%, PFCs -28.2%, SF₆ -73.6%).

Political will: Considerable but ineffective

Japan signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1993 and ratified it in 2002. The Protocol was carried over into national legislation in February 2005. In addition, Japan adopted its "Top Runner" scheme for improved efficiency in the late 1990s.

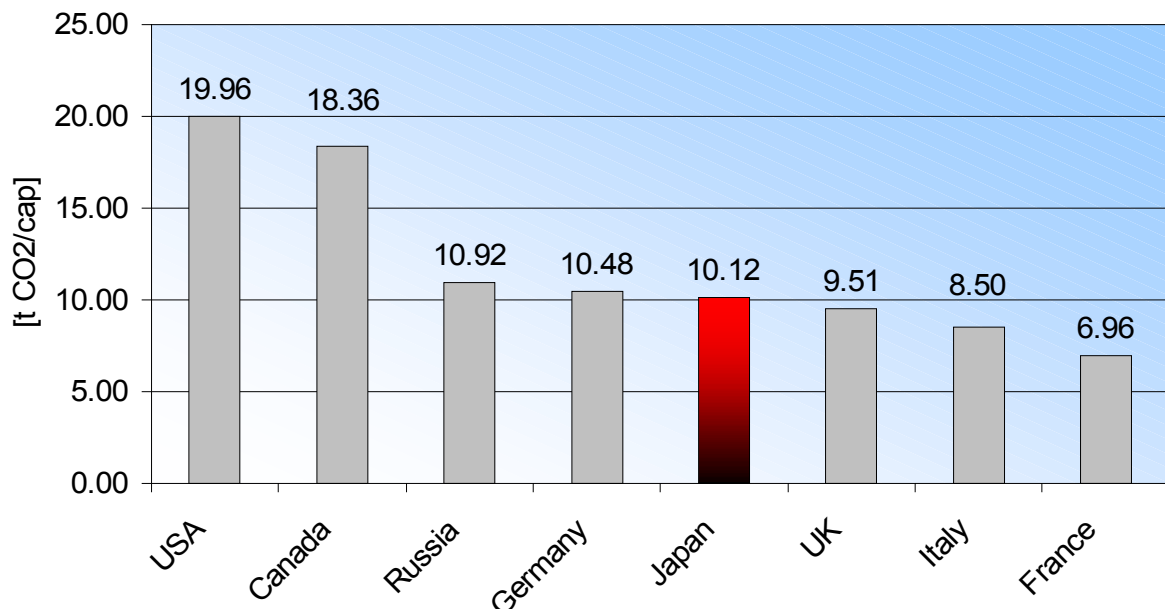
In 2006, environment minister Yuriko Koike used the "Government programme to heighten climate awareness" to call upon her fellow citizens to set air-conditioning systems at 28°C in summer and 20°C in winter, to buy eco-products and to unplug electric appliances when not in use. Nonetheless, power consumption in Japan continued to rise. On the issue of standby: In Japan, each household loses almost 400 kWh to equipment on standby each year, which amounts to 12 percent of all electricity consumed in households – more than twice as much as in the USA or in Europe.

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