



USA: Climate killer No. 1

**By far the biggest climate killer: 7,066 million t greenhouse gases
5,987 million t CO₂**

The USA is the state with by far the highest greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

Enormous per capita emissions: Approx. 20 t CO₂ per inhabitant

With this figure, not only the absolute emissions but also the per capita emissions top the league.

Trend: Devastating – 15.7 percent growth rate

In the USA, greenhouse gas emissions rose by 15.7 percent between 1990 and 2005. Energy-related CO₂ emissions even rose by 19.6 percent over the same period. Under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol, the USA would have to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by seven percent by 2012.

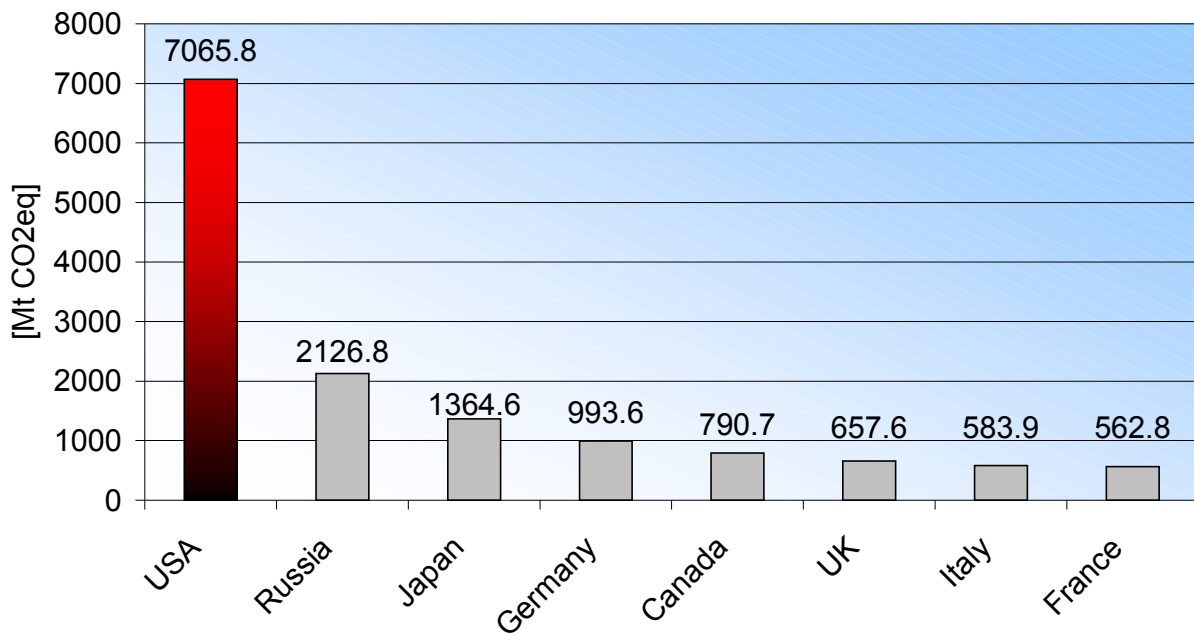
Political will: None

The USA is the only G8 state that has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol. While the country did sign the Protocol in 1998, it never ratified it – neither under the Clinton administration (1993 to 2001) nor since then under the Bush administration – and the Protocol is thus not in force in the USA.

A president blocks climate protection

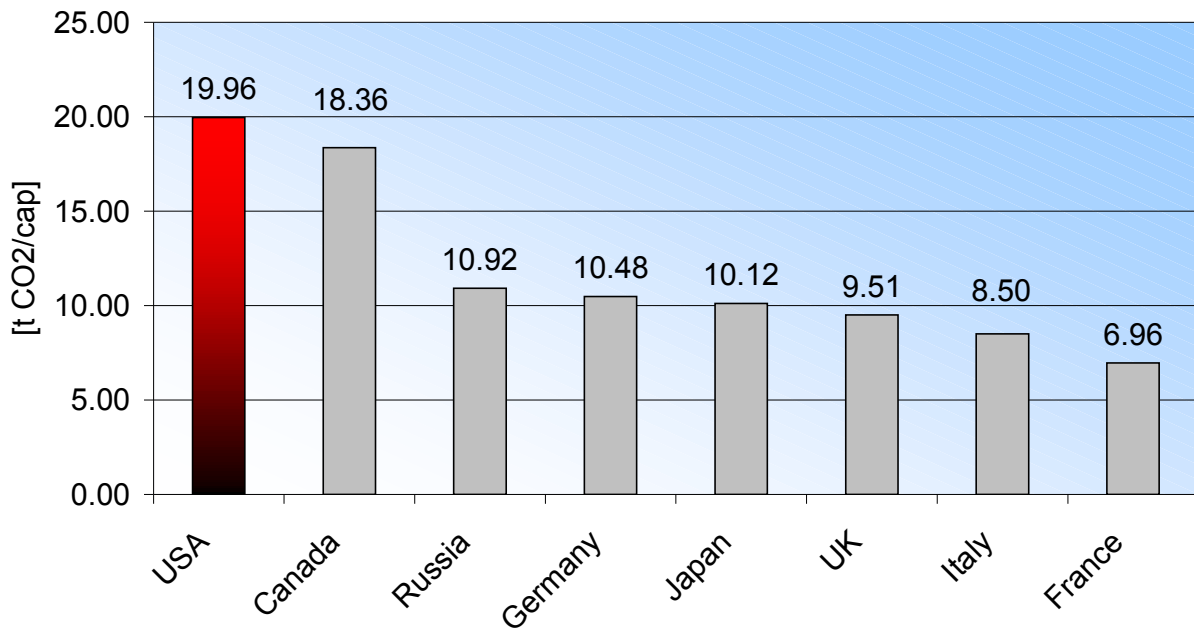
George W. Bush is an outspoken opponent of the climate protection process. He has blocked Kyoto for years. Bush in 2005: *“Kyoto would have wrecked our economy. I couldn't in good faith have signed Kyoto”*. It emerged in late January 2007 that the Bush administration had attempted over the past years to censor scientists at the national climate research programme in order to play down climate change.

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