



Germany: Climate killer No. 4

No small killer: **994 million t greenhouse gases**
865 million t carbon dioxide

Within the G8 group of countries, Germany's greenhouse gas emissions are the fourth highest. Europe's place in a worldwide comparison is third after China. Within the EU, Germany is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Average per capita emissions: **10.5 t CO₂ per inhabitant**

In a global comparison, Germany's per-capita emissions are upper mid-field.

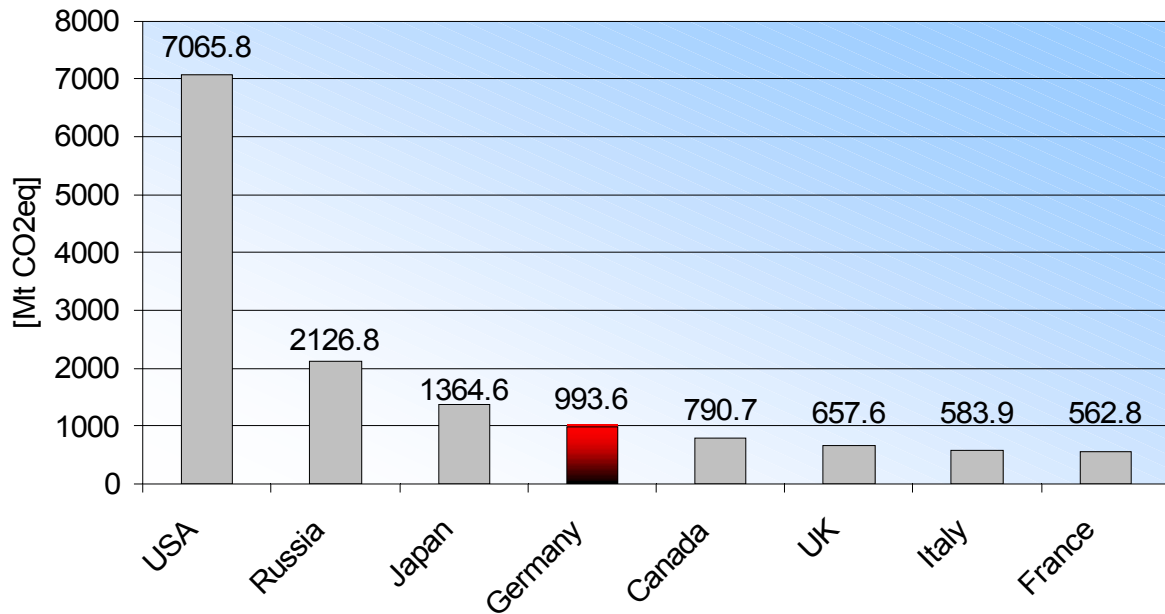
Exemplary trend? **Approx. 19 percent reduction**

At first glance, Germany's performance has been good, having cut overall greenhouse gas emissions by about 19 percent and CO₂ emissions by 16 percent in the period from 1990 to 2005. A large part of these reductions came about, however, through the collapse of inefficient industries in the former German Democratic Republic. (Germany's greenhouse gas emissions dropped by 11 percent in the period to 1994. The downward curve then flattened distinctly. In 2006, emissions rose again for the first time.) The transport sector is particularly problematic. Here, carbon dioxide emissions rose by 5.4 percent from 1990 to 2004.

Political will: **Two faces**

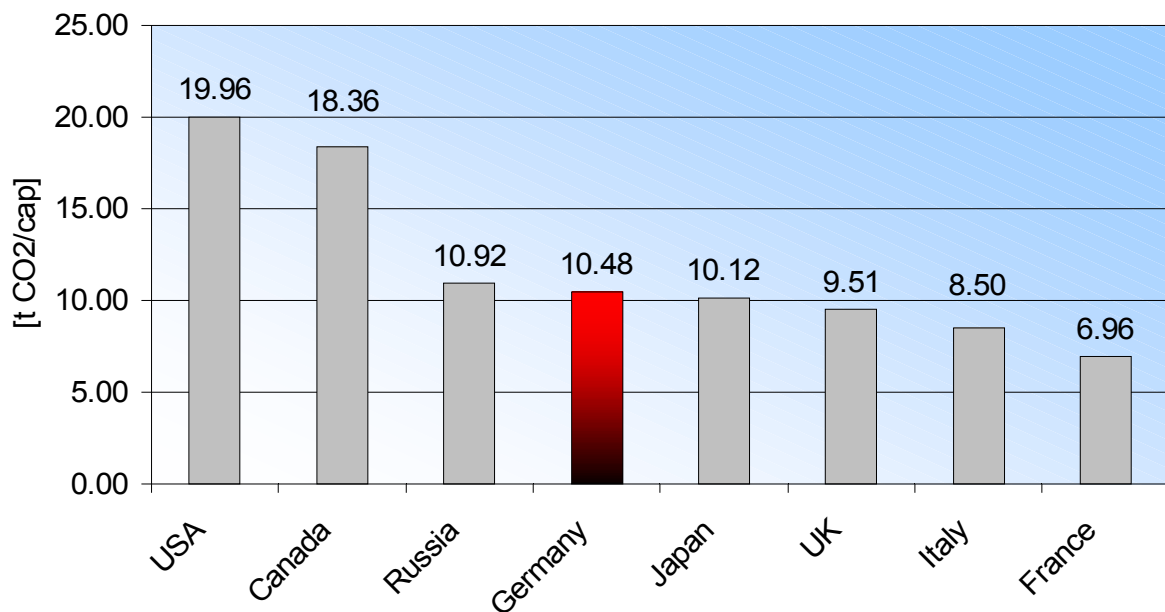
Germany ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 and likes to present itself in the international arena as a climate protection forerunner. Domestic energy policy, however, has little to do with climate protection. National legislation (e.g. the NAP) promotes harmful lignite-fired power plants, emission certificates are handed out free of charge to industry instead of being auctioned, and politicians have great difficulty in tackling car traffic. A surprising fact is that Germany – so proud of its growth in the use of renewable energies – in fact takes second-last place within the G8 according to figures of the International Energy Agency in terms of its share of renewables in primary energy supply excluding biomass.

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