



Russia: Climate killer No. 2

Greenhouse gas emissions: 2,127 million t (Mt)
Carbon dioxide: 1,559 million t (Mt)

This makes Russia second only to the USA among the main emitters within the G8 group of countries.

Average per capita emissions: Approx. 11 t CO₂ per inhabitant

Even after the collapse of the Soviet economy, Russia continues to have per capita emissions that are in the upper mid-range worldwide.

Trend: In the wrong direction at present

Officially, Russia reduced its overall greenhouse gas emissions by 29.8 percent in the period from 1990 to 2005, and carbon dioxide emissions by 22.9 percent. Unfortunately, the reduction in emissions was recorded only for the period up to 2000 / 2002 and was due mainly to the collapse of large parts of the Russian economy. Greenhouse gas emissions have been on the rise since 2002.

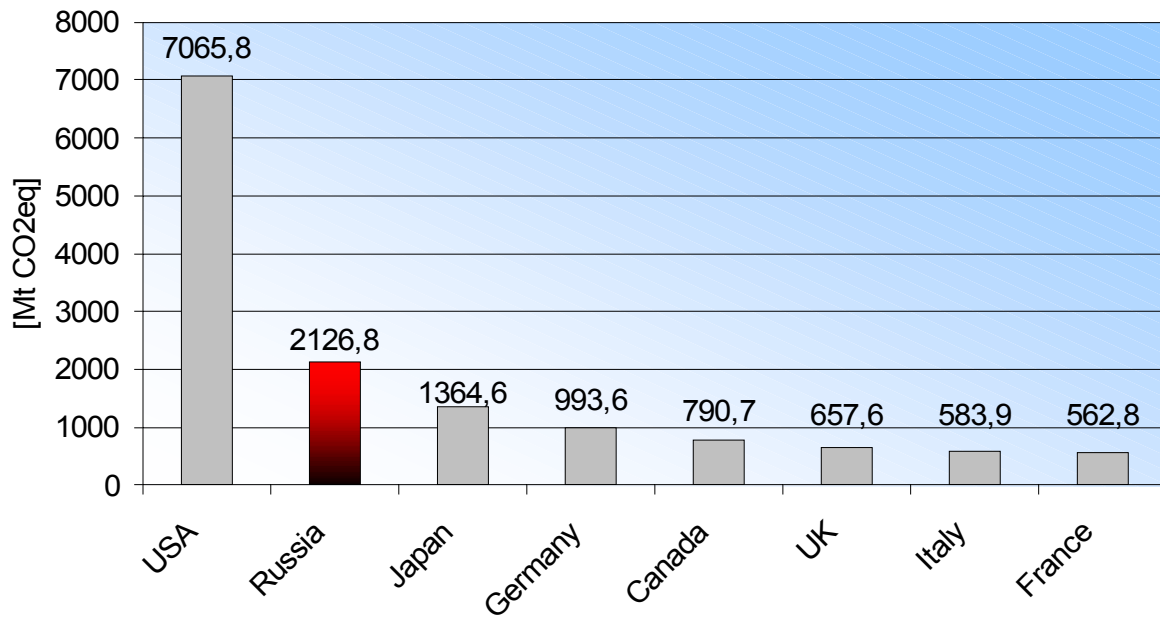
Moreover, levels of efficiency are dismal. At 8.4 tonnes per \$ 1000, present greenhouse gas emissions per unit gross national income are 11 times higher than in the USA, 15-20 times higher than in the EU states and almost 28 times higher than in Japan.

Political will: Putin professes openness

In 2004, president Vladimir Putin ratified the Kyoto Protocol, contrary to the recommendations made by the Russian Academy of Sciences, his energy minister and his economic advisor Andrei Illarionov. In return, the EU supported Russia's accession to the WTO. The idea that Russia might profit from Joint Implementation Projects and selling emission certificates to third countries may also have played a role.

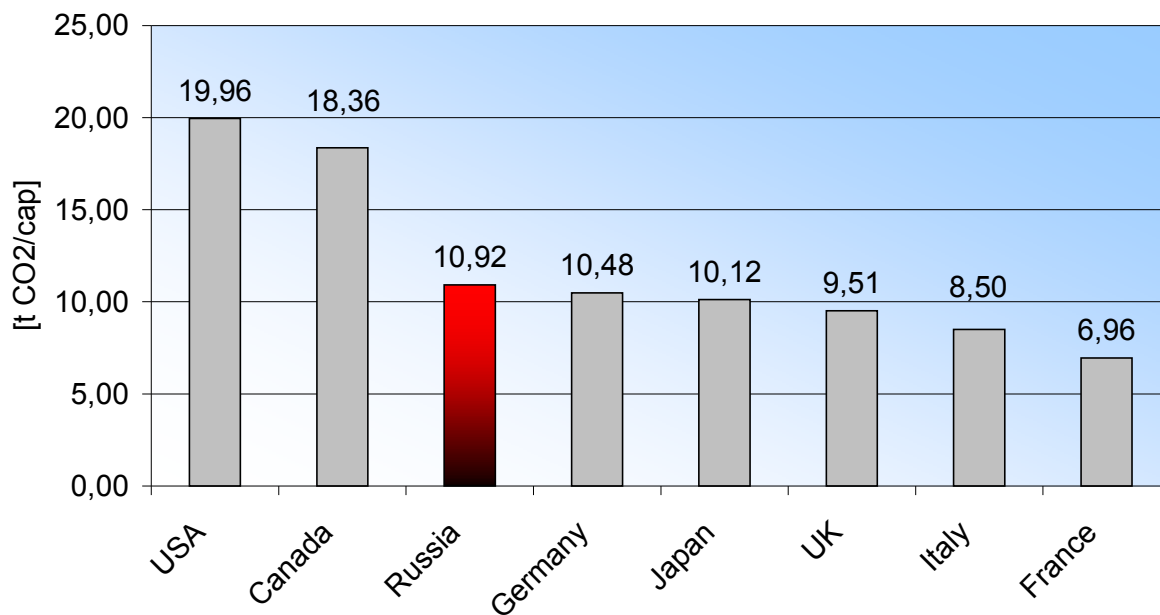
Following this year's warm winter, which spared Russia, in particular, the accustomed cold and snow, a fresh survey shows that two out of three Russians now believe that human-induced climate change is under way.

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