

## Role and actions

USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The USA is the world's second biggest emitter, generating just under one fifth of all anthropogenic GHGs. This is despite its population size being less than 5 per cent of the global total.</li><li>■ In recent years, its carbon emissions have fallen by around 10 per cent. The main reason for this is a shift from coal to gas burning within the USA's energy mix. A gas-fired plant produces half the emissions of a coal-fired one.</li><li>■ On a per capita basis, the USA still has a carbon footprint five times higher than China. Under the Obama administration, the USA began taking greater action to address its emissions. However, the Trump administration is more skeptical of the need for action.</li></ul>
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ China became the world's largest carbon emitter in 2007 on account of widespread industrialization since the 1970s (see page 83). A massive programme of poverty alleviation (requiring more, not less, energy) remains the country's priority.</li><li>■ China now contributes around one quarter of world emissions while accounting for one fifth of world population. Its emissions rose by almost 10 per cent in 2011 alone, primarily due to higher coal consumption.</li><li>■ China's leaders want to reduce the rate at which their emissions rise and have made a (non-binding) pledge to reduce the <b>carbon intensity</b> of the country's growth by adopting more <b>renewable energy</b> into their mix. For instance, China spent US\$10 billion on wind turbines in 2010 – about half of all global spending. Such actions will not lead to a cut in total emissions but will curb the rate at which China's emissions grow.</li></ul>
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ India is home to nearly one fifth of the world's population. Currently, it contributes more than 5 per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</li></ul>
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The oil-rich desert state of Qatar has exceedingly high per capita emissions. The country's great oil wealth is used to fund high energy usage, including lavish use of air conditioning.</li></ul>
Japan and Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Japan's emissions have increased by several per cent recently as a result of a substantial increase in the use of fossil fuels in power generation. This is part of a reaction against the use of nuclear power following the accident at Fukushima in 2011. Germany is also phasing out nuclear power but hopes to restrict emission rises by adopting renewable energy sources.</li></ul>
Low-income countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Many of the world's least developed countries (LDCs), such as Somalia, continue to make a negligible contribution to anthropogenic GHG emissions, although economic changes in some African countries, such as Nigeria and Kenya, mean that energy consumption there is rising.</li><li>■ People in some poor countries may have a high per capita carbon footprint because of their reliance on wood-burning stoves as a source of heat and energy for cooking.</li></ul>