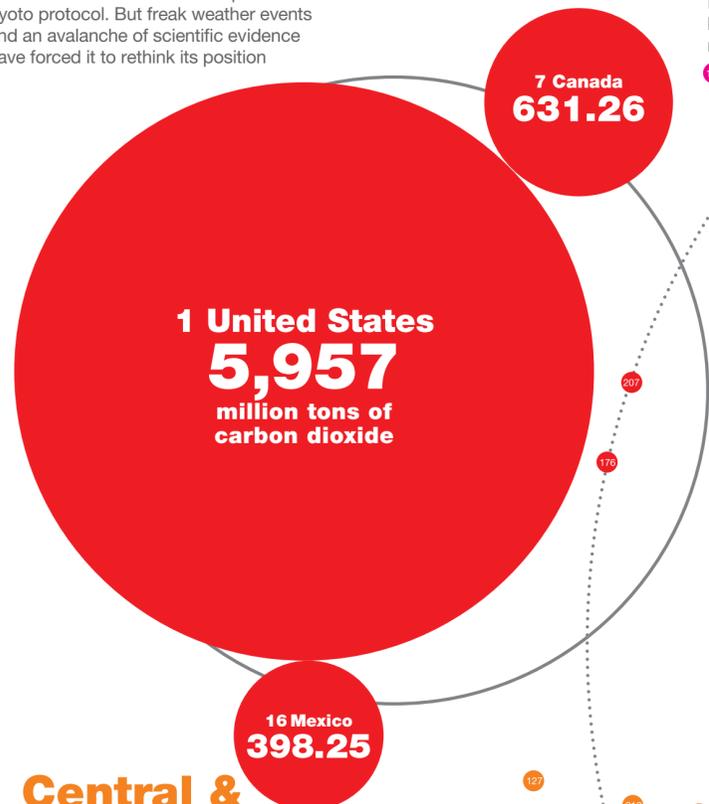


Hot spots – the carbon atlas

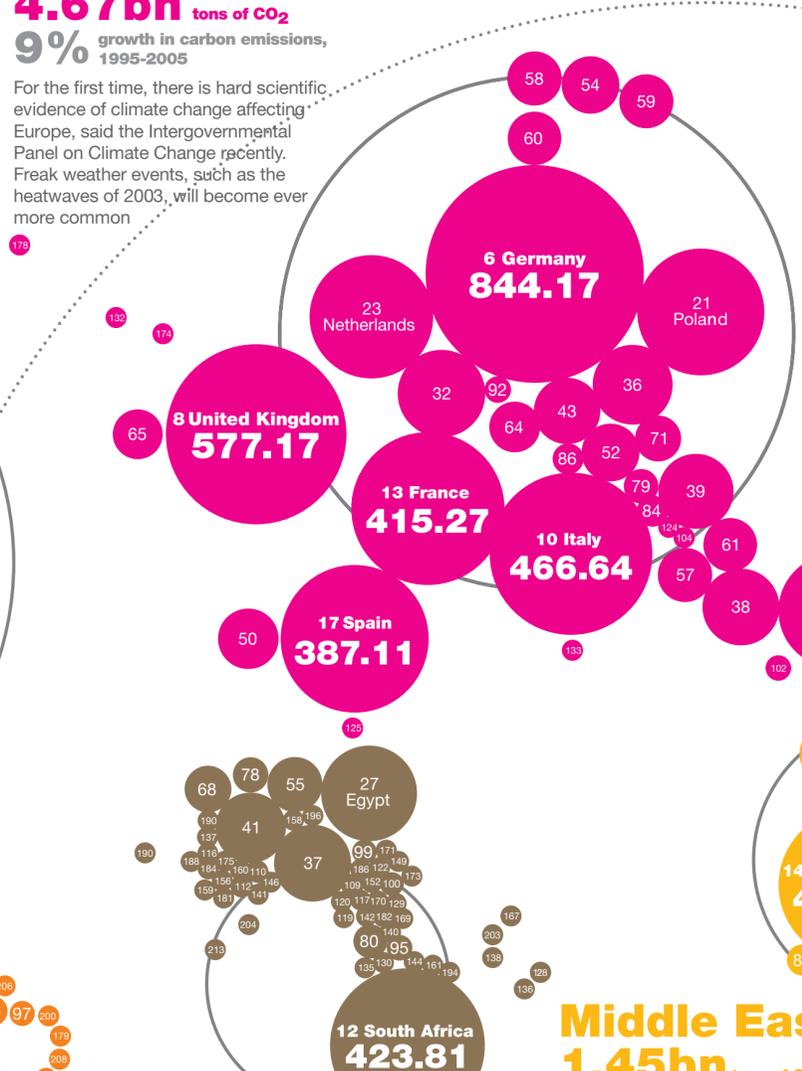
North America
6.99bn tons of CO₂
14% growth in carbon emissions, 1995-2005

The US as a major producer of greenhouse gases has been reluctant to accept that man-made climate change even existed — and refused to accept the Kyoto protocol. But freak weather events and an avalanche of scientific evidence have forced it to rethink its position



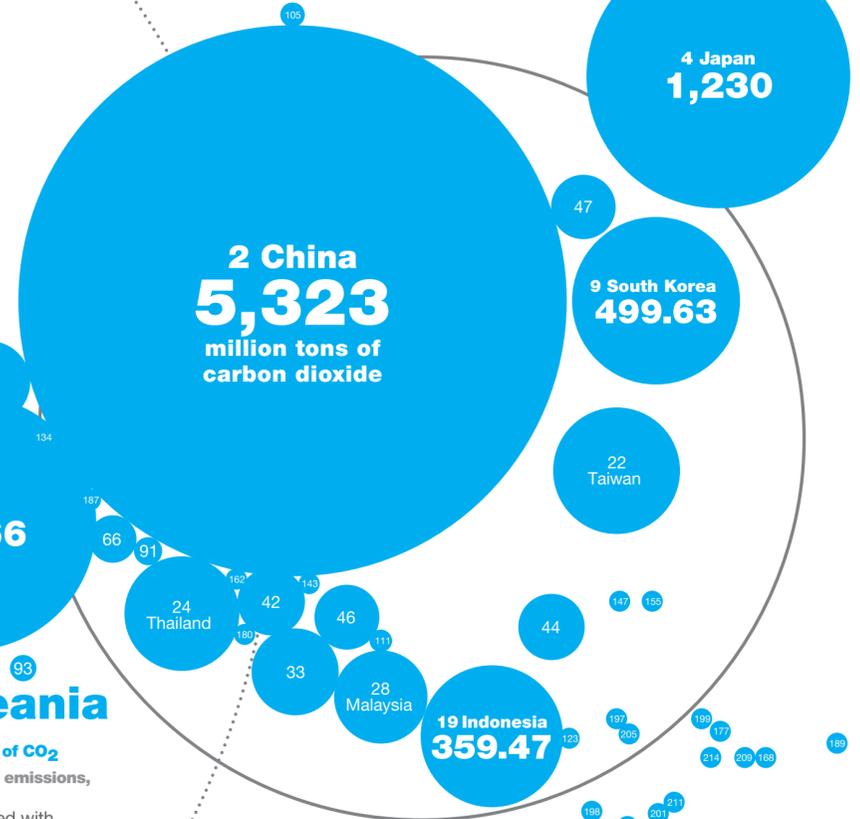
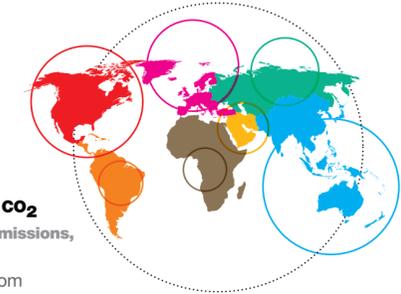
Europe
4.67bn tons of CO₂
9% growth in carbon emissions, 1995-2005

For the first time, there is hard scientific evidence of climate change affecting Europe, said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently. Freak weather events, such as the heatwaves of 2003, will become ever more common



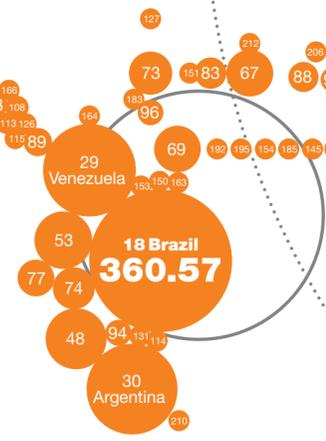
World total
28.19bn tons of CO₂
28% growth in carbon emissions, 1995-2005

World carbon emissions are up from 18.3bn tons in 1980 — and with rapid industrialization in the developing world, those numbers will climb higher. The effect is delayed, which means even if we stopped emitting carbon now, it would go on increasing in the atmosphere



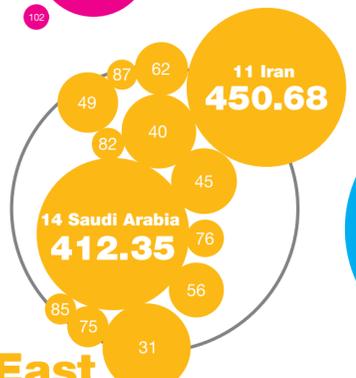
Central & South America
1.10bn tons of CO₂
29% growth in carbon emissions, 1995-2005

Increased freak weather events mean the IPCC is concerned South America will be hard-hit by climate change. Agriculture, water supplies and the unique natural habitat could be affected by a temperature increase of up to 4C by the end of the century



Middle East
1.45bn tons of CO₂
62% growth in carbon emissions, 1995-2005

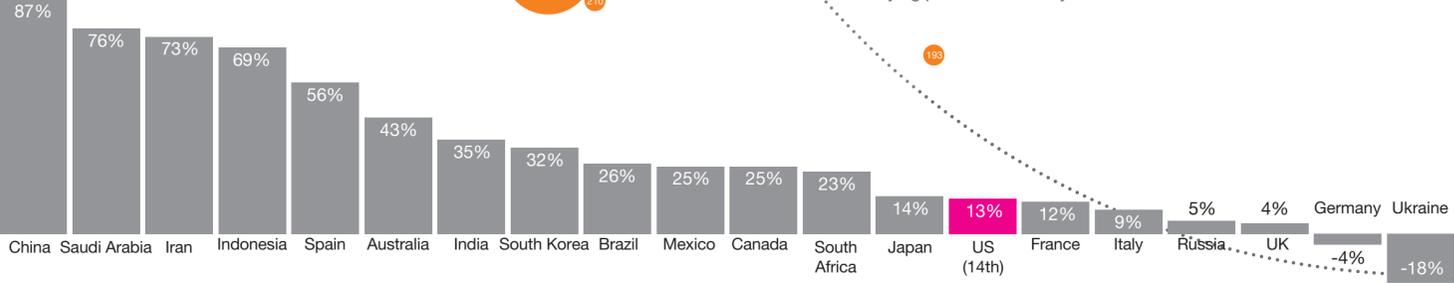
The region is a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions, through an oil and gas industry which produces over 30 percent of world oil supply and over 10 percent of its gas



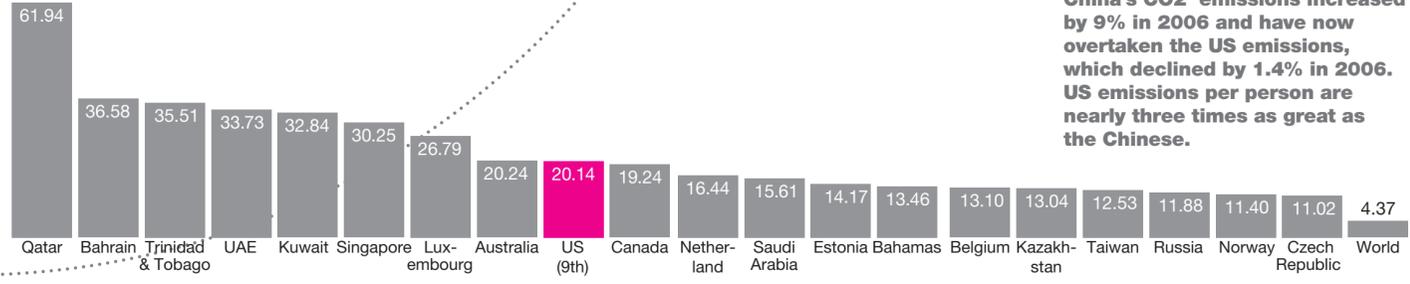
Asia & Oceania
10.36bn tons of CO₂
58% growth in carbon emissions, 1995-2005

Rapid industrialization combined with greater numbers of people moving to cities has provoked a huge rise in carbon emissions — with China rapidly moving to become the world's greatest carbon emitter in the next two years — some scientists say this has happened already

CO₂ emission growth of the highest 20 emitters, 1995 to 2005



Highest per person CO₂ emissions, Top twenty, 2005, tons



These are the latest UN figures for climate change emissions. Reliable, but provisional estimates for 2006 by Dutch government researchers suggest China's CO₂ emissions increased by 9% in 2006 and have now overtaken the US emissions, which declined by 1.4% in 2006. US emissions per person are nearly three times as great as the Chinese.

Securing an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas levels by enough to save the earth from catastrophic temperature rises has been an increasingly challenging task for world leaders. This map, highlights countries according to their emissions.