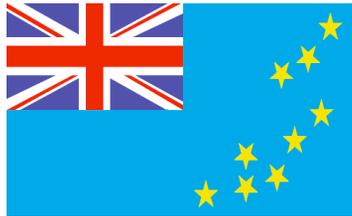


Alliance of Small Island States

Maldives



Tuvalu



Seychelles



The average rise in sea-level during the last 100 years has been 10 to 25 cm. It's been estimated that there could be an average rise of 50 cm above present levels by 2050 and possibly over 100 cm by 2100. In your alliance (group of countries) there are many low lying coral islands such as Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean, the Maldives and the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. Some of these islands could completely disappear, both because of rising sea levels and because coral will no longer be formed.

You want other countries to be aware of how serious this threat is. It isn't only small tropical islands that will suffer from sea level rise. Many important cities, such as New York and London, and heavily populated areas, such as Bangladesh and the Netherlands, are also situated on low lying coasts. They too would be devastated by rising sea levels if global warming continues.

You have formed an alliance because as small and generally quite poor countries you don't have much influence and world leaders don't listen to you. By working together in an alliance you will have more power.

Carbon Footprint Facts for Maldives

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 2.0 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 1 m tonnes

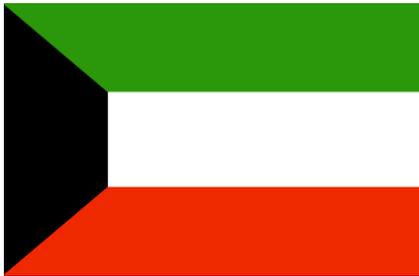
Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 21%

World rank CO₂ emitter = 174



OPEC

Kuwait



Saudi Arabia



OPEC stands for the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and is made of a group of countries which produce and sell a lot of oil to the rest of the world. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are two of the world's major oil producers and are the most important members of OPEC.

You depend heavily on exporting oil to make money and this has helped your countries to become rich and prosperous. Many of the jobs in OPEC countries are in the oil industry and many other businesses are linked to exporting oil.

Therefore, you are against any measures that would lead to a drop in the demand for oil which would cause a decrease in oil prices. This would happen if countries around the world had to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. It would mean that your economy would collapse, jobs would be lost and the standard of living and level of wealth in your country would go down.

You believe that climate change is a natural process and that we can't prove for sure that the current global warming is caused by carbon dioxide emissions from human activity.

Carbon Footprint Facts for Saudi Arabia

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 15.7 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 420 m tonnes

Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 5%

World rank CO₂ emitter = 14



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China



Your country has the largest population in the world at 1.6 billion. In fact, if you take the world's total population, one in six people live in China! Your country has a rapidly growing economy and so you are using an increasing amount of energy. This is reflected by China replacing the USA as the world's biggest producer of CO₂ emissions. People in your country are now starting to enjoy the benefits of using electricity and more people are driving cars. The majority of your energy comes from burning coal.

You think that it would be unfair if the more economically developed countries were to demand that you should reduce carbon dioxide emissions at this stage. These developed countries have benefited most from the high standards of living and wealth produced by industrialisation so why shouldn't you? Another argument is that rich countries buy a lot of the products that China manufactures, so surely they are indirectly responsible for emissions produced by the manufacturing process.

It is unlikely that you will agree to reduce emissions in your own country because you want to continue to expand your manufacturing industry. You believe that it is countries like the USA and UK who should be reducing emissions since they have a much higher average emissions for person than China. At the same time you realise that China will be under the spot light as the biggest polluter in the world and the superpower replacing the USA as the most powerful nation in the world. You will, however, consider introducing pollution-free technology in future and investigate renewable energy projects such as hydro-electric power from the Three Gorges Dam.

Carbon Footprint Facts for China

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 4.6 tonnes
Total CO₂ emissions = 6018 m tonnes
Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 11%
World rank CO₂ emitter = 1



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Brazil



Brazil is a rapidly developing country. It has the 10th largest economy in the world but still has widespread poverty with many people living in slums in the big cities of Sao Paulo and Rio De Janeiro. Brazil's main exports include timber, steel, cars, aircraft and petrochemicals. It has also just discovered huge reserves of oil 150 miles offshore of the coast in the south of the country giving Brazil the opportunity to become an oil superpower.

The north of the country is covered by the Amazon Rainforest. Development of this area is a priority for the government where many resources are found such as copper, aluminium, gold and of course timber. Large areas of the rainforest are being cut down for mining, farming and to create space for new settlements. The second largest dam and reservoir in the world has been constructed in the rainforest, known as the Itaipu Dam. It produces vast amounts of hydroelectric power used by Brazil's growing industry but at the expense of a large area of rainforest which has been flooded by the reservoir.

You are trying to develop your economy quickly so you can create wealth and jobs and improve the standard of living in order to reduce poverty and crime in Brazil's cities. To do this means using more energy, exploiting the recently discovered oil reserves and continuing to develop the rainforest by cutting down large areas of trees. However, you are facing increasing pressure from the rest of the world to protect the rainforest which helps to absorb carbon dioxide emissions and produce oxygen. You think that it is unfair that more economically developed countries demand that you should stop development of the rainforest and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from your growing industry.

You believe that it is countries like the USA and UK that should be reducing emissions since they have a much higher average emissions per person than Brazil. These developed countries have benefited most from the high standards of living produced by industrialisation so why shouldn't you?

Carbon Footprint Facts for Brazil

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 2.0 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 377 m tonnes

Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 2%

World rank CO₂ emitter = 17



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Chad



Chad is the fifth poorest country in the world, with over 80% of the population living in severe poverty. Your country has very little industry and uses a small amount of energy. Most of the population are subsistence farmers, which means they produce just enough food to feed their families. Very few people have use of electricity in their homes or drive a car. Therefore, Chad is responsible for a tiny amount of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, ranked 196 in the world.

However, you are extremely concerned about global warming and its likely effects on the environment. Chad is in sub-Saharan Africa and you are worried about increasing drought and farmland turning into deserts (desertification). These things are a result of global warming and will lead to famine and many people dying from starvation in the future. It is also predicted that there will be a rise in malaria deaths if temperatures continue to increase.

You think that the more economically developed countries like USA, Japan and UK should reduce their emissions and provide aid to help poor countries like Chad to develop and improve people's lives. Alternatively, they should pay you compensation to help you deal with the effects of global warming which they have caused.

Carbon Footprint Facts for Chad

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 0.0 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 0.2 m tonnes

Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 1%

World rank CO₂ emitter = 196



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The United Kingdom



The UK is a developed country, with the world's sixth largest economy. It was the world's first industrialised country and the world's foremost power during the 19th and early 20th centuries, but the economic cost of two world wars and the decline of its empire in the latter half of the 20th century diminished its leading role in global affairs. The UK nevertheless remains a major power with strong economic, cultural, military, scientific and political influence.

Climate change is high on the government's agenda in the UK and the country is using an increasing amount of renewable energy, especially wind power. Many low lying parts of England, including London itself, are already at risk from flooding and rising sea-levels. Also, rising temperatures could lead to water shortages in the southeast of England although farmers may be able to grow new crops such as grapes, citrus fruits and olives.

You think that all more economically developed countries should reduce carbon dioxide emissions immediately, but are concerned that the USA and Japan will not agree to do this. If they fail to do so, it could put your industries at a disadvantage because of the cost of installing expensive new technology designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The UK has a close relationship with the USA so many other nations may turn to you to influence the USA if they are blocking any agreements. You also believe that the UK and other rich countries have a duty to support the poorer nations develop in a sustainable way that improves people's lives without rapidly increasing carbon dioxide emissions.

Carbon Footprint Facts for UK

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 9.7 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 586 m tonnes

Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 0%

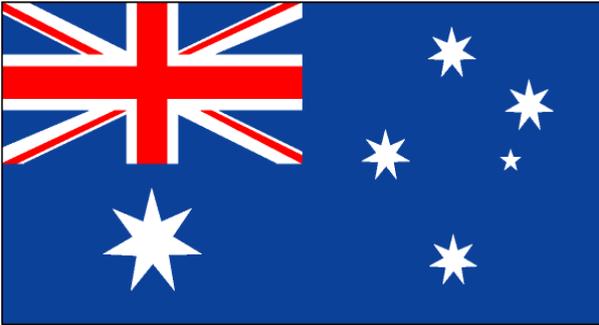
World rank CO₂ emitter = 8



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Australia



Australia is the world's biggest exporter of coal and you rely heavily on this fuel for producing energy in your country. You also depend on the export of goods made from high quality steels, but the production of these goods produces high levels of carbon dioxide emissions.

Australia makes a lot of money from exporting coal. The economic growth and industrialisation of countries in Asia, such as India and China, is good news for Australia because the demand for coal should increase and so create new markets and export opportunities. However, you are concerned that any agreements made at the conference to reduce carbon dioxide emissions could damage the prospects for exporting coal and reduce the profit you make in the future. This could have a devastating effect on Australia's economy. But, Australia is also very aware of the impacts and problems caused by climate change such as forest fires, desertification and dust storms.

You feel that you are a special case and that you should be allowed some increase in carbon dioxide emissions in the future, given your dependence on exporting coal. You feel that different countries have different circumstances and different abilities to make reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. You believe that more economically developed countries should, therefore, set their own individual targets suitable for their country.

Carbon Footprint Facts for Australia

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 20.6 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 417 m tonnes

Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 0%

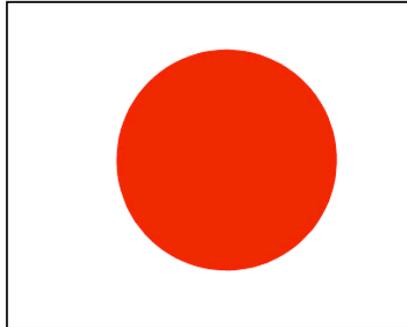
World rank CO₂ emitter = 16



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Japan



Japan is the richest country in the world and has the second largest economy. It is the world's fourth largest exporter and sixth largest importer. Japan's main exports include motor vehicles, electronic equipment, machine tools, steel, ships, chemicals, textiles and processed foods.

Japan's wealth is amazing given that Japan has very few natural resources. Therefore, you import most of the raw materials and fuel that you use. A network of 52 nuclear power stations provides 75% of the energy used in your country. Nuclear power does not produce air pollution and so does not cause carbon dioxide emissions.

Although the factories and industry in Japan still produce some carbon dioxide, you feel that you are an efficient user of energy. Many people already use public transport rather than cars which also helps to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Therefore, you think that it will be difficult for your country to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by much in the future because you are already an efficient user of energy. You already make good use of advanced technology to reduce emissions.

It makes you angry that other countries think that your policies are not environmentally friendly. You are keen to see other countries, especially the USA and China, reduce their carbon dioxide emissions.

Carbon Footprint Facts for Japan

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 9.8 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 1247 m tonnes

growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = -0.1%

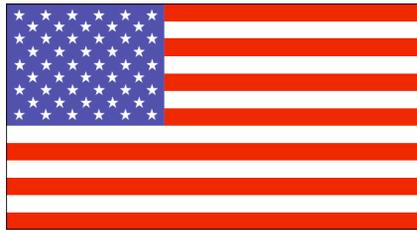
World rank CO₂ emitter = 5



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USA



The USA is the world's greatest consumer of oil. On average each person in the USA uses the equivalent of 8 tonnes of oil compared to only 0.1 tonnes in Chad. High energy use is part of the American lifestyle. For example, people like to drive large gas guzzling vehicles in preference to public transport and many homes have air conditioning. The USA's main exports are motor vehicles and electrical machinery, both of which require large amounts of energy. Consequently, the USA is the second greatest producer of carbon dioxide emissions after China.

At past Climate Change Conferences you were not convinced that global warming is caused by humans producing carbon dioxide emissions. In fact, you have in the past paid money to scientists to show that global warming is a natural process. There is now mounting pressure from governments around the world for the USA to sign up to targets to reduce your carbon dioxide emissions. This is because you have pulled out of agreements at past conferences which other countries have found very frustrating and disappointing.

However, Barack Obama is keen for the USA to show the world that they are taking climate change seriously and will cut carbon dioxide emissions in the future. As a world leader you would like to be able to sign an agreement. However, you will not sign anything that will damage the American industry or mean big changes in the American life style. This would be very unpopular at home and may mean you lose votes. You will only sign if the target date is a long way ahead and if all countries are involved in the reductions, including China.

Rather than reducing emissions, you would like to propose the idea of planting forests to absorb carbon dioxide emissions or setting up a carbon credit trading system with poor developing countries.

Carbon Footprint Facts for USA

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 19.8 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 5903 m tonnes

growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = -2%

World rank CO₂ emitter = 2



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Bangladesh



Bangladesh is a poor and densely populated country which is extremely vulnerable to climate change. This is because most of the country is flat and lies only a few metres above sea-level. It is expected that global warming will cause an increase not only in sea level rise but also in the frequency and magnitude of river flooding and tropical cyclones. This will seriously affect agriculture, water and food security, human health and shelter. In fact, it is believed that in the coming decades the rising sea level alone will create more than 25 million climate refugees. 50% of the country's land area would be flooded if sea-levels rose by 1 metre.

The Bangladesh economy has showed recent signs of growth. It's main exports are rice, tea, mustard and fish. However, the country remains poor with an average income of \$1100 per year compared to the world average of \$10,200. Therefore, the country lacks the money, technology and resources to protect itself from rising sea-levels and natural hazards.

You feel angry that Bangladesh will be one of the worst countries to suffer the consequences of global warming and rising levels when the problem is caused mainly by the rich economically developed countries. You feel strongly that there should be drastic cuts in carbon dioxide emissions in all countries, especially the USA, Japan, Australia and UK. You also believe that since these countries are largely responsible for the problem, they should provide aid and funding to help Bangladesh protect its coastline from sea-level rise and flooding from tropical cyclones.

Carbon Footprint Facts for Bangladesh

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 0.3 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 43 m tonnes

Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 6%

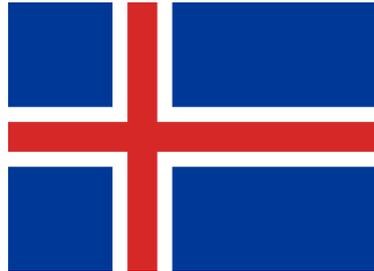
World rank CO₂ emitter = 67



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Iceland



Renewable energy from geothermal and hydroelectric power provides over 70% of the Iceland's total energy, with the remainder coming from imported coal and oil. Geothermal energy comes from heat in the Earth's mantle which is abundant and easily accessible in Iceland because of the widespread volcanic activity. Hydroelectric power is produced using meltwater from the many ice caps on the island.

Nonetheless, Icelanders still emit 11.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person per year, higher than the UK. This is due to the wide use of personal transport and emissions produced by aluminium smelting. Iceland's other main industries include fishing, and tourism. In 2007, Iceland was ranked as the most developed country in the world using the United Nations Human Development Index.

The Icelandic foreign minister and former mayor of Reykjavik, the capital city, sees Iceland as the world's leader in moving towards a zero carbon future. He has recently set the country the target of running its entire fleet of fishing boats from hydrogen fuel. There are 30 petrol stations in Reykjavik which sell hydrogen fuel and a growing number of cars and buses are being converted to run from hydrogen fuel.

Iceland is strongly in favour of ambitious targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in all types of countries. Achieving such targets will be relatively easy for Iceland because of its abundant source of renewable energy. However, as a small nation it lacks the political influence to persuade some of the big players such as USA, China and the UK to follow its example and invest in renewable sources of energy to provide the majority of their energy needs.

Carbon Footprint Facts for Iceland

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 11.5 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 3 m tonnes

Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 4%

World rank CO₂ emitter = 133



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Russia



At 17,075,400 square kilometres, Russia is, by far, the largest country in the world, covering more than an eighth of the Earth's land area; with 142 million people, it is the ninth largest by population. Russia has the world's largest reserves of mineral and energy resources, and is considered an energy superpower. It is the world's leading natural gas exporter and the second leading oil exporter. Oil, natural gas, metals, and timber account for more than 80% of Russian exports abroad. Russia hopes that in the future western Europe will continue to become more dependent on Russia for supplying natural gas and oil. This will give Russia greater control over prices as well as political power.

Russia's interests lie in its economy and not in tackling climate change. Any targets agreed at the conference to reduce carbon dioxide emissions are likely to reduce the demand for gas and oil which will lead to a fall in the market value of these fossil fuels and loss of revenue for Russia. Global warming is likely to bring greater benefits than problems for Russia, as rising temperatures will mean large areas of ground which are currently frozen all year round will become suitable for farming and development.

Therefore, you will try to oppose any targets which may have a negative impact on Russia's export economy. As an alternative you support the idea of planting trees to offset some of the increase in global carbon dioxide emissions.

Carbon Footprint Facts for Russia

Average CO₂ emissions per person per year = 12.0 tonnes

Total CO₂ emissions = 1704 m tonnes

Growth in carbon emissions 2005-2006 = 0%

World rank CO₂ emitter = 3

