



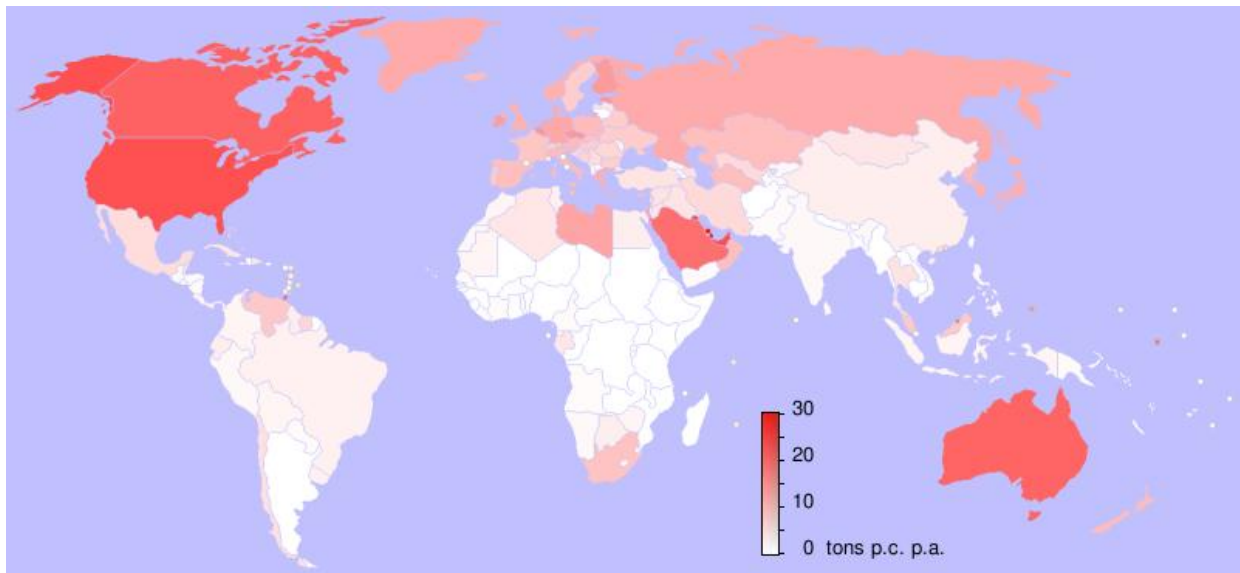
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China and the Environment

Some people and media try to paint China as the “bad guy” and it seems like the other side of the coin is not examined, so to speak. The current stereotype is that China as a whole is willing to destroy their environment in the name of economic gain. While most stereotypes have some truth to them, the true story is generally vastly different.

- China was ranked the 99th in the list of countries by CO² emissions per capita in a study by the United Nations. The study found that the average Chinese person used 3.2 metric tons of CO² while the average American used 19.8 (Canadian per capita emissions are very similar to our neighbour’s). Further, according to a study conducted by Carnegie Mellon University, it was found that 33% of CO² emissions were generated from activities related to exports.



This image shows CO² emissions per capita per nation

- China is the world’s leading renewable energy producer at 152GW⁽¹⁾. They are also the leading manufacturer of solar panels and wind turbines. Further, the country is pushing just as hard to develop nuclear and clean coal technologies.⁽²⁾
- On August 9th, the Chinese government announced that 2,087 energy intensive factories (mostly steel, paper and cement factories) will be shut down as of Sep 30⁽³⁾. It has also announced that it will invest up to \$15 billion over the next few years into clean car technology including hybrid and electric.⁽⁴⁾ Expect to see more of these kinds of announcements and also expect to see China continue to grow its renewable energy lead.



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- The (Chinese) results from the 1st Annual World Environment Review, published on June 5, 2007 revealed that, in a sample of 1024 people (50% male)⁽⁵⁾
 - 88% are concerned about climate change.
 - 97% think their Government should do more to tackle global warming.
 - 63% think that China is too dependent on fossil fuels.
 - 56% think that China is too reliant on foreign oil.
 - 91% think that a minimum 25% of electricity should be generated from renewable energy sources.
 - 61% are concerned about nuclear power.
 - 79% are concerned about carbon dioxide emissions from developing countries.
 - 62% think it appropriate for developed countries to demand restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions from developing countries.

- Another survey published in August 2007 by China Youth Daily and the British Council sampled 2,500 Chinese with an average age of 30.1. It showed that 80% of young Chinese are concerned about global warming.⁽⁶⁾

Now that we have a little more of a balanced view, we are better able to make informed decisions and change our not-necessarily-correct stereotypes. Thanks for reading!

1. China Leads the World in Renewable Energy, The Guardian, Aug 1 2008
2. NY Times article, "China Leading Global Race to Make Clean Energy".
3. In Crackdown on Energy Use, China to Shut 2,000 Factories, NY Times, Published Aug 9 2010, Accessed Aug 19 2010
4. China to Invest Billions in Electric and Hybrid Cars, NY Times, published Aug 19 2010, accessed Aug 19 2010
5. ^ First Annual World Environment Review Poll Reveals Countries Want Governments to Take Strong Action on Climate Change, Global Market Insite, published 2007-06-05, accessed 2007-05-09

^ China's young favor sustainable consumption, but want cars first published 08-20-2007, accessed 08-28-07