

Welcome to the



LeftTM

Green Challenge!

Summer 2018

What is the Green Challenge?

**An 8-week challenge,
split into four, 2-week
sections:**

June 18 - 29:

Reducing Our Carbon
Footprints

July 2 - 13:

Reduce Single-Use
Plastics & Waste

July 16 - 27:

Supporting Local

July 30 - August 10:

Going “Meat-free” or
Eating Humane Meats
& Sustainable Seafood



First: Incoming backstory

My entire life I've lived on the West Coast of BC, one of the most beautiful places on Earth, surrounded by old growth rainforests, ocean and mountains, all filled with wildlife and complex biodiversity.

Growing up here, along with working with the David Suzuki Foundation have made me better informed and given me a resolve to do my part in protecting wildlife, conserving nature & helping to reverse climate change.

Most of the time, it feels really fucking daunting though.

Oh shit.





**DAVID SUZUKI
FOUNDATION**
One nature.

My time working with David Suzuki Foundation was pivotal in my career and life. It changed my mindset towards everyday products that we use, the environment, and the impact that I can make. Below are some of the projects I was fortunate to work on:

- Encouraging people to switch to natural products
- Getting Canadians to pledge to the government for the Right to a Healthy Environment
- Encouraging kids to get out into nature
- Education and petitioning to end Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunting (Which is now banned!!!)
- Protecting BC Wetlands
- Encouraging healthy & sustainable fishing practices and spot prawns
- DIY solutions for home products like baby powder, cleaners, and making plantable seed paper
- Campaigns to share Indigenous peoples stories of life on the coast



Being at DSF, among people so committed to bettering the environment had great impact in changing my mindset about my place in the world and create habit-forming impact.



Weeks 1 & 2:

**Energy & Power:
Ways to reduce our
carbon footprints**

The good news:

94% of BC's electricity power is derived from renewable energy, mainly from hydro.

In fact, BC produces so much hydro that it powers part of Alberta & Washington State, as well.

Provides **4,000,000**
customers with reliable power

Among the lowest^{**}
residential rates
in North America



98.4%
clean electricity generated
in B.C. in fiscal 2017

Serves
95%
of the province's
population

The average household
uses approximately
10,000 kWh
per year

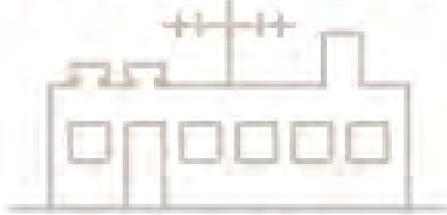
Our Demand Side Management portfolio achieved
**733 GWh of new incremental
electricity savings in fiscal 2017**



30
Hydro
Plants



BC Hydro has a
network of over
79,000 kms
of transmission &
distribution lines

Over 300

substations

The not-so-good news:

**Electricity usage only
makes up 18% of BC's
overall energy consumption.**

The rest is made up of fossil fuels,
the burning of biomass and even coal.

Vancouver has made a goal to get 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050.

Vancouver also wants to be the greenest city in Canada. That's great!

But...

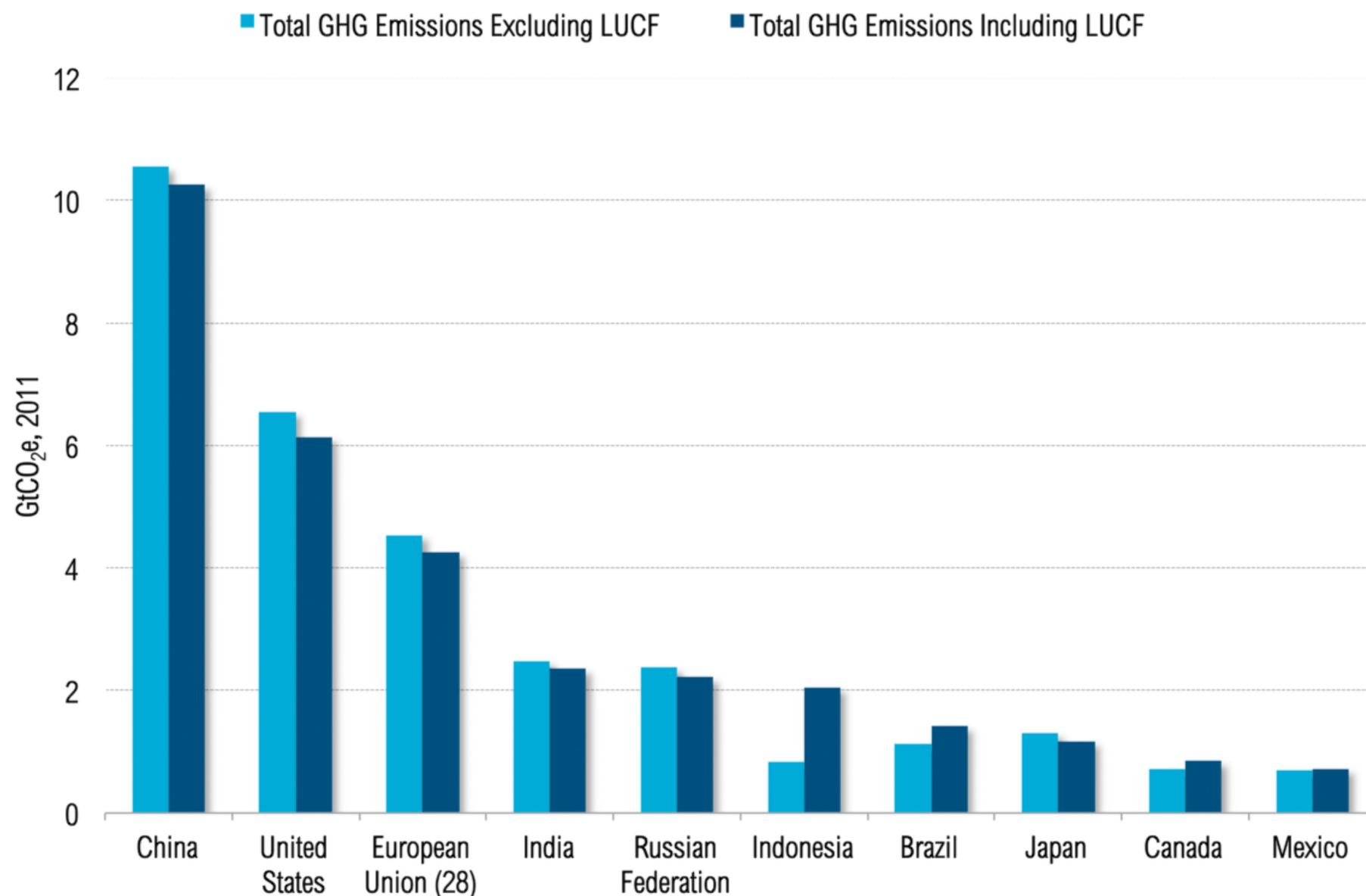


This is somewhat a surprise, but...

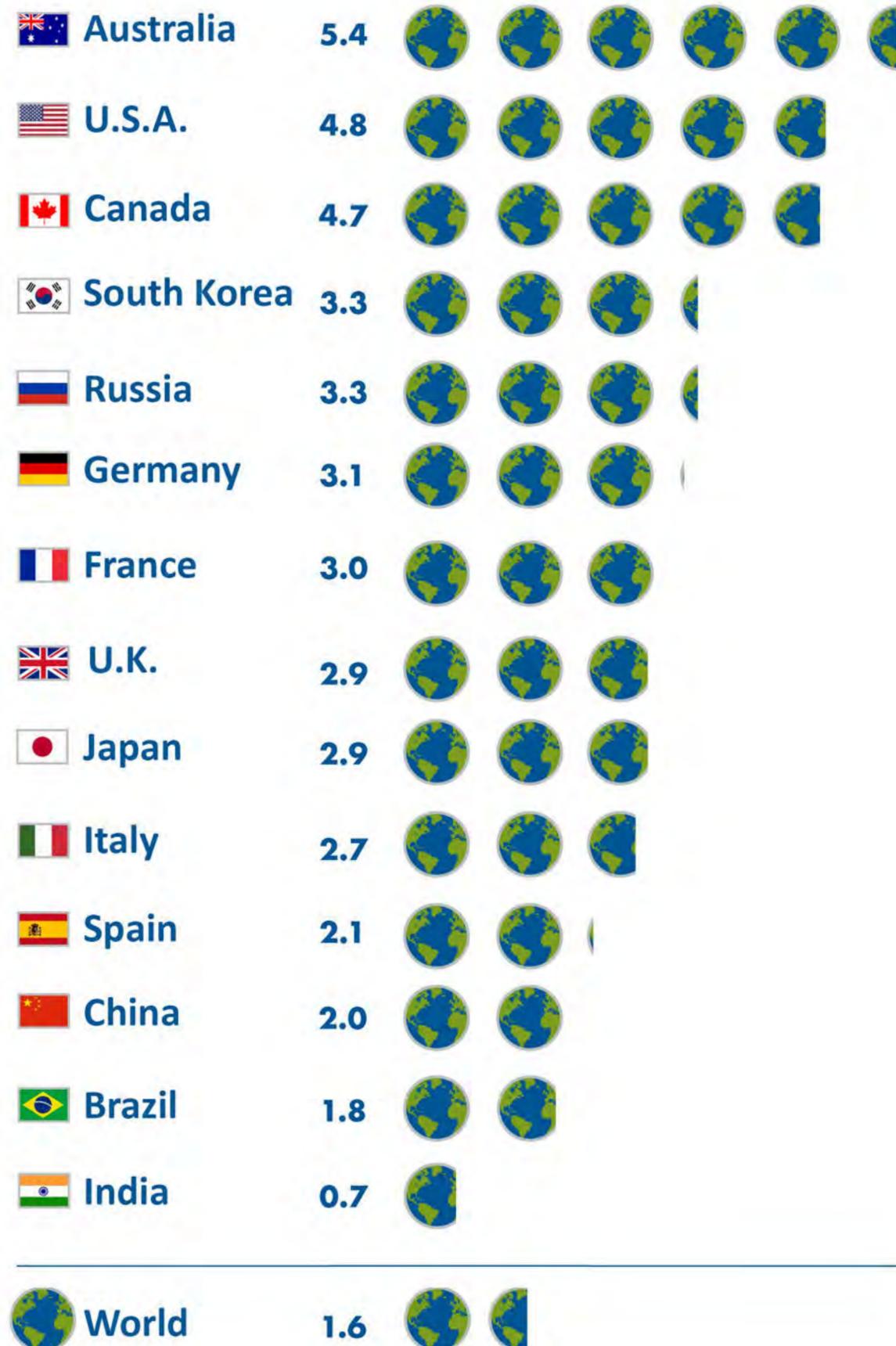
Canada ranks terribly in the world's environmental stage.

Canada ranks 9th in producing the world's most emissions, and 4th in highest per person..

Top 10 Emitters



How many Earths do we need if the world's population lived like...



If everyone on Earth lived as Canadians do, we would need **4.7 Earths** in order to sustain global consumption.

Why?



100% of Canadians have access to vital resources such as electricity and clean water

Most Canadians have affluent living standards, which uses a lot of energy.

Production of oil, natural gas and lumber create emissions

Alberta's oil industry is a large contributor to Canada's energy usage.

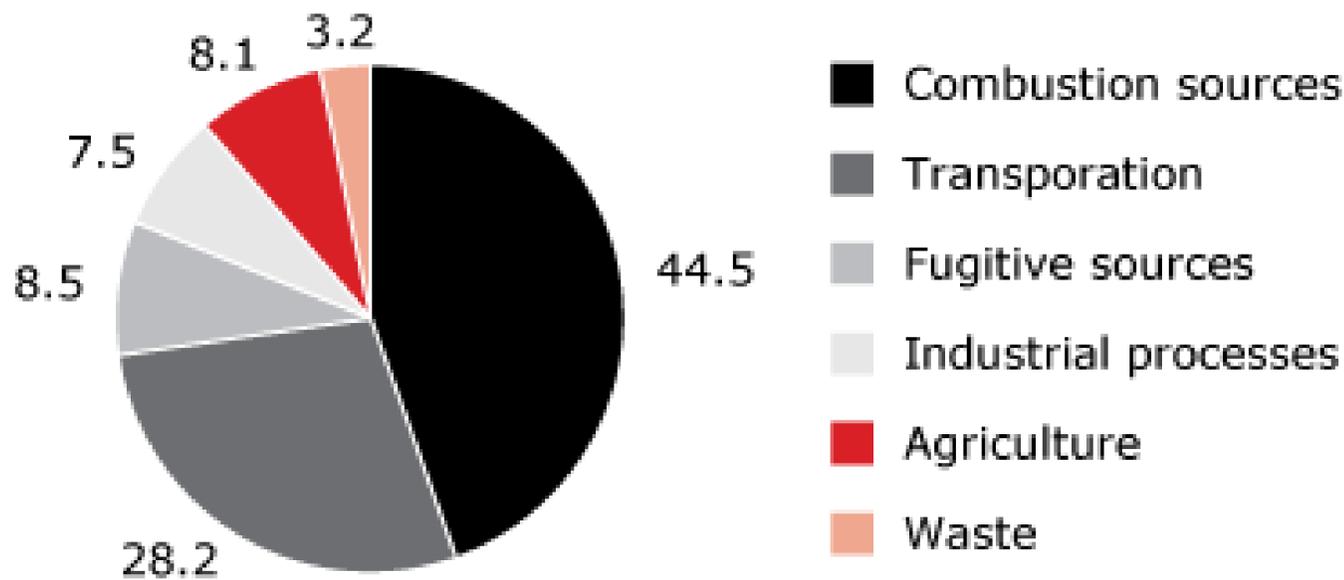
Lack of commitment by government to reduce emissions

Despite commitments Canada has made, emissions have only gone up in recent decades.

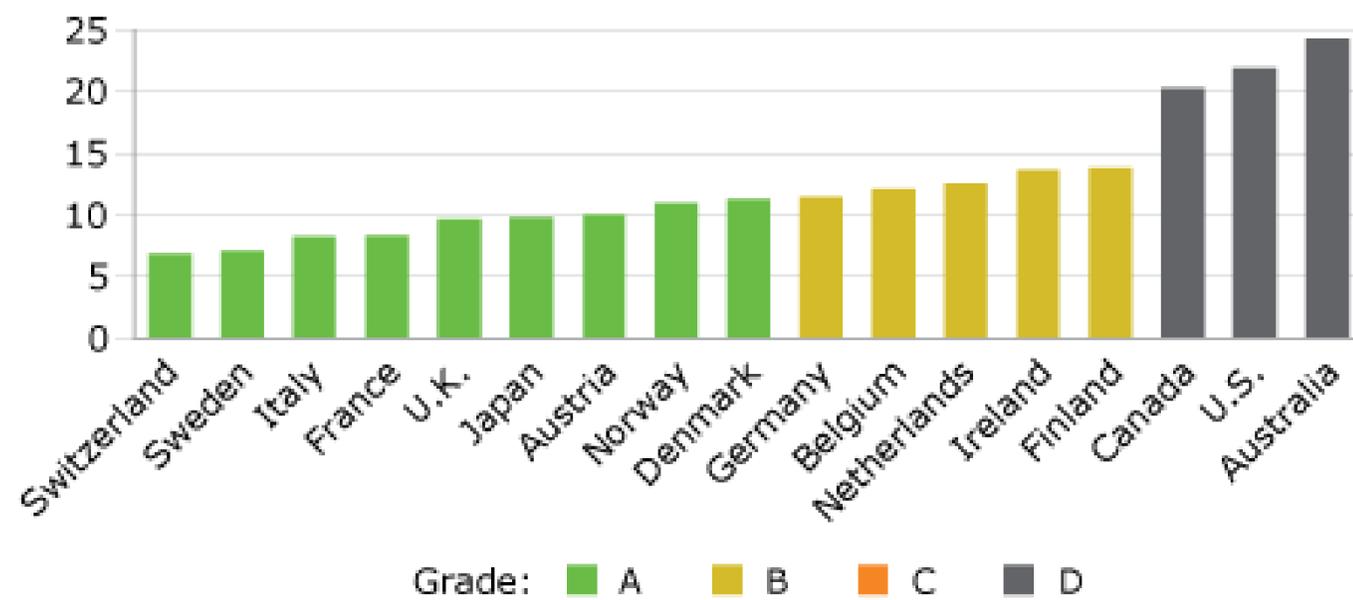
Climate change is still seen as a controversial issue by many

Denial that it's happening is holding Canada back

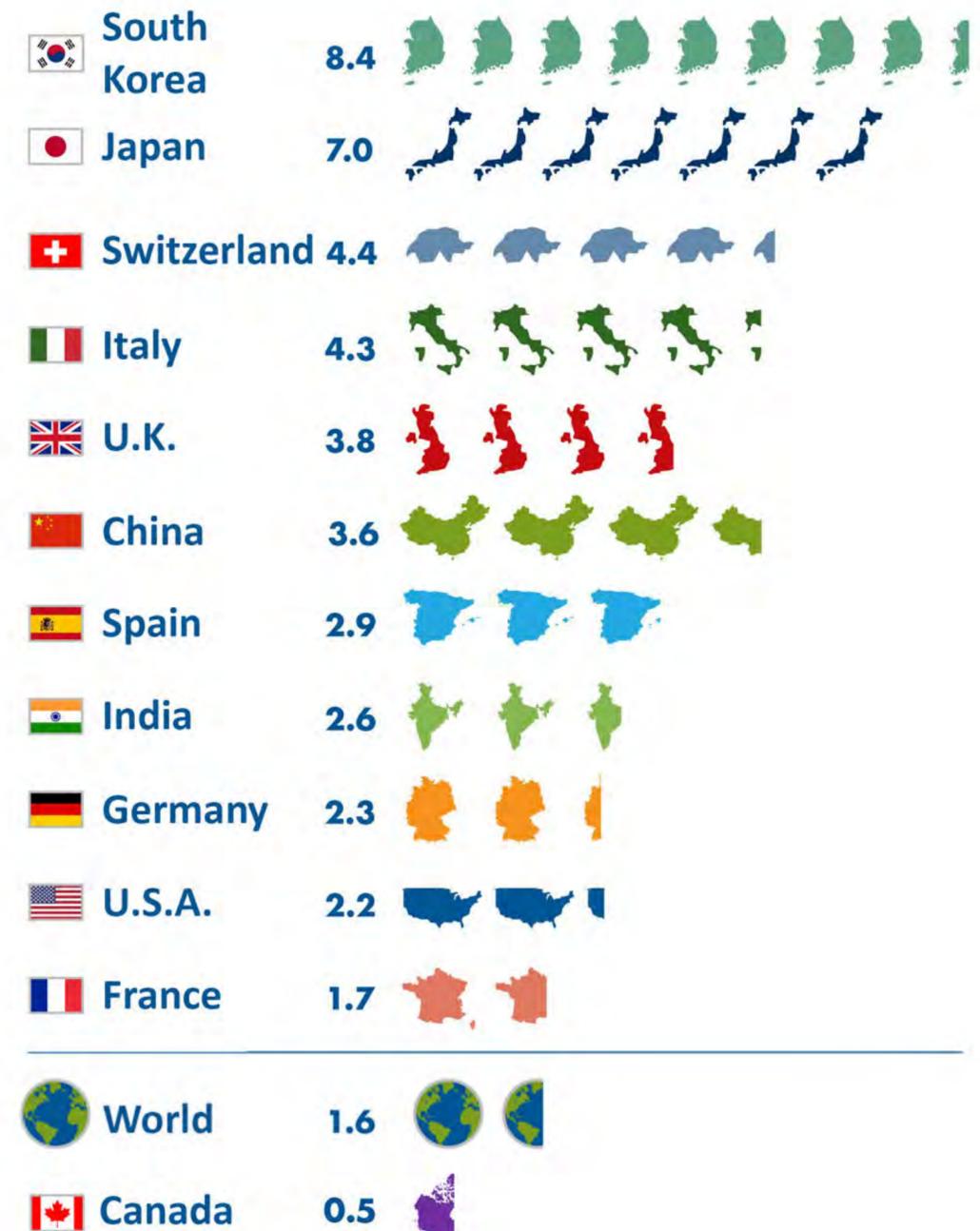
Source of GHG Emissions, Canada, 2010
(share of total)



GHG Emissions, 2010
(tonnes of CO2 equivalent per capita)



How many countries are required to meet the demand of its citizens...



In 2015, most countries signed the Paris Agreement.

Essentially, it is a world-wide initiative to prevent global temperatures from rising by 1.5C.

PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Historical document that legally binds the whole World to participate in climate change fight.



Adopted the Agreement

officially recognizing human influence on climate

2020

Will come into force by 2020

If signed by **55 countries** covering **55%** of global emissions



Finance

Rich countries will provide minimum of **\$100 billion** to developing ones for climate change adaptation by 2020

Goal

Holding the increase in the global average temperature well below

2°C

Pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to

1.5°C

Role of forests

The Agreement binds saving and increasing forest area in order to capture GHGs from the atmosphere



Climate neutrality 2050

The balance between emissions and sinks should be reached in the second half of XXI century



Ambitious

Every 5 years countries shall revise their emissions reduction targets and measures



Climate damage

For the first time ever the Agreement defines climate loss and damage terms **but** liability and compensation are not mentioned



Clean technologies

The Agreement urges to speed up clean tech development and international technology transfer



**So, what can we
do to counter our
global footprint
(and get stamps!)?**

1

Learn what your own Carbon Footprint is

**Take the Carbon Footprint calculator
online at footprintcalculator.org**

(Worth 1 Stamp)

2

Save energy at home

- Unplug unused electronics
 - Turn off lights when you leave a room
- Switch to energy-efficient LED lightbulbs
- Wash clothes in cold water & hang to dry
- Wear layers in winter instead of using heat

3

Save fuel on your commute

**Reduce gas emissions and bike, walk,
transit or carpool to work**

**(Worth 1 Stamp for each day that you do
one of the above between June 18-29)**



Buy an electric car, get solar panels at home

These are perhaps very long-term and pricey,
but they would have the largest impact
on your individual carbon footprint.
(Also, will be more affordable over time)

5

Tell our federal government to take action

The biggest changes need to come from government.

**Send a letter to Trudeau, asking him to commit
Canada to renewable energies (via David Suzuki Fdn)**

(Worth 1 Stamp for sending a letter to Trudeau)

Resources if you want to learn lots but be depressed:

National Geographic's Before the Flood

Watch the documentary and learn about our planet's climate change crisis & possible solutions
beforetheflood.com and
channel.nationalgeographic.com/before-the-flood

UN for Climate Change

Articles & reports for worldwide climate change issues & impacts
unfccc.int

Resources that are more take action-y and not as depressing:

David Suzuki Foundation

Learn ways to take action, read news & articles, and learn more about Canada's environmental issues.
dauidsuzuki.org

Earth Overshoot Day

Marks the date each year when humanity uses up more resources than the earth can renew.
The world's date is August 1.
Canada's was March 18.
overshootday.org