

Reduced carbon emissions samoa

In the selection box above you can also add or remove additional countries and they will appear on all of the charts on this page. This allows you to compare specific countries you might be interested in, and measure progress against others.

This interactive chart shows cumulative CO₂ emissions - the sum of emissions produced since 1751 to the given year. This allows us to understand how much of the total CO₂ emissions to date has been emitted by a given country.

When countries set targets, measure or compare CO₂ emissions, they tend to focus on production-based emissions - CO₂ emitted within a country's own borders. However, this fails to capture emissions from traded goods - the CO₂ emitted in the production of goods elsewhere, which are later imported (or the opposite: emissions from goods that are exported).

We can estimate consumption-based CO₂ emissions by correcting for trade. These emissions are shown in the interactive chart. Note that the resolution of data needed to calculate this is not available for all countries.

Looking at a country's annual emissions is useful, but it can be hard to put these numbers in context of the global total. Is 10 million tonnes of CO₂ large or small; what about 100 million; or 1 billion tonnes?

This interactive chart shows the breakdown of annual CO₂ emissions by source: either coal, oil, gas, cement production or gas flaring. This breakdown is strongly influenced by the energy mix of a given country, and changes as a country shifts to or from a given energy source.

In discussions on climate change, we tend to focus on carbon dioxide (CO₂) - the most dominant greenhouse gas produced by the burning of fossil fuels, industrial production, and land use change.

But CO₂ is not the only greenhouse gas that is driving global climate change. There are a number of others - methane, nitrous oxide, and trace gases such as the group of "F-gases" - which have contributed a significant amount of warming to date.

The charts above focused on carbon dioxide (CO₂). But CO₂ is not the only greenhouse gas. Others, including methane and nitrous oxide, have also had a significant impact on global warming to date.

"Carbon dioxide equivalents" try to correct for the fact that one unit (e.g. a tonne) of a given gas doesn't have the same impact on warming as another. We therefore multiply the emissions of each gas by its "global warming potential" (GWP) value: this measures the amount of warming one tonne of that gas would create relative to one tonne of CO₂.

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