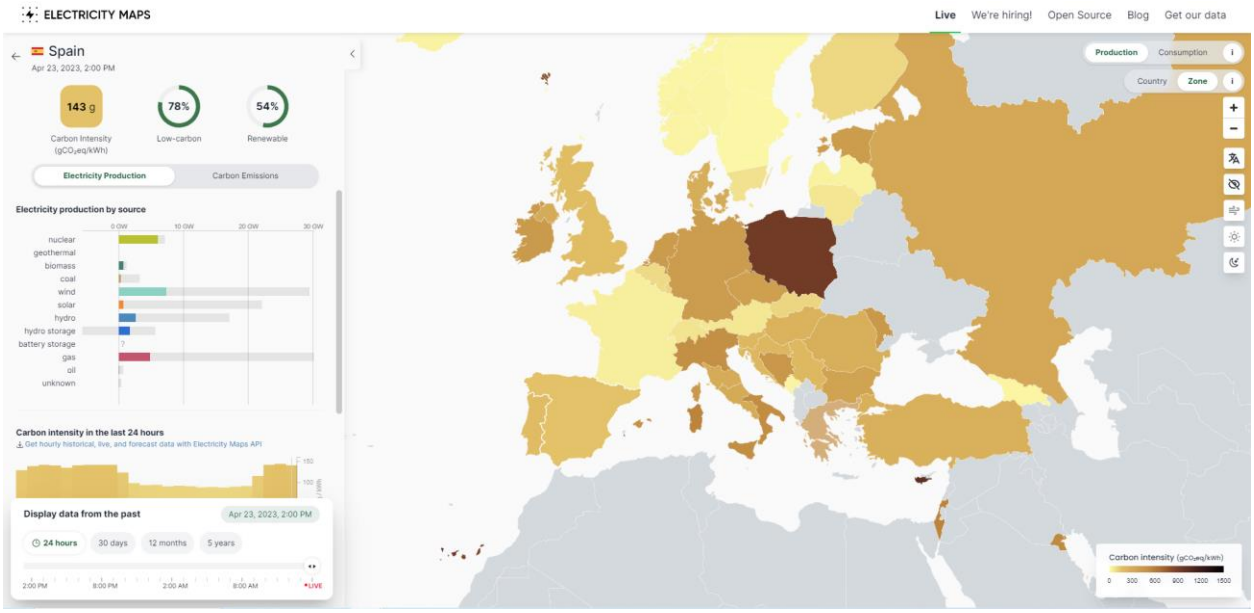
Electricitymaps Tutorial

This is a walkthrough of some of the basic features included in electricitymaps, we will walk through the basic usage of the following features:

1. General Overview
2. Production/Consumption
3. Country/Zone
4. Toggle wind layer
5. Toggle solar layer

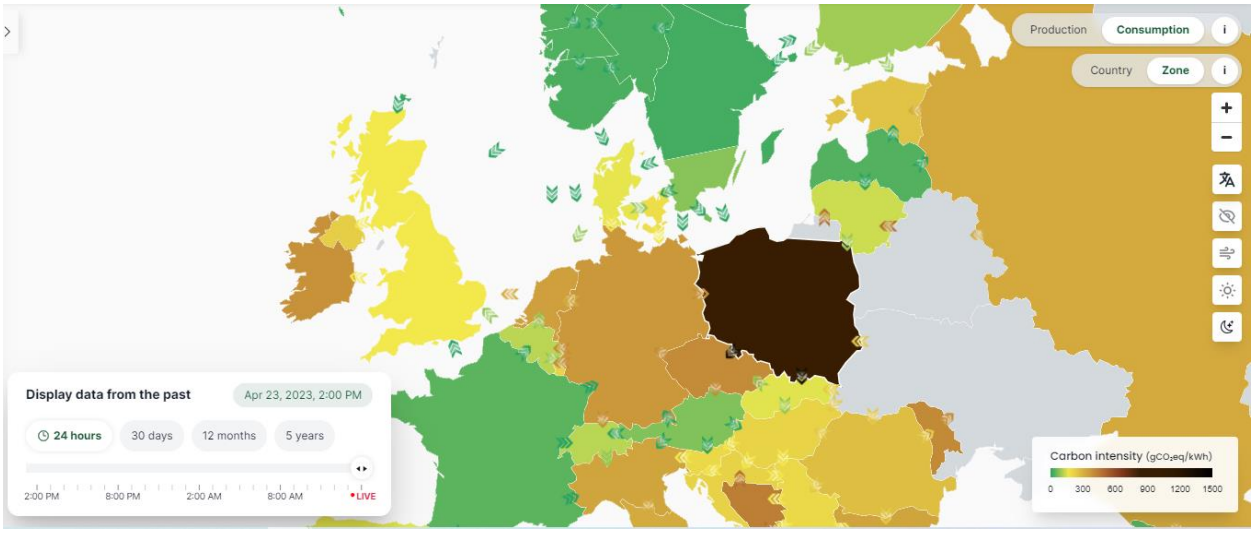
General Overview:



This interactive map is shown on the home page of electricitymaps. This will be your main means of interaction with the service, so it is worthwhile to learn about some of the most prominent features. Look around this interactive map and select a few different areas to see the available emissions data. Next, we will look at the Production/Consumption toggle feature.

Production/Consumption:

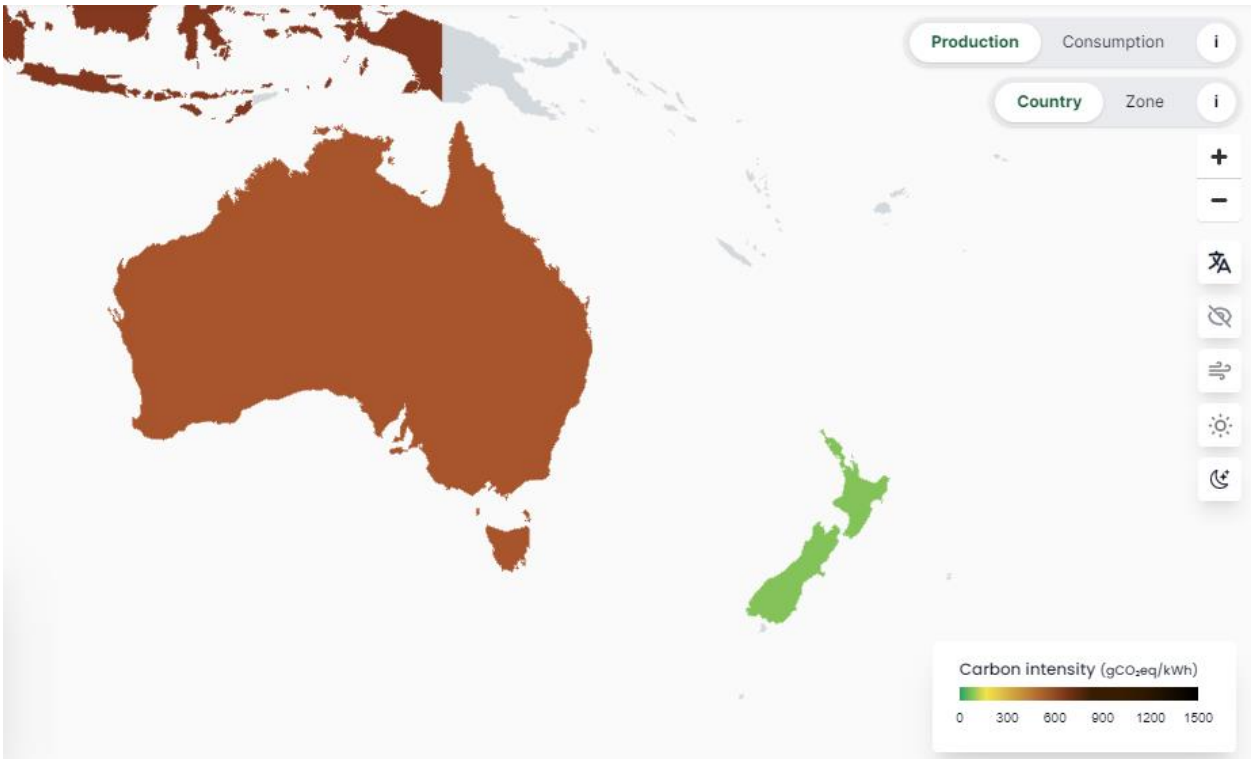
On the right side of the home page, look for the Production/Consumption slider bar. This option allows you to select how you want to view emissions data. The map will default to the “Production” option, so let’s select the “Consumption” option now. Noticed what changed on the map, now we can see a set of arrows pointing between geographic boundaries. These arrows show the net energy imports and exports for the given area. The “Production” setting ignores this net flow of energy production.



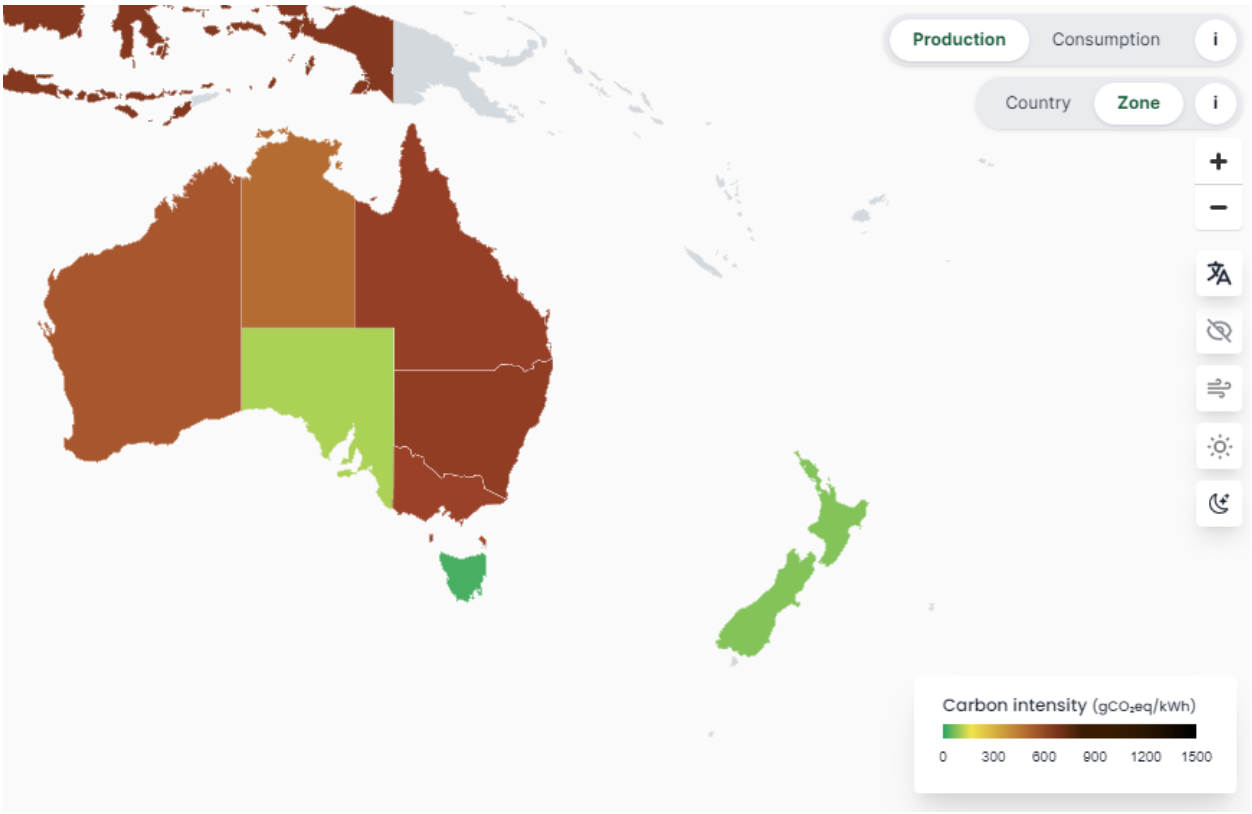
Country/Zone:

Also, on the right side of the home page, you will find the County/Zone slider bar. The map will default to the "Country" option, so take a moment to select the "Zone" option now. Notice how the delineation of orders in the map changed.

The "Country" setting displays data aggregated for each country, as shown below:

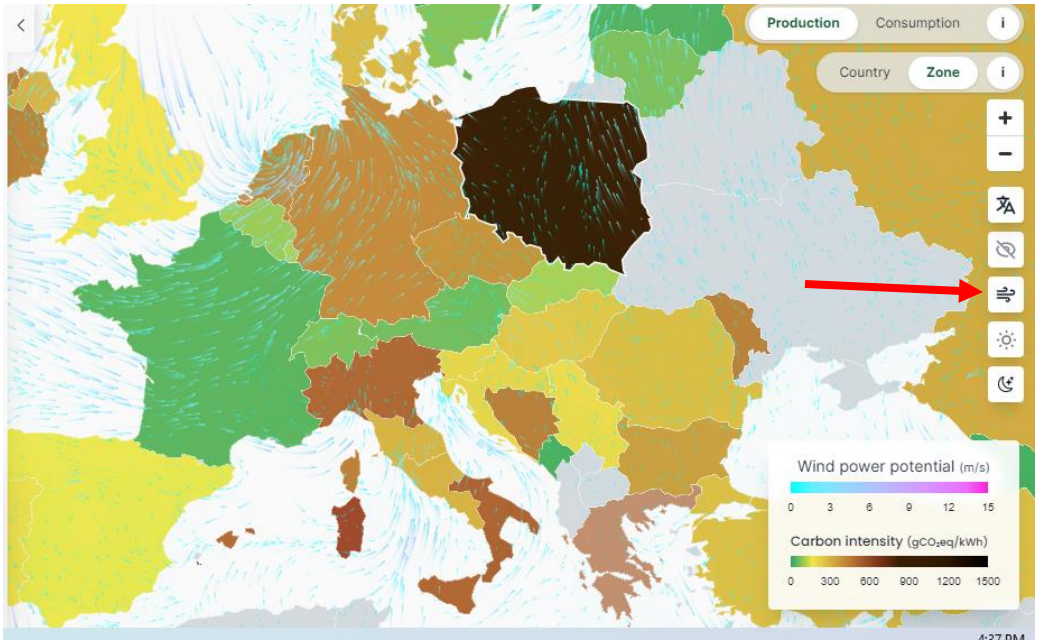


The "Zone" setting shows a more granular data display, with many countries having separate zones with different data values, as shown below:



Show Wind Layer:

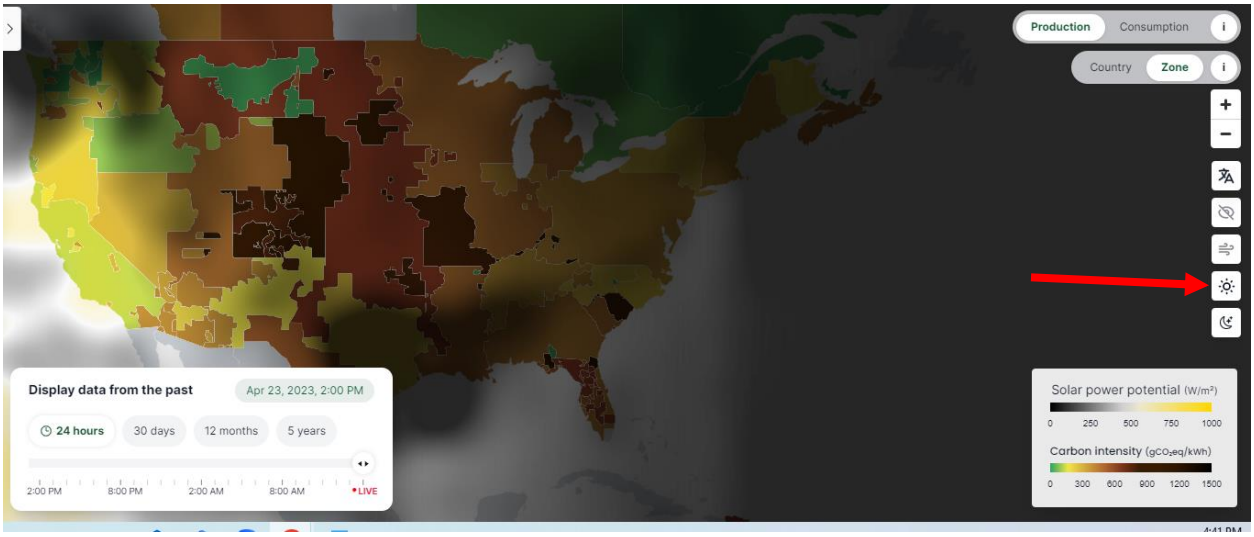
Now, let's navigate to the "Show Wind Layer" option, indicated by the arrow below:



Select this option and notice how prevailing wind patterns are now projected onto the map. This feature is useful in evaluating pollution effects because wind patterns will cause pollutants to travel between geographic areas.

Show Solar Layer:

The final feature we will be looking at is the “Show Solar Layer” option. Navigate to this option by selecting the button shown by the arrow below:



As you can see, much of the map screen has dimmed, with some selectively lightened areas. The light gradient being displayed shows the solar power potential for the given area, where lighter areas have a higher solar power potential than darker areas.

This concludes this tutorial on some of the basic features included in electricitymaps. The best way to become more familiar with the product is to navigate through the map and its various options until you become comfortable with toggling between settings and options.