

EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS IN WESTERN EUROPE: How have countries performed?

In December 1997 members of the United Nations signed the Kyoto Protocol (KP) in order to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. By 2002, most developed KP signees had agreed to reduce their emissions over two periods. Period one was 2008-2012, with period two being the most important (2013-2020). Here we'll examine the effectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol targets and whether 24 countries in Western Europe have been, "up to par."

NOT-SO-FUN FACT:

The USA never ratified the Kyoto Protocol, even though they signed for it in 1997.

Change in CO2 Emissions per capita since 1990:





DOES

THIS

THE

THE

MEAN

REST OF

WORLD

SHOULD

FOLLOW

EUROPE

and SET

-27.170 -14.790

Maybe the USA should have ratified the Kyoto Protocol?

Countries selected here are (alphabetically): Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary,

Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Śweden, Switzerland, Great Britain.

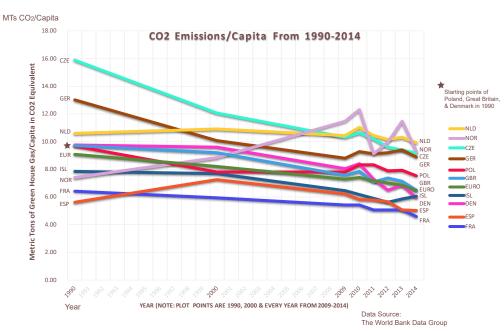
In 2003, they had ratified the Kyoto Protocol to reduce their emissions by 8% by 2012 compared to their 1990 emissions, except for:

Poland -6% Croatia -5%

Iceland and Norway, however, didn't have to reduce emissions by 2012, they only had to do so by 2020. Notably, the Swiss 2020 target was -15.8% despite their 8% 2012 goal.

By 2012: By: 2020 Iceland +10% Iceland: -20% Norway +1% Norway: -16%

Now, let's take a visual look at how CO2 emissions per capital have changed over time in some notable countries in Western Europe.



Notable Dates

1992 - UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change)

1997 - Kyoto Protocol (KP) signed by majority of UN Nations

2002 - Majority of world's developed nations (including Western Europe) ratify KP and reduce GHG emissions

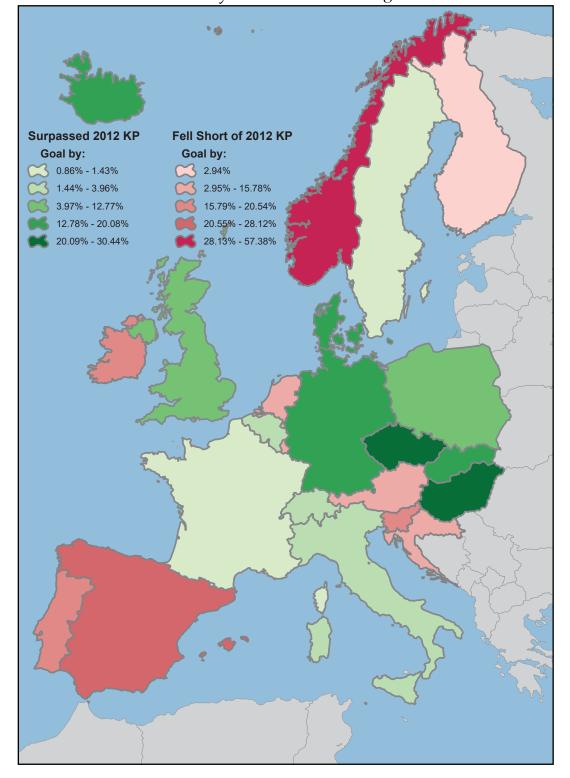
2009 - Financial Crisis bottoms out, some economies begin to recover (Iceland & Spain's crises continue)

2012 - First KP period ends, second KP period begins, countries' KP goals for 2020 now in sight

2014 - End of WB data available on CO2 equivalent emissions

Prepared by Henry Lebard, Feb 2019.

Below we can see whether countries met their 2012 goals or not. The darker the green, the greater they surpassed their 2012 goal by. The darker the hue of pink/fuschia, the shorter they fell of their 2012 goal.



Since 1990, Earth's population has increased Well, it's not so simple... by 36.4%.(5.28B to 7.2B), which means if CO2 emissions have increased since then by 18.4% per capita, we've got to make changes, right now, and it starts with the USA following Europe's lead - and then some.