

# **GHG Emissions**

## **Recent developments and Outlook**





# 38.1 GtCO<sub>2</sub> IN 2025: FOSSIL EMISSIONS HIT ANOTHER RECORD HIGH

**38.1**

GtCO<sub>2</sub>

**Fossil emissions**

*+1.1% vs 2024*

**42.2**

GtCO<sub>2</sub>

**Total anthropogenic**

*incl. LULUCF*

**425.7**

ppm

**Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>**

*+53% vs pre-industrial*

**170**

GtCO<sub>2</sub>

**1.5°C budget remaining**

*≈ 4 years at current rate*

## Temperatures

**2025: +1.47°C** (3rd warmest year on record)

**2023–2025 average: 1.52°C** (exceeds 1.5°C for the 1st time)

Sustained 1.5°C breach projected by 2029

## Carbon sinks

**Ocean: 29%** absorbed (revised upward)

**Land: 21%** absorbed (revised downward)

Efficiency reduced by ~20% due to warming



# DIVERGING TRAJECTORIES: CHINA SLOWS, THE US REBOUNDS

Region	GtCO <sub>2</sub>	Share (%)	Δ 2025	Prior trend	tCO <sub>2</sub> /cap.
China	12.3	32%	+0.4%	+2.5%/yr	8.6
United States	4.9	13%	+1.9%	Declining	14.2
India	3.2	8%	+1.4%	+3.6%/yr	2.2
EU-27	2.4	6%	+0.4%	-2.5%/yr	5.4
Japan	~1.0	2.5%	-2.2%	Declining	7.8
Rest of world	~14.3	38%	+1.1%	Growing	Var.
Int. aviation	—	—	+6.8%	Post-COVID recovery	—
World	38.1	100%	+1.1%	Record high	4.8

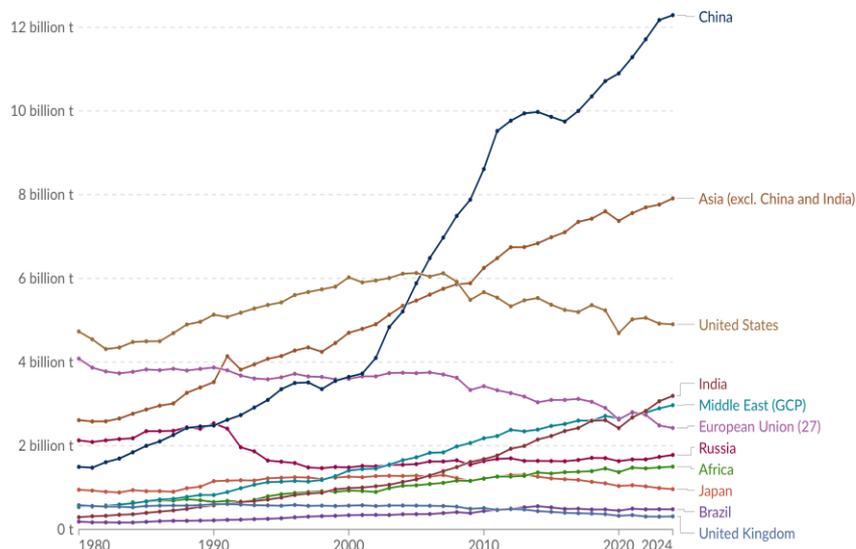
Source: Global Carbon Budget 2025 (Friedlingstein et al.) — 2025 projections

**35 countries decoupled emissions from GDP (2015–2024),  
up from 18 in 2005–2014 → 27% of global emissions**

# DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DECARBONIZING TOO SLOWLY TO COUNTERBALANCE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

## Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuels and industry. Land-use change emissions are not included.



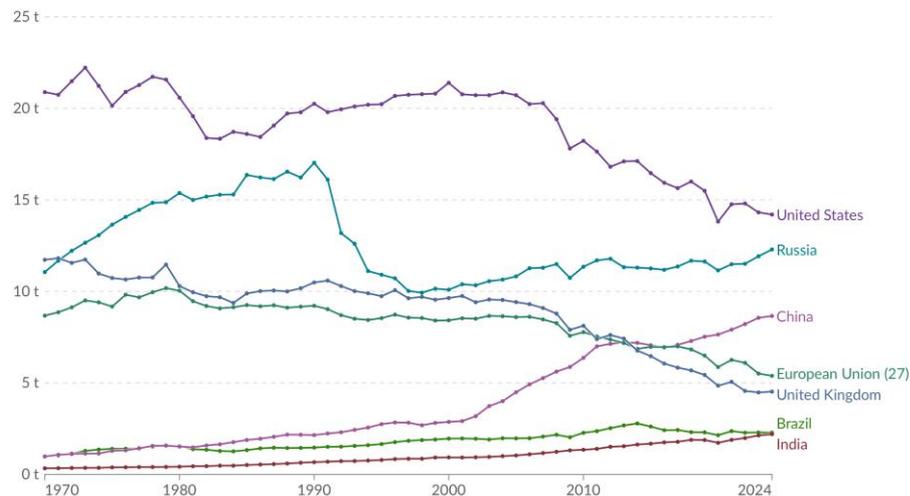
Data source: Global Carbon Budget (2025)

OurWorldinData.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions | CC BY

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## CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from burning fossil fuels and industrial processes. This includes emissions from transport, electricity generation, and heating, but not land-use change.

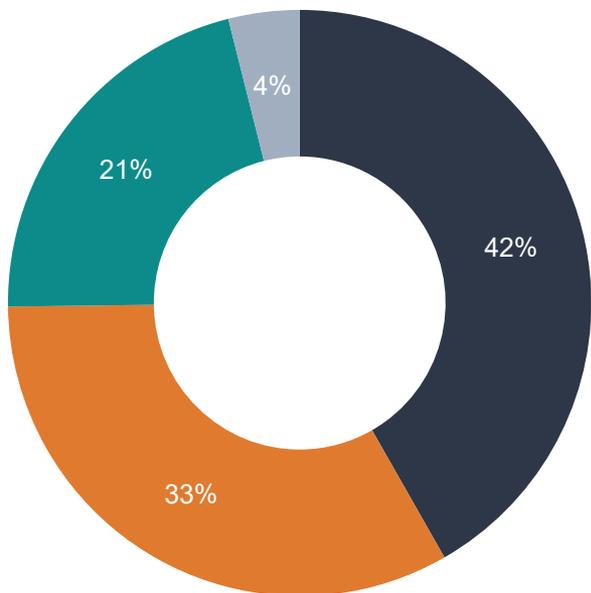


Data source: Global Carbon Budget (2025); Population based on various sources (2024)

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Our World in Data

# ALL FOSSIL FUELS STILL GROWING — GAS LEADS THE RISE



**Coal** 15.9 GtCO<sub>2</sub> +0.8%

USA +7.5% · India +1.7% · China stagnant · EU declining

**Oil** 12.6 GtCO<sub>2</sub> +1.0%

Aviation recovery (+6.8% int.) · All regions increasing

**Natural gas** 8.1 GtCO<sub>2</sub> +1.3%

Fastest relative growth · Up in China, USA, EU · Down in India

**Cement** 1.5 GtCO<sub>2</sub> +0.5%

India +9.9% · China -2.8% · USA -8.0% · EU -4.1%

# NATURE ABSORBS HALF, BUT THE SINKS ARE STALLING

## Land-use change emissions

**5.0 GtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr**

average 2015–2024

**2025 (prelim.): 4.1 GtCO<sub>2</sub>**

Permanent deforestation: ~3.9 GtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr

Reforestation/regrowth: -2.2 GtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr

Brazil + Indonesia + DRC = 57%

China + USA + EU = net sink (0.9 GtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr)

## Major carbon sink revision

Ocean: 29% (↑ revised)

Land: 21% (↓ revised)

**Total absorbed ≈ 50% of anthropic emissions**

**Both sinks are stalling:**

Ocean since 2016, land since 2000

Efficiency reduced ~20% by climate change

Tropical forests (SE Asia, S. America): shifting from sinks to net sources

Source: Global Carbon Budget 2025 — Revised historical estimates



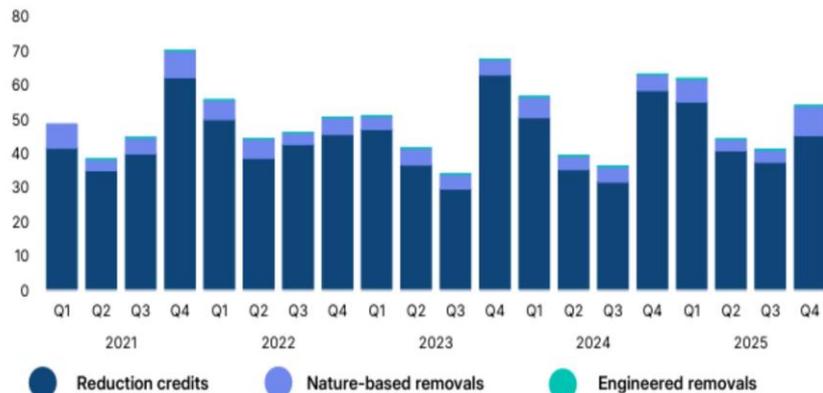
# CARBON CREDITS: 202 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e RETIRED IN 2025 — LESS THAN 0.5% OF EMISSIONS

# 202

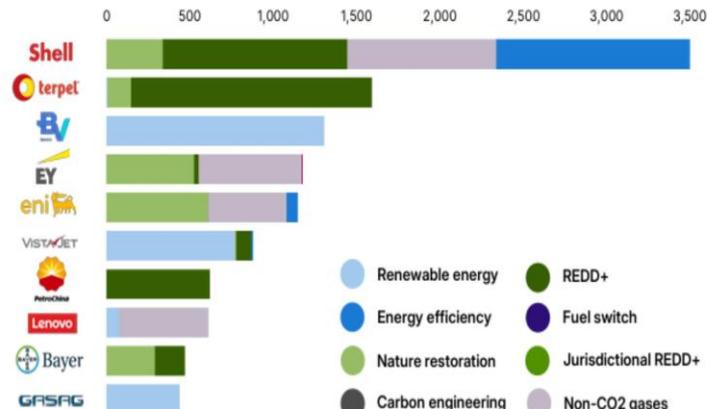
MtCO<sub>2</sub>e

Highest total since 2021 | 4th consecutive year of growth  
But only 0.5% of the 42.2 GtCO<sub>2</sub> emitted annually

Amount of carbon credit retirements disclosed quarterly, by type (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e)



Largest credit retirees, Q4 2025 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)



Source: MSCI Carbon Markets, data as of Dec. 31, 2025 (ACR, ART, BioCarbon, CAR, Cercarbono, Climate Forward, CDW, GCL, Gold Standard, Plan Vivo, Puro Earth, Verra)

# **FOUR YEARS OF CARBON BUDGET LEFT AT CURRENT PACE**

## **1.5°C carbon budget**

170 GtCO<sub>2</sub> remaining ≈ 4 years at current rate. Could be exhausted by 2029.

## **1.5°C threshold**

Sustained breach projected by 2029 if current warming rate (0.25°C/decade) persists.

## **Natural sinks**

Stalling ocean (since 2016) and land (since 2000) sinks. Combined efficiency reduced by 20%.

## **Radically more ambitious NDCs required**

Emissions reduction is technically feasible — the scale and speed must be unprecedented. 35 countries already decoupling prove it's feasible.