Navigating the Numbers: A Journalist’s Guide

This guide is designed as a quick and helpful introduction to the wealth of data and graphics on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions available from the World Resources Institute at http://cait.wri.org/.

MONTREAL, CANADA, December 5, 2005 – The World Resources Institute (WRI) releases Navigating the Numbers: Greenhouse Gas Data and International Climate Policy here today during the UN climate change meetings.

The publication – written by WRI climate experts Kevin Baumert, Timothy Herzog and Dr. Jonathan Pershing and featuring a foreword by WRI President Jonathan Lash – explores the complex issue of GHG emissions, and reveals important findings relevant to climate-change negotiations.

Based on the most complete and robust emissions data available, Navigating the Numbers offers the first comprehensive analysis of worldwide emissions from a variety of perspectives. Through charts, graphs and extensive narrative, the report examines historical, current, and future emissions, and associated implications for future climate-change policy.

The report also covers the impact of energy use, international trade, and socio-economic development on GHG emissions. Navigating the Numbers is derived from
data in WRI’s newly upgraded Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT), which is freely available at [http://cait.wri.org](http://cait.wri.org).

“CAIT offers – for the first time – a complete picture of GHG emissions and other economic indicators for nearly all countries,” Baumert said. “It turns out that when you look at the complete picture, the numbers reveal some very interesting stories.”

With *Navigating the Numbers*, WRI offers the most comprehensive and reliable research and policy-related data, graphics, and tools to make GHG-emissions data easily understandable to both technical and popular audiences. This guide is a brief sampling of the graphics available within the full report at [http://newsroom.wri.org](http://newsroom.wri.org).

For use of graphics in *Navigating the Numbers*, please credit “World Resources Institute.”

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**The New York Times** used the graphic below generated from CAIT data for its February 16, 2005 article entitled, “Mixed Feelings as Kyoto Pact Takes Effect.”

![Graphic](http://newsroom.wri.org)
A sampling of graphics available in *Navigating the Numbers*:

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GHG Flow Diagram. This figure shows the mix and diversity of greenhouse gases and the activities that are responsible for them. (Data from 2000, calculations are based on CO2 equivalents.)
Aggregate Contributions of Major GHG Emitting Countries. This figure shows the comparative contributions of GHG emissions of the major emitting countries compared to the rest of the world. (Data from 2000, includes all six major GHGs but excludes CO2 from land-use change and forestry.)

GHG Emissions Growth, 1990-2002. Growth in GHG emissions varied significantly in the last decade, in both absolute and relative terms.
Emissions Profiles by Gas and Source. The composition of GHG emissions varies significantly between developed and developing countries, owing to differences in energy use and economic structure. (Data from 2000)
Projected Emissions of GHGs in 2025. GHG emissions are projected to grow throughout the world, but most rapidly in developing countries.

Income and GHG Emissions. Development is a significant influence on countries' emissions, but the per capita incomes of the major GHG emitting countries vary significantly.
GHG Emissions, Population, and GDP. Most of the major GHG emitting countries are also ranked among the top countries according to population, GDP, or both.
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE (WRI) CLIMATE EXPERTS
at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 11)
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For a full copy of Navigating the Numbers, see the WRI Newsroom at http://newsroom.wri.org/

Dr. Jonathan Pershing
Director, WRI Climate, Energy and Pollution (CEP) Program
Dr. Pershing, who heads the WRI delegation to COP 11, focuses on both U.S. and international climate change policy. He is active in work on emissions trading, energy technology and the evolving architecture of international climate agreements. He also supervises work on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, as well as WRI’s global climate change data-collection effort. Prior to joining WRI in September 2003, he headed the Environment and Energy Division of the International Energy Agency in Paris and was deputy director and science advisor of the Office of Global Change, U.S. Department of State. He served as a principal negotiator for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and worked extensively on U.S. climate policy. Languages: French and English.

Rob Bradley
Energy and climate policy specialist, WRI CEP Program
Bradley has been covering the activities of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change since 1998. He focuses on climate policy legislation in the European Union and he has been a member of the European Commission’s Energy Consultative Committee and the European Climate Change Programme Working Group. Languages: Spanish and English.

Kevin Baumert
Senior associate, WRI CEP Program
Baumert’s research focuses on the Kyoto Protocol and climate change policy instruments, including emissions trading and the Clean Development Mechanism. His work on the Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT) provides the best information on greenhouse gas emissions. Language: English.

Timothy Herzog
Associate, WRI CEP Program
Herzog is one of the primary designers of CAIT, for which he focuses on the development of new data sets, technologies, and analytical approaches. He has contributed to several reports published by WRI and other leading climate policy centers.