

Emission

By Lennart Kiil



An emission is, for example, the smoke from a power station chimney or from the exhaust pipe of a car.

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The release of a pollutant, normally a gas, into the [atmosphere](#).

In the context of [climate change](#), emission normally refers more narrowly to a [greenhouse gas](#) released into the atmosphere.

The burning of [fossil fuel](#) and the resulting emission of the greenhouse gas [carbon dioxide](#) has been identified by the [IPCC](#) as the primary cause of the current [global warming](#).

To [mitigate global warming](#), the [Kyoto Protocol](#) was established under the [UNFCCC](#).

This led to an agreement to put a cap on the emission of CO₂. Each country can then only emit a certain [quota](#).

If a country is not able to stay below the agreed emission limit, it can buy [carbon credits](#). This process is also called [emissions trading](#).

Regional and national attempts to limit emissions are sometimes more drastic. This kind of [climate legislation](#) will often include [carbon taxes](#). Whether this is more effective than emissions trading is controversial.

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