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CONFERENCE

9 November 2023

Sustainability and Study Abroad

Successes and Challenges



PARIS 2023
76TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Facilitators

- **Ellen Sayles**, Associate Dean and Director of Education Abroad, University of Richmond
- **Alan Masters**, Academic Affairs Director – Curriculum CIEE
- **Naomi Otterness**, Director of Education Abroad, Davidson College
- **Kate Manni**, Director of Education Abroad The Pennsylvania State University

What is Sustainability? Why is it Important?

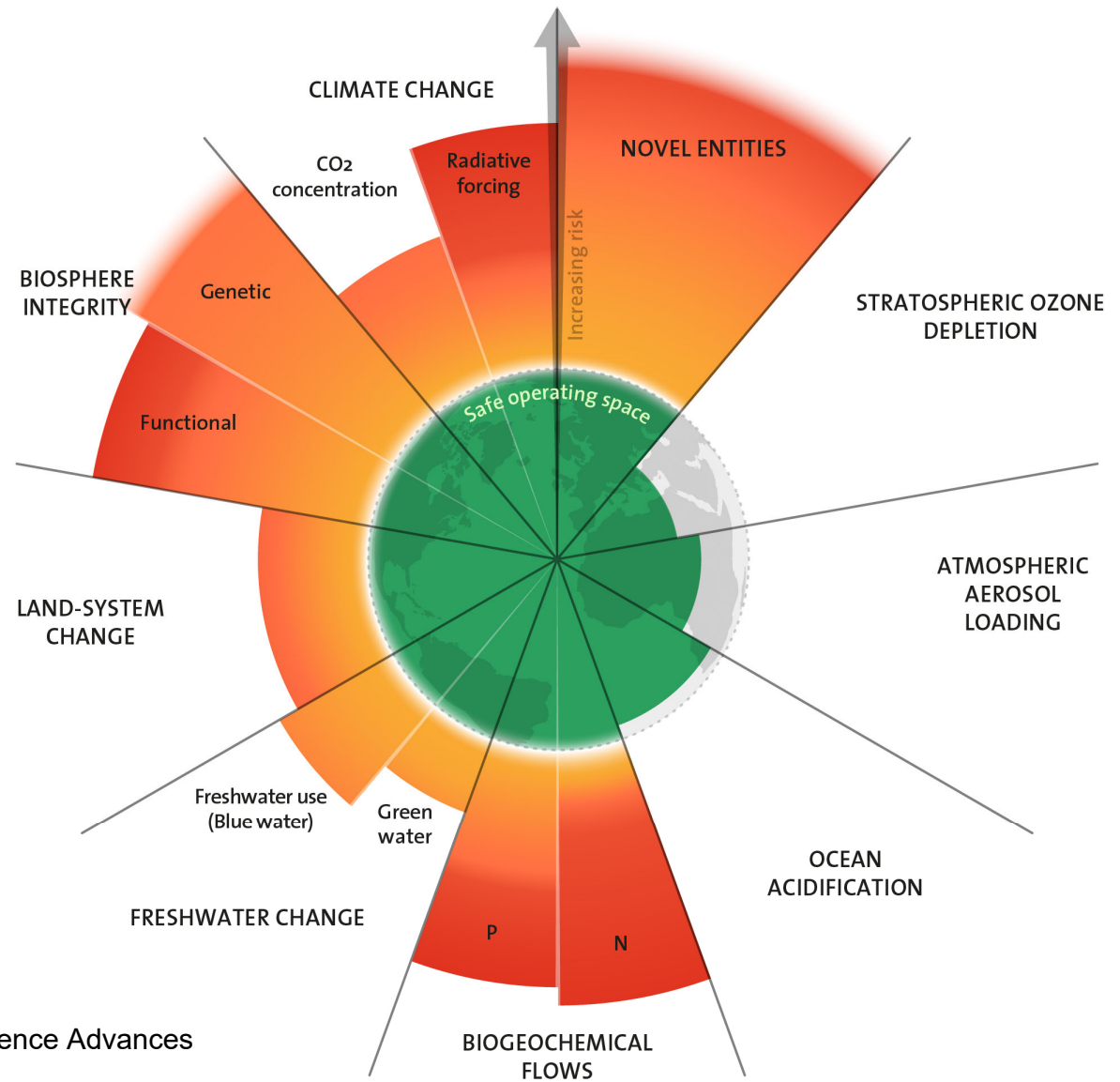
- Economic growth and resilience
- Affordability
- Energy security
- Process efficiency
- Outputs of desired products



- Water quality and quantity
- Soil quality
- Air quality
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Biodiversity and wildlife

- Jobs and workforce development
- Health and well-being
- Food security
- Social acceptability

Human Activity is Stressing the Planet



Richardson, K. et al. 2023. Science Advances



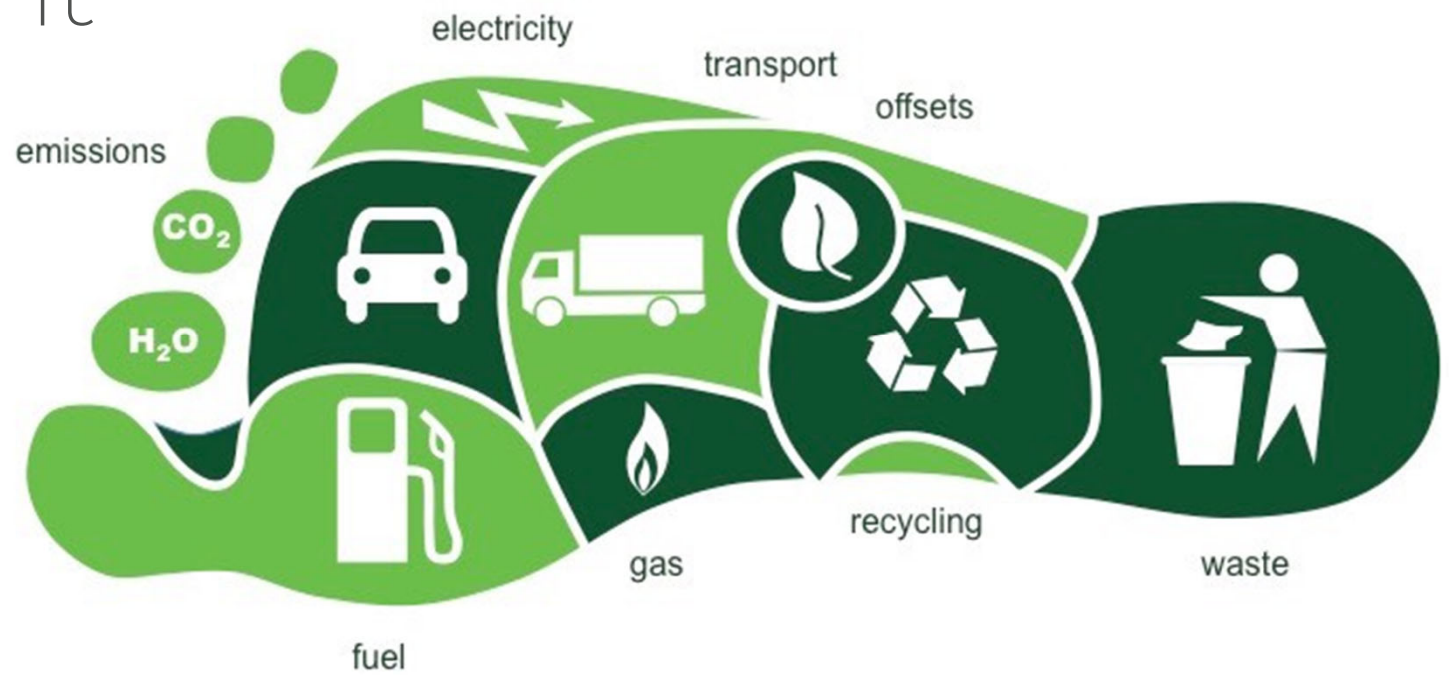
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Environmental Concerns are Foundational to Other Goals

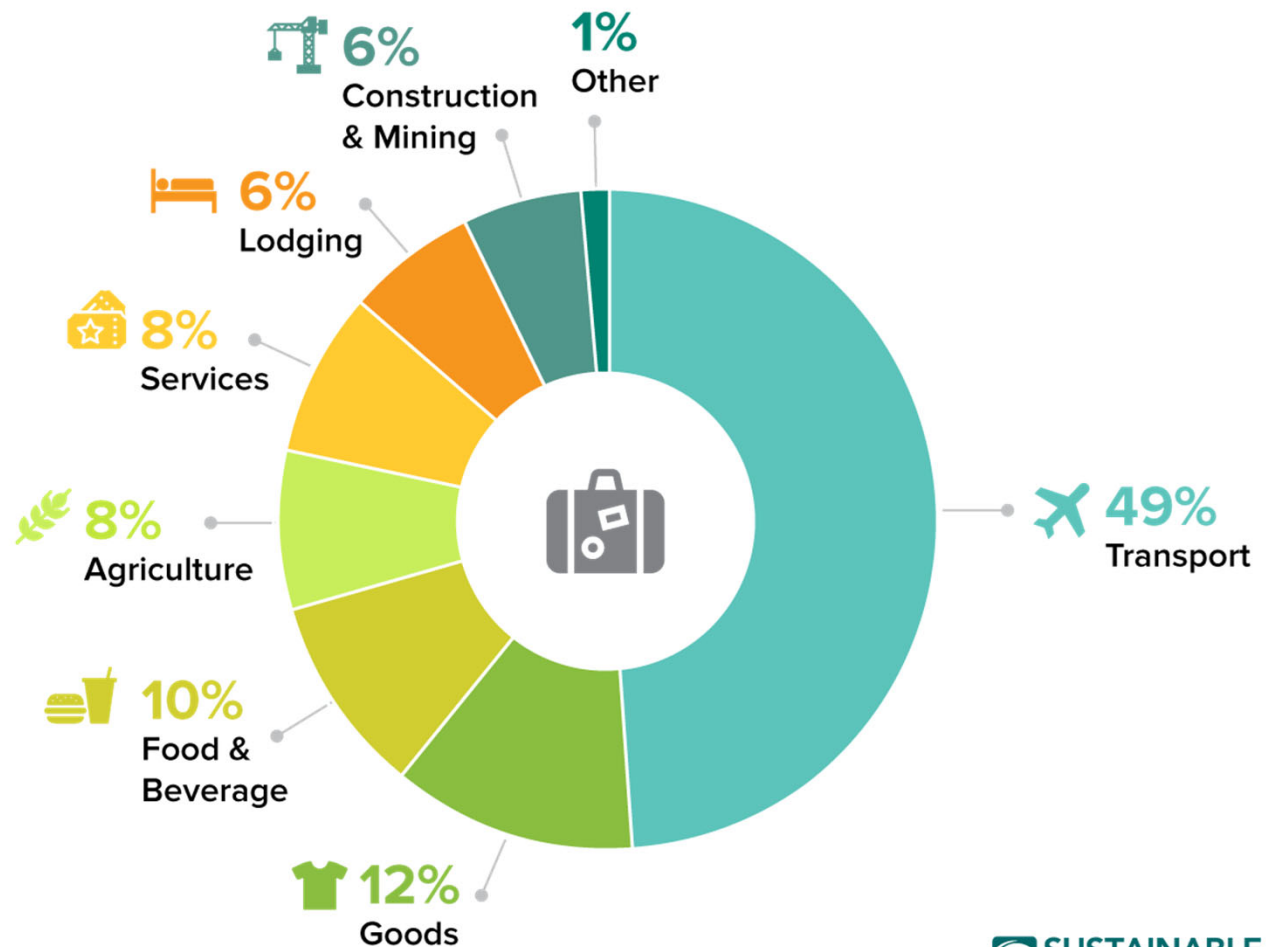
Carbon Footprint



Yet, Study Abroad Produces Its Own Carbon Footprint

- 4.3 metric tons CO₂ per student just from air travel to and from U.S.
- Does not include additional travel while abroad

Carbon Footprint of Global Tourism



UW-Madison, 2018-2019 estimates

Study Abroad - Lowering Footprint

PRE

- Programs - Building/Choosing
- Distance to Site
- Longer Stay
- Host Family
- Contribute Locally
- Consider Curriculum
- Program Provider and Other Partners
- Carbon Offsets
- Pack Smart
- Pre-departure Meetings

DURING

- Onsite Orientation
- Onsite Reminders
- Reduce (Air) Travel
- Walk, Bike
- Sustainable Housing
- Support Local
- Recycle
- Energy Efficiency
- Reusable Bottles
- Carbon Offsets
- Engage/Contribute
- Spread the Word

POST

- Reflect
- Share Lessons Learned
- Continue Learning
- Recommit to Sustainable Living
- Engage/Contribute
- Innovate



- Small Groups (2 - 3)
- Review List
- Add New Items to Post Its
- 10 Minutes



Study abroad provider responses to sustainability.





CIEE's Responses to Sustainability



- CIEE Green Team
- CIEE Center Initiatives
- Sustainability Programs
- Sustainability Courses
- Internships
- Research Opportunities
- Offsets
- Student Sustainability Challenge
- CIEE Conference
- Social Media
- Major Focus in 2024



**DAVIDSON
COLLEGE**



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- **First Climate Action Plan: 2010**
“Year of Sustainability”
- **Office of Sustainability and Education Abroad Collaborate**
2015
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
Education Abroad shares all study abroad participant flight information with Sustainability Office
- **New Climate Action Plan 2019-2026**
 - **Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions 50% by 2026 from 2009 levels.**



DAVIDSON COLLEGE



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Climate Action Plan 2021-2016 and Study Abroad



- ✓ Integrate climate action
- ✓ Purchase carbon offsets
- ✓ Identify funding sources

Challenges:

- Pre-purchased Offsets and Personal Responsibility
- Longevity of Carbon Offset Projects linked to Specific Programs
- Increased Costs and Accessibility
- Grants that Encourage Air Travel

Next up: *InterAction* event January – Returning and Outbound Students Select Sustainability Ambassadors 14



PennState Global

Sustainability Scholars

Be rewarded for your commitment to sustainability while abroad

Applications open until 11/8



Stay Local Abroad

Students pledge to reduce their carbon footprint by avoiding travel on specific weekends abroad

Climate Education in Pre-Departure Orientation

Encouraging climate-conscious practices abroad through education



Faculty & Program Leader Training

Giving our leaders the tools to confidently incorporate climate science and sustainability into their programs

Global Sustainable Action Conference

Join us on Nov. 5 as presenters highlight the intersections of culture and sustainability



Day of Service

International and education abroad students can take part in this spring event to learn about and mitigate travel-related emissions

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Curriculum & Learning, Operations

- CANIE Accord signatory 2023!
- Pre-departure Materials
- Sustainability Scholars Program
- Faculty Workshops (with stipend)
- SDGs and New Programs
- Global Sustainability Conference co-sponsored with Penn State Sustainability
- Global Day of Sustainability Service co-sponsored with Penn State Sustainability
- Stay Local Abroad Weekends
- Sustainability Position Penn State Global
- Sustainable Travel Guidelines in progress
- Next step: Measurable Impacts + Academic Research

Penn State Challenges

- A few vocal critics
- Student engagement
- Policies and bureaucracy
- Silos
- Size and scope of university
- Breadth of global learning activities
- Balancing integration with student learning, faculty responsibilities, DEIB initiatives, health and safety
- Who can sign the CANIE Accord?





PennState Global



Opportunities

- “Our Sustainable Future” as strategic foundation
- Carbon reduction task force recommendations
- Pilot initiatives
- Budget cuts -> Repurposing funding -> Sustainability
- Scientific expertise
- Research facilities
- Land ownership



Be a Green Spider



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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

- ❖ **Carbon Neutral Campus Pledge**
Office of Sustainability 2018
- ❖ **EcoChallenge**
International Education + Office of Sustainability since 2017
- ❖ **Sustainable Curriculum Partners**
International Education
- ❖ **Green Spiders Abroad** pilot program
launch Fall 2023
 - ❑ Students abroad incentivized
 - Select funded student research on sustainability
 - Present results upon return
 - Peer sustainability advocates



New Initiatives

- **EnCompass Program**
sustainability and local/global themes: South Africa, Costa Rica
- **Carbon Offsets for Visitors**
during International Education Week and faculty seminar participants

New Challenge

- **Carbon Offsets for Student Travellers**
- **Funding**



Success and Challenges to Sustainable Study Abroad



Pre-departure While Abroad Upon Return

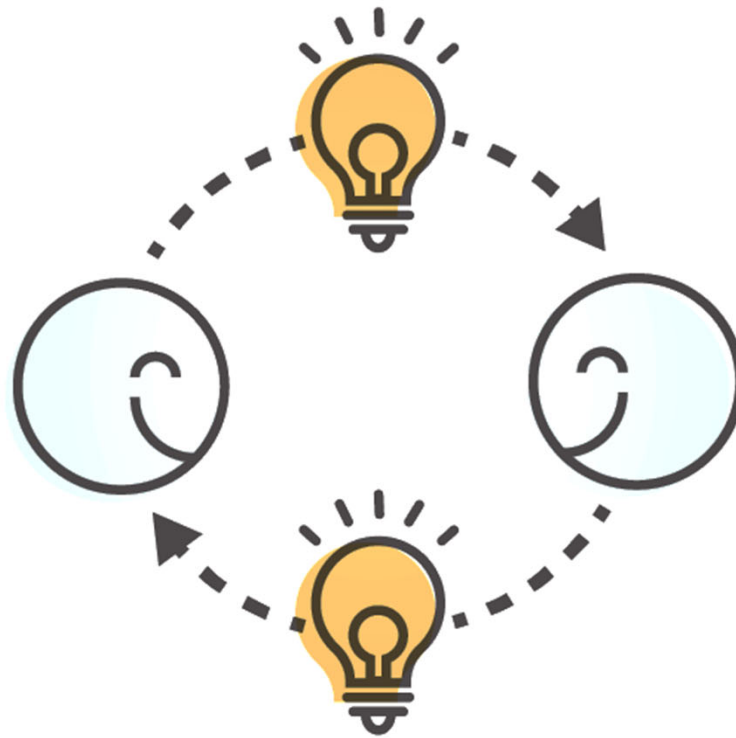
- What Are Your Success Stories?
- What Challenges Have You Encountered Along the Way?
- What Are You Still Trying to Achieve?
- What Challenges Remain?
- What Ideas Do You Have to Surmount Challenges?

Three Breakout Groups



1.
 - Choose a notetaker
 - Choose someone to share ideas
2.
 - Share/exchange for 25 minutes.
 - Consider successes, challenges and then suggest solutions.
 - Summarize your top 3 ideas
3.
 - Share top ideas in a few minutes or Write them on Easels

Sharing Ideas



Measuring Impact and Success



Measuring Impact - Some Ideas

- Uwj2fsi utxy2uwtlwfr xyzijsyj{fzfytsx
- Ywfhp wjizhyts ns hfwgts jr nxxrtsx
- Ywfhp szr gjwtkxyzijsyx jslflji ns xzxyfrsfggj uwfhynjx twhtr r zsnr~
xjw{mj
- Fsfq;ij htxy2kkjhy{jsjxx tkxzxyfrsfgm~ nsnyfn{jx
- Lfymjwkjjigfhp ktr qhfqufwysjw4htr r zsnrjx
- Fxxjxx hmfsljx ns hzwnhzqr
- R tsnytwfqr snktwqsl yjwr nr ufhyx
- Xjjp j}yjwsfqhjwkhfytsx twf | fwix
- Htr ufwj | nmujjwrsxyzytsx
- Xmfwj xzhhjxx xytwnjx fsi gjxyuwfhynjx

Resources

- Ymj Ktwr ts Jizhfyt s Fgwtfi Lznijqsjx ktwFi {fshrs l ymj ZS Xzxyfrsfggj Ij{jqur jsyLtfqx ymwtzlm Jizhfyt s Fgwtfi
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 - [myux?44hfsnj 3wl 4](#)
- SFKXF Xzxyfrsfgm~ Nktw fyts + XL
 - [myux?44| | 3sfkxf3wl4xzxyfrsfgm~](#)

Contact Us!

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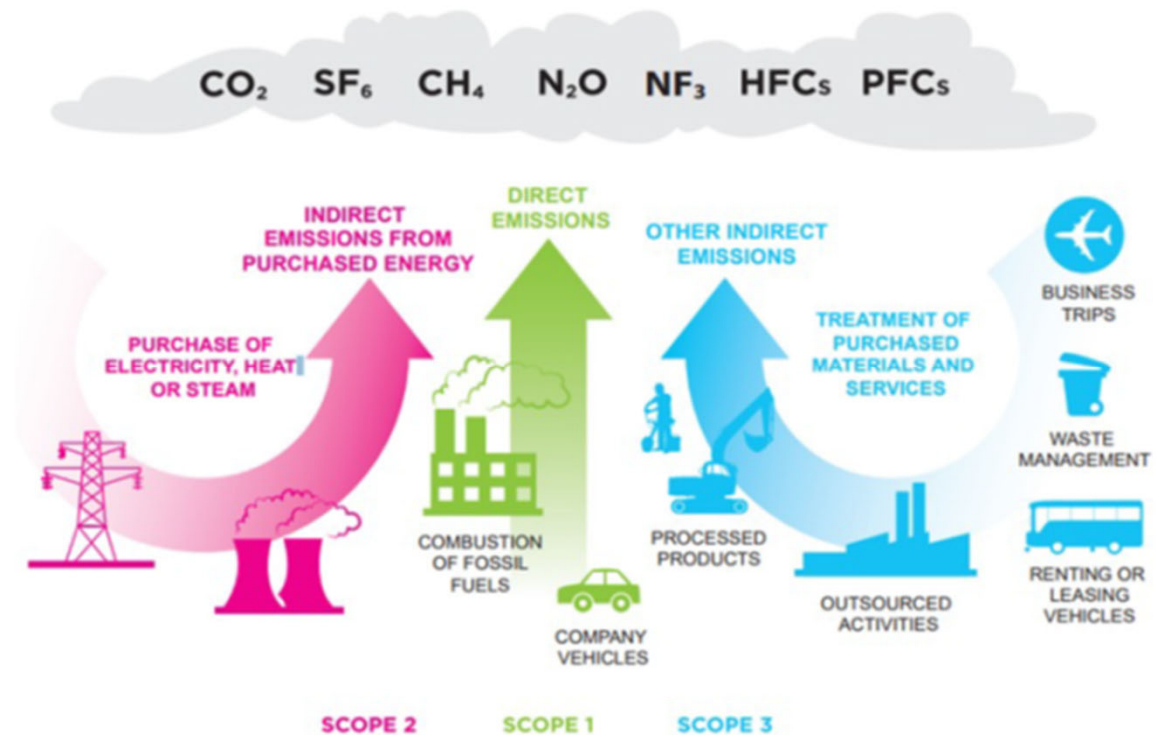


Thank You!

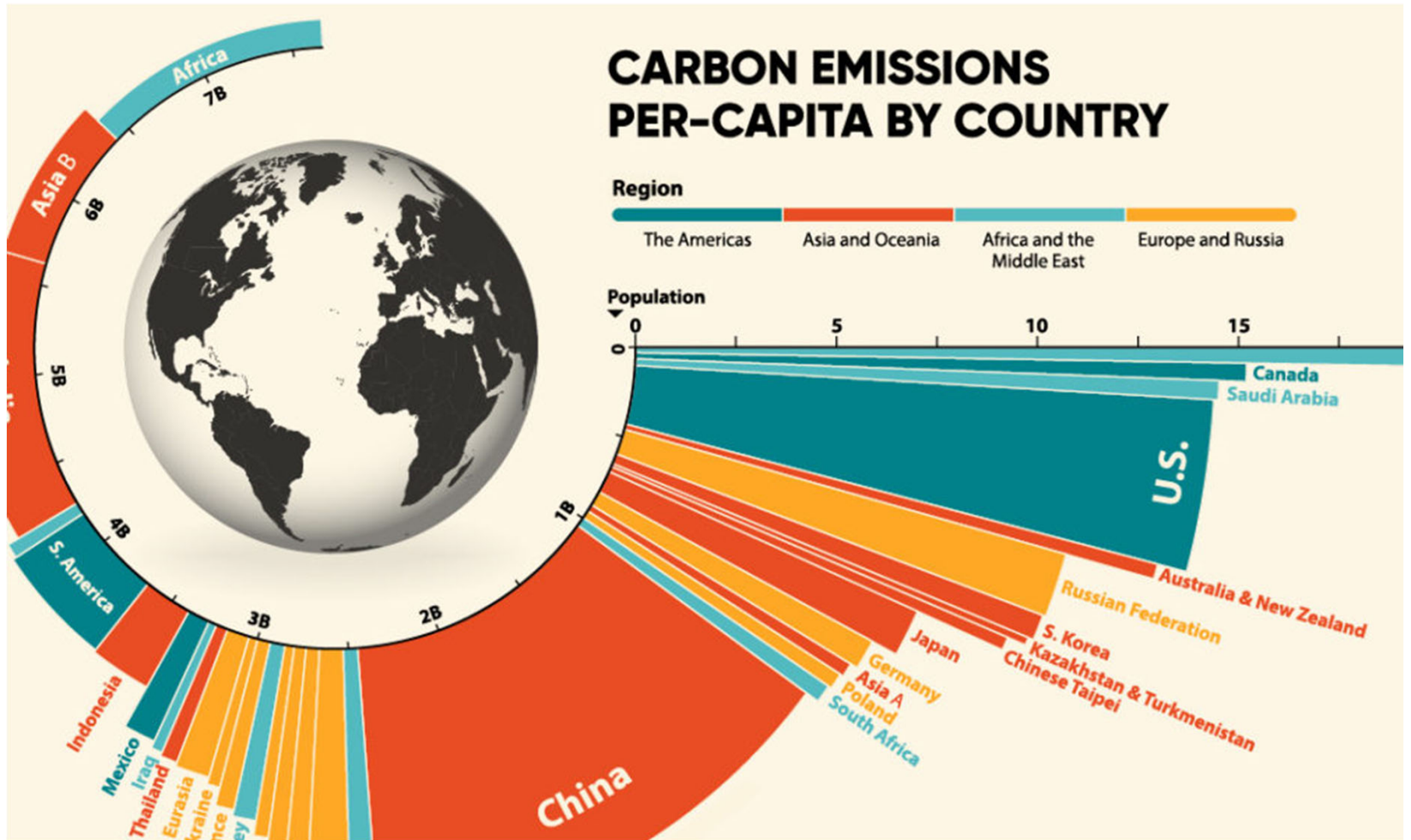
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Why All This Talk about Carbon?

- Like money, carbon is a common currency to measure human impact
- Carbon is released into the atmosphere by human activity
- Carbon is the leading cause of global warming
- Global warming impacts all of Earth's systems



Countries differ in their carbon footprint.



Units are tons CO₂/person/year