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## **CARBON EMISSIONS: CAN THE U.S. CLAIM PROGRESS?**

By Steve Bakke  December 6, 2018



A December 6 reprint of a Washington Post article was attention grabbing – “Global emissions rising fast: ‘We are in deep trouble’”. The article states that global CO2 emissions have reached the highest levels on record. This was based on a scientific projection released by the Global Carbon Project. Important points included:

- There is a great chasm between international goals and actual performance.
- 2018 global emissions are expected to be worse than the alarming 2017 increases.
- U.S. emissions increased by 1.6% in 2017 and 2018 is projected to be 2.7%.
- The U.S. seems to be identified as being in the middle of the pack of transgressors.

It’s important to put this in proper context relative to actual U.S. performance on carbon emissions over recent years. According to the American Enterprise Institute, since 2000 the U.S. has reduced CO2 emissions by over 600 million tons – and that’s expected to continue in 2018. The next largest reduction came from the U.K. at just over 150 million tons.

Both reports agree that the worst performers are China and India which continue sharp increases. The U.S. does have bragging rights, but some observers refuse to acknowledge our global leadership.