

Country of the month: Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein, which is located between Switzerland and Austria, is one of the smallest (160 km²), but also richest countries in the world with a population of 35,000 and a per capita GDP (purchasing power parity) of 32,000 Euro. So far, climate policy did not play a relevant role. This has changed since early 2007. The country notified its DNA in March 2007. Surprisingly, despite a customs and monetary union with Switzerland, it will accede to the EU emissions trading scheme with plants emitting 20,000 t CO₂. A national climate policy strategy was published in September 2007. The annual difference between current emissions and the Kyoto target reaches 60,000 t CO₂ eq., of which 40,000 t are to be covered by use of the Kyoto Mechanisms, i.e. 0.2 million t over the whole commitment period. Acquisition of “hot air” will not be done, unless a Green Investment Scheme has been defined. CDM and JI projects have to show ecological benefits and “social-ethical” acceptability for the population of the host country. HFC-23 and carbon capture and storage projects will not be approved. Liechtenstein wants to position itself as a service hub for the Kyoto Mechanisms.

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<http://www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/en-climate-cdm-highlights-09-07.pdf>