

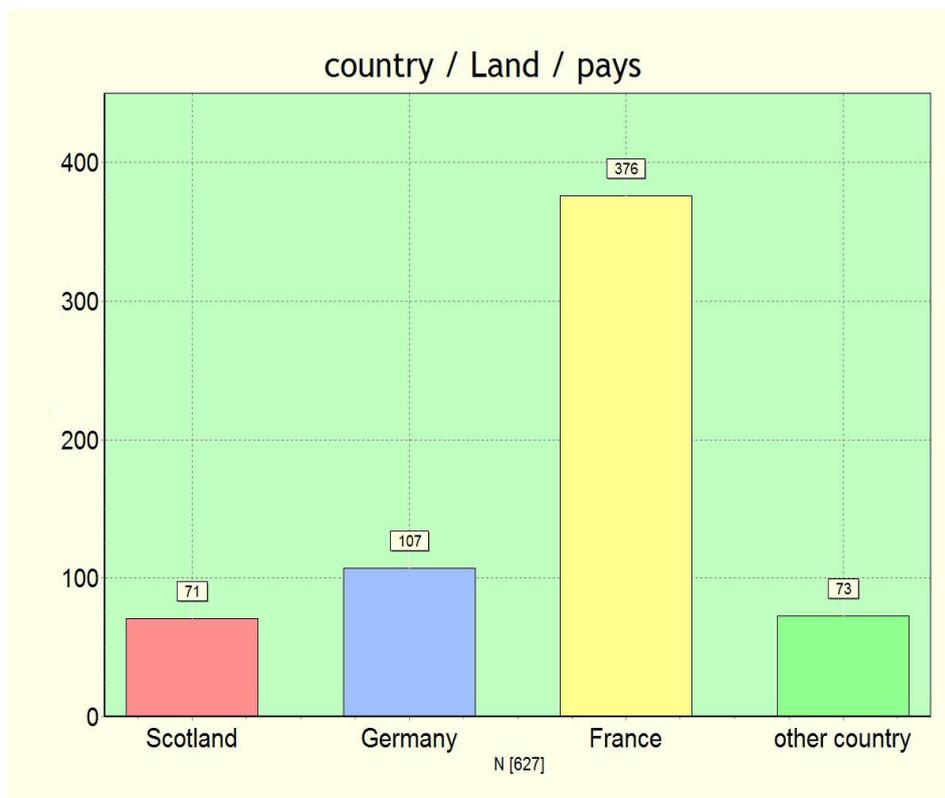
## Evaluation of the online survey about the CO2-footprint

In order that the similarities and discrepancies concerning CO2-consumption between our countries could be examined, an online survey was carried out. (The complete survey can be found [here](#).)

All pupils, parents and friends of our schools were invited to complete the survey between March and April 2014.

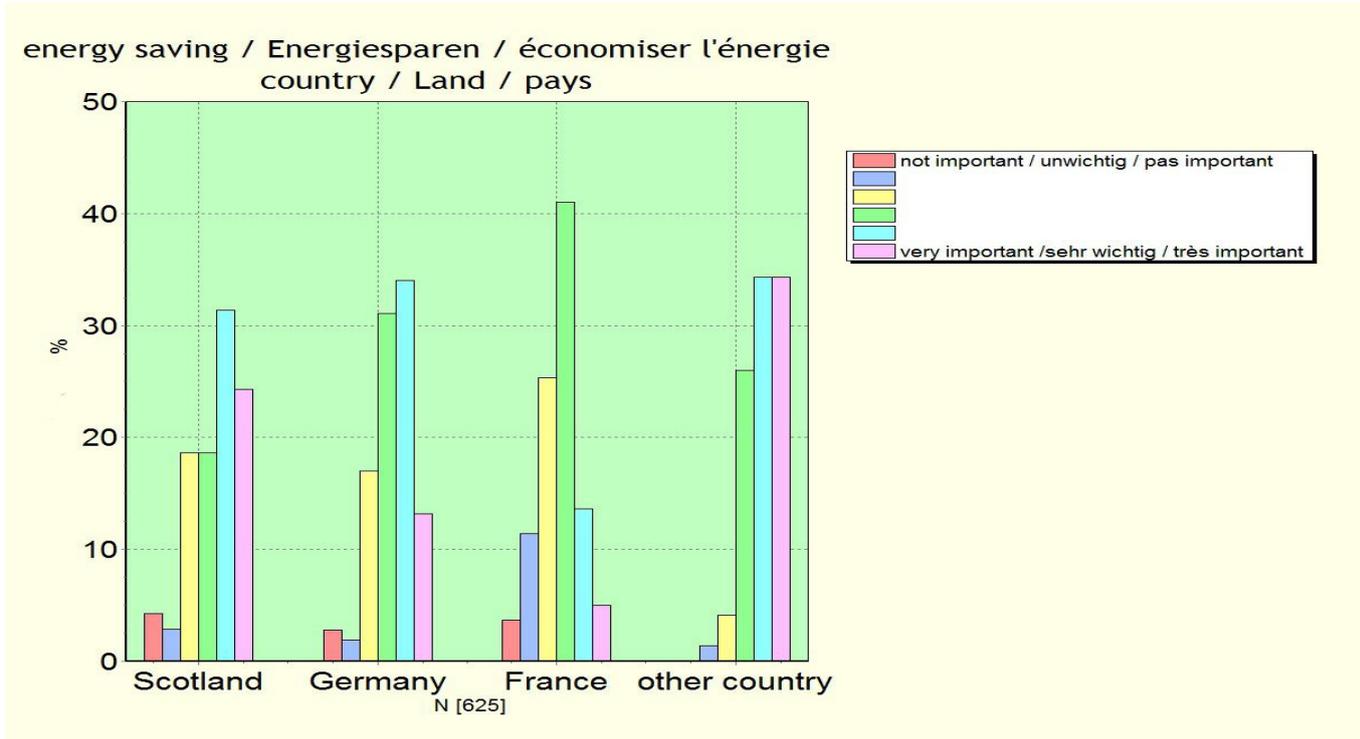
By doing this we also hoped to generate ideas on how to improve our CO2-consumption and also to increase our awareness and sensitivity to this important subject.

Over 600 persons completed the survey, more than half of them from France. There were also some contributions from other countries, mostly from Canada, some from Portugal and India.

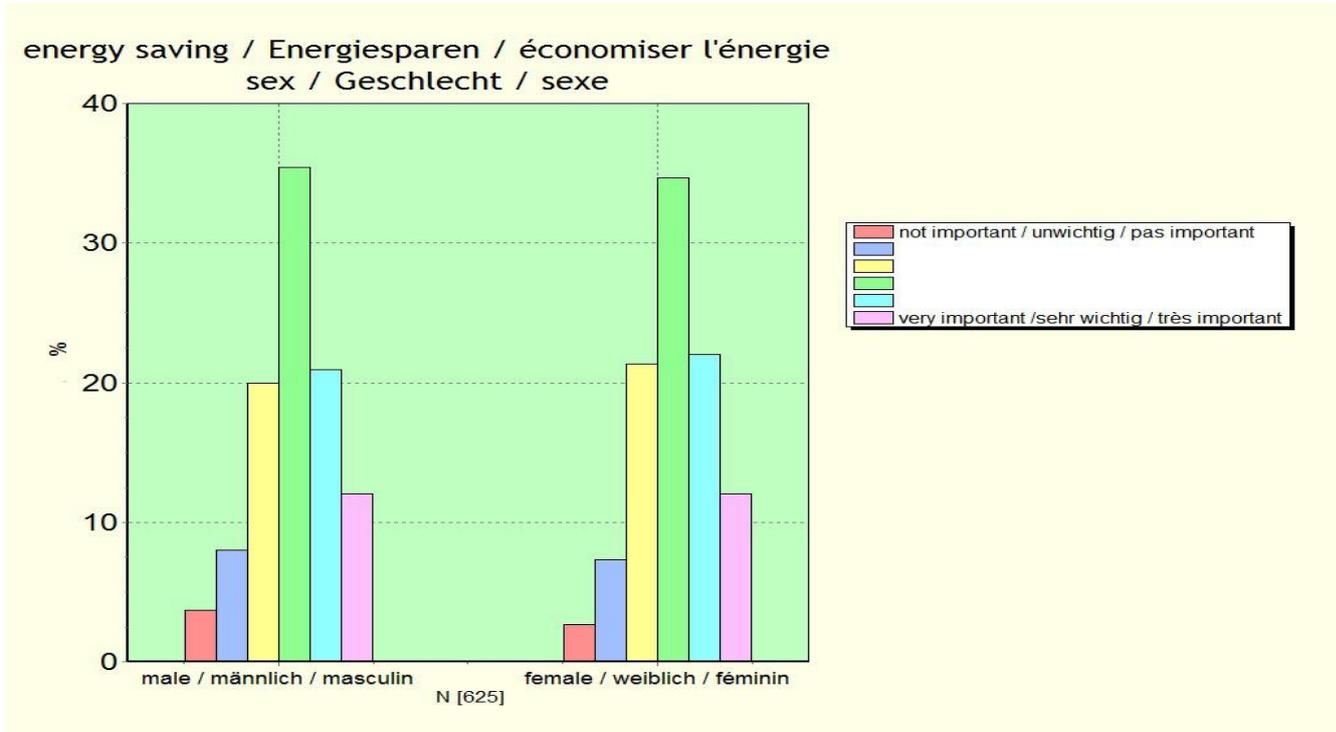


In the evaluation of the survey we present our findings, highlight some interesting results and discuss their implications. ([Here](#) you will find a complete overview over the results.)

First we take a closer look at the importance of energy saving:

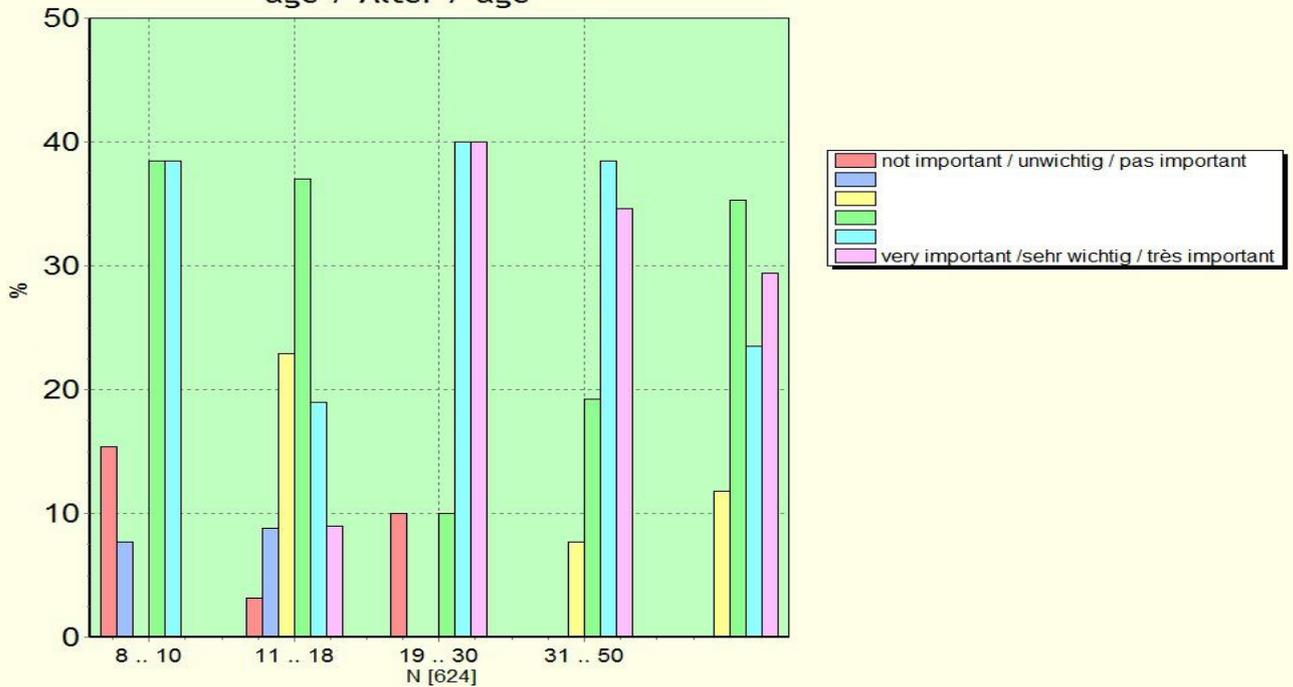


Scotland, Germany and the rest of the world have similar energy saving habits although France differs slightly in its response. Energy saving is deemed most important in Scotland.



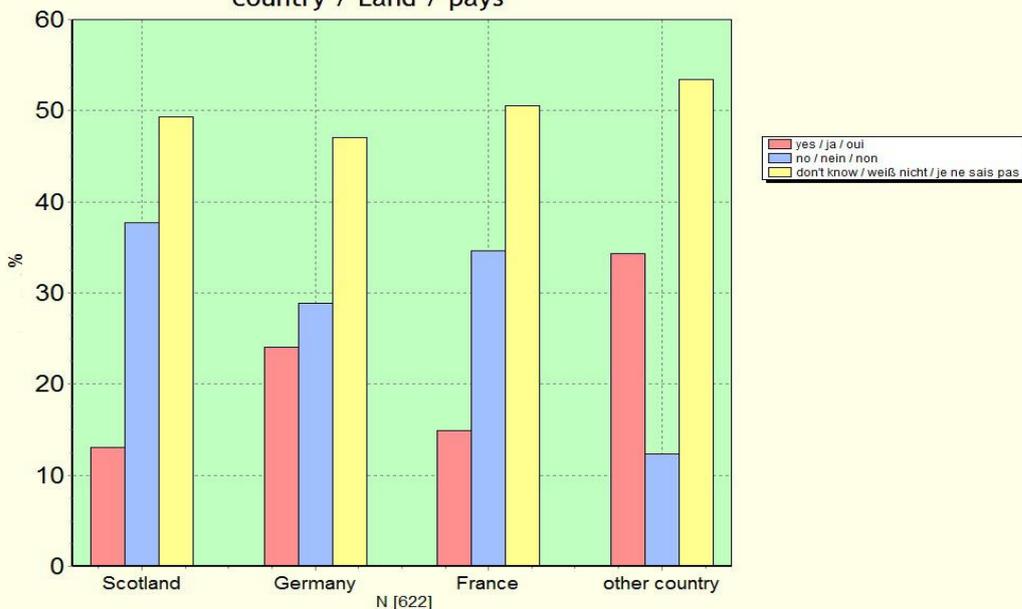
There is almost no variation for sex with both male and female answering that energy saving is quite important with almost identical percentages.

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At an early age children care slightly more than pupils at secondary school. The older children have a lesser sense of responsibility. This shows how important this subject is at school to ensure that pupils feel more responsible for the environment. This is true for all countries.

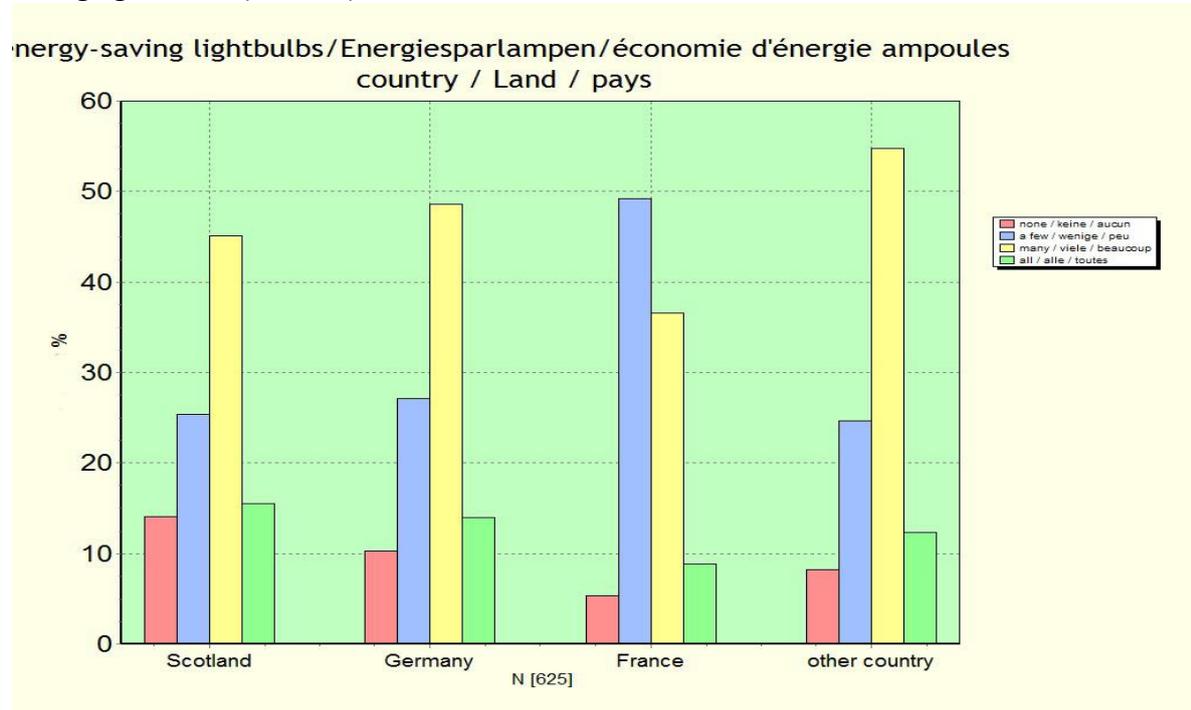
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When the use of renewable energies is examined, most people do not know if they are using renewable energy; so it is important to educate people in our countries. Some providers of

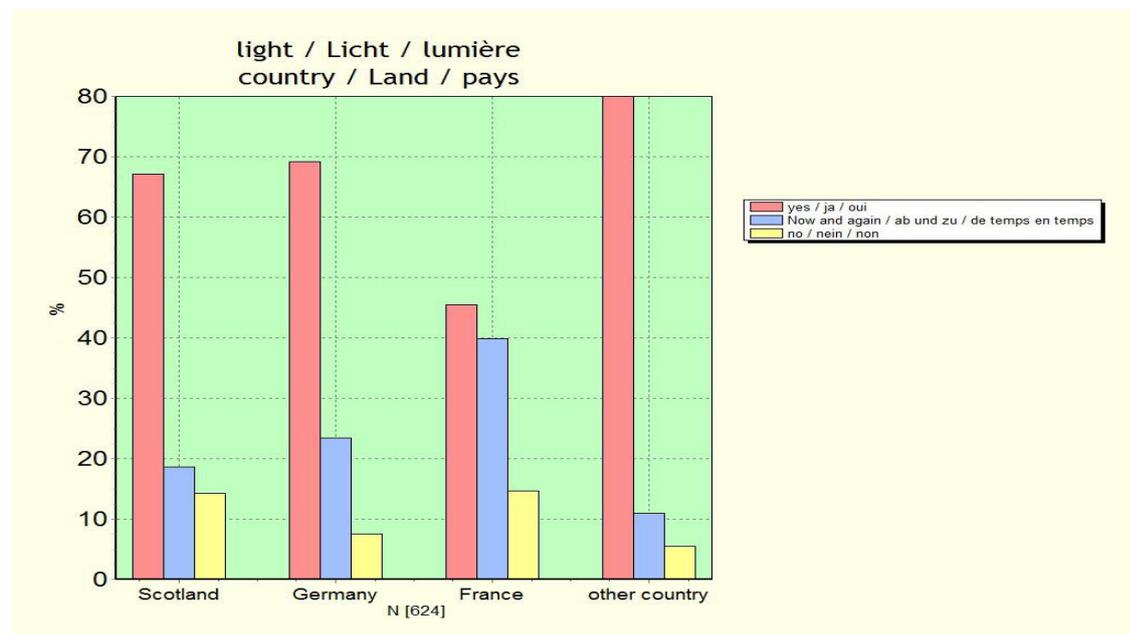
electric energies use mostly renewable energy resources although many people are generally unaware of this. There is a greater use of renewable energy in other countries.

An easy and convenient way of saving energy and reduce CO2 consumption is to use energy saving light bulbs (or LEDs).

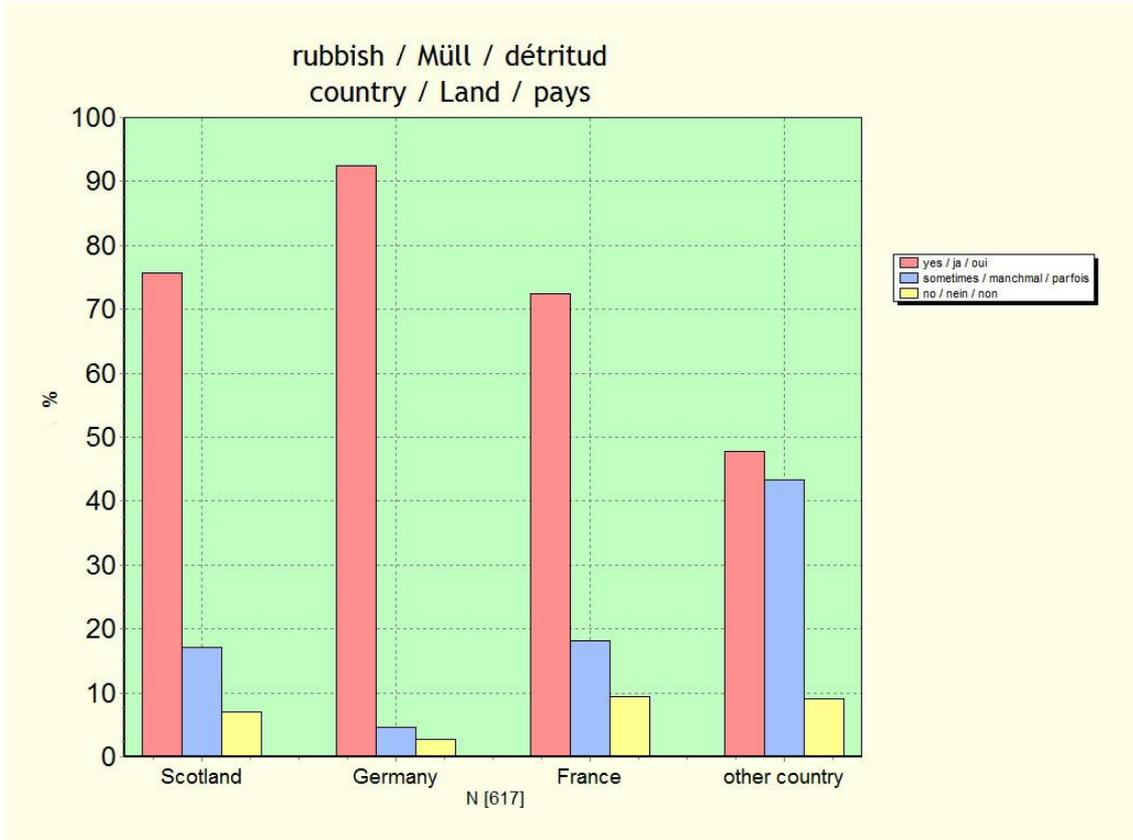


More than 60 % of respondents use energy saving bulbs although this is less in France. This has probably increased over the past few years although it still can be improved. Perhaps subsidization by the state would aid this.

Turning the lights off when you're leaving the room is an easy and effective way to save energy. Most people do it, but its practice could still be improved, particularly in Scotland and France.

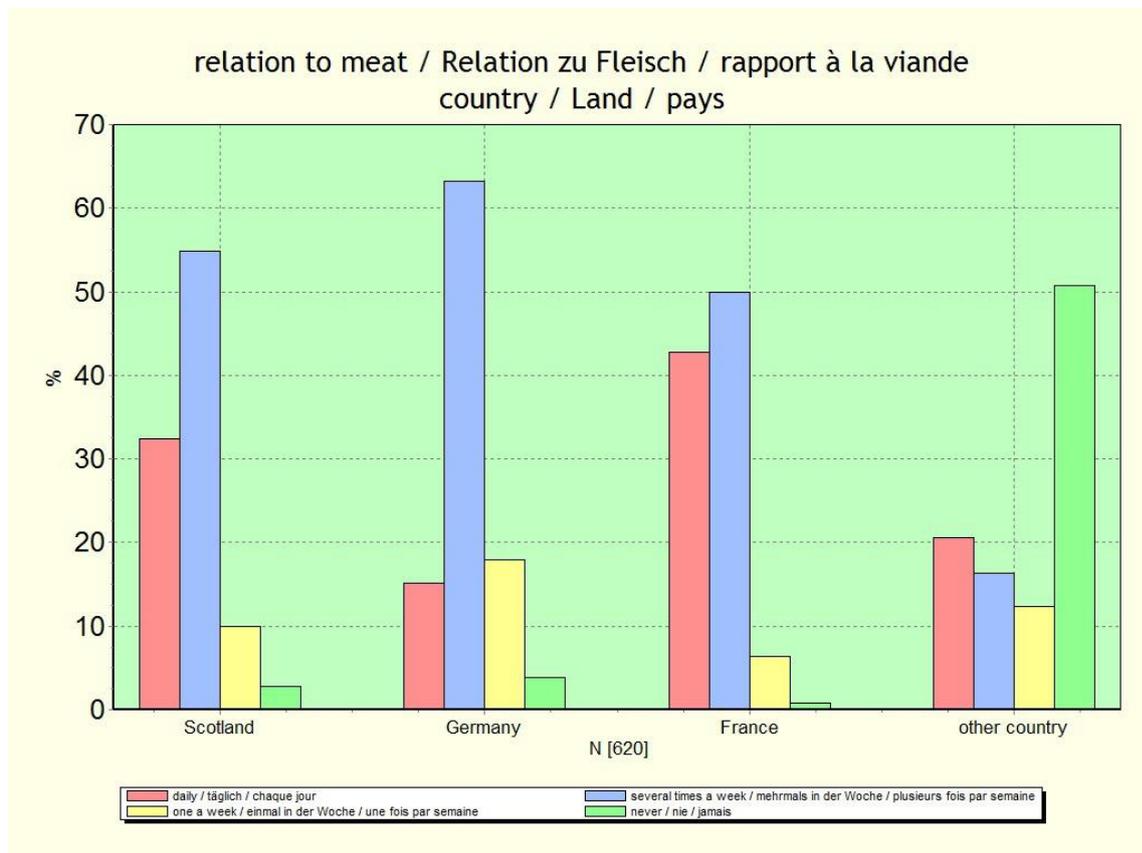


Another important contribution in CO2 reduction and energy saving is recycling. It requires significant energy to produce new aluminum foil whereas if they are recycled then noticeable energy savings occur.



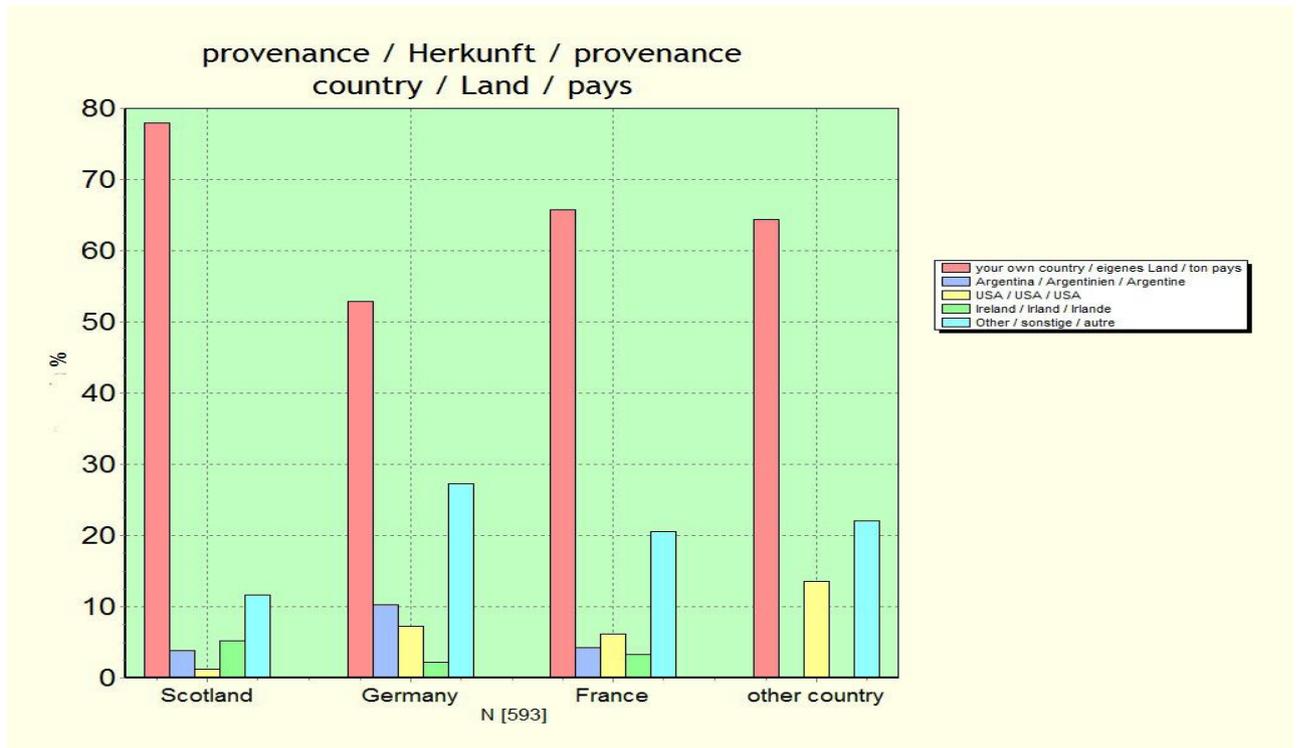
The recycling rate is high in all three European countries, especially in Germany, but Scotland and France could still improved more. The rate in other countries - mostly outside Europe - is rather low. The survey would suggest that these countries could improve their recycling rate significantly.

Meat consumption is one more important issue in this survey. It takes significantly more energy to produce one kilogram of meat than one kilogram of vegetarian food. (To produce one kilogram of meat you need about ten kilograms of plant food to feed the cattle.)



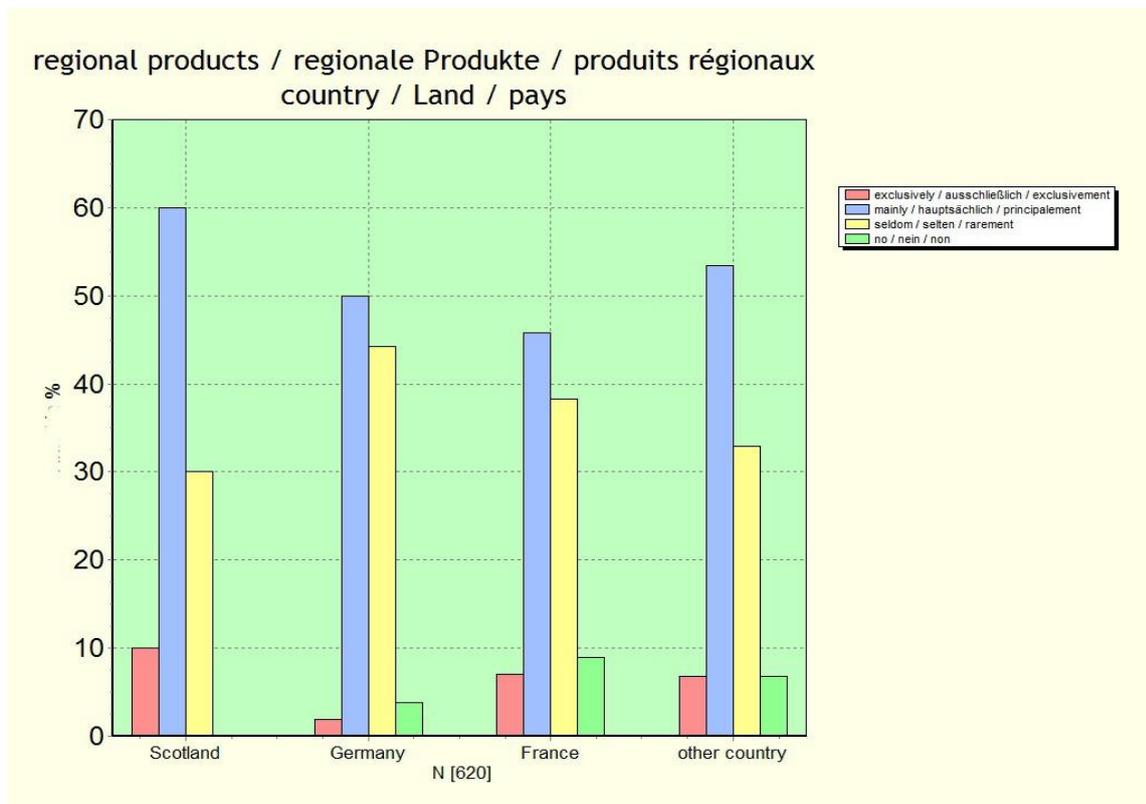
As you can see the meat consumption in all of our countries is quite high. At least 80% eat meat at least several times a week. In non-European countries meat consumption is much lower. As humans don't need to eat meat every day we think it's important to change our meat eating habits and try to reduce our daily meat consumption in favour of a more balanced diet.

If we consider the source of meat we see that most meat we eat comes from our own countries rather than from Argentina or the US, so not much energy is needed for transportation. But we could still import less meat from other countries, especially in France, where almost 50 % of the meat is imported. In addition to the 10 kg production cost, each kg of meat would require approximately 1.3 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> to transport it across the Atlantic.

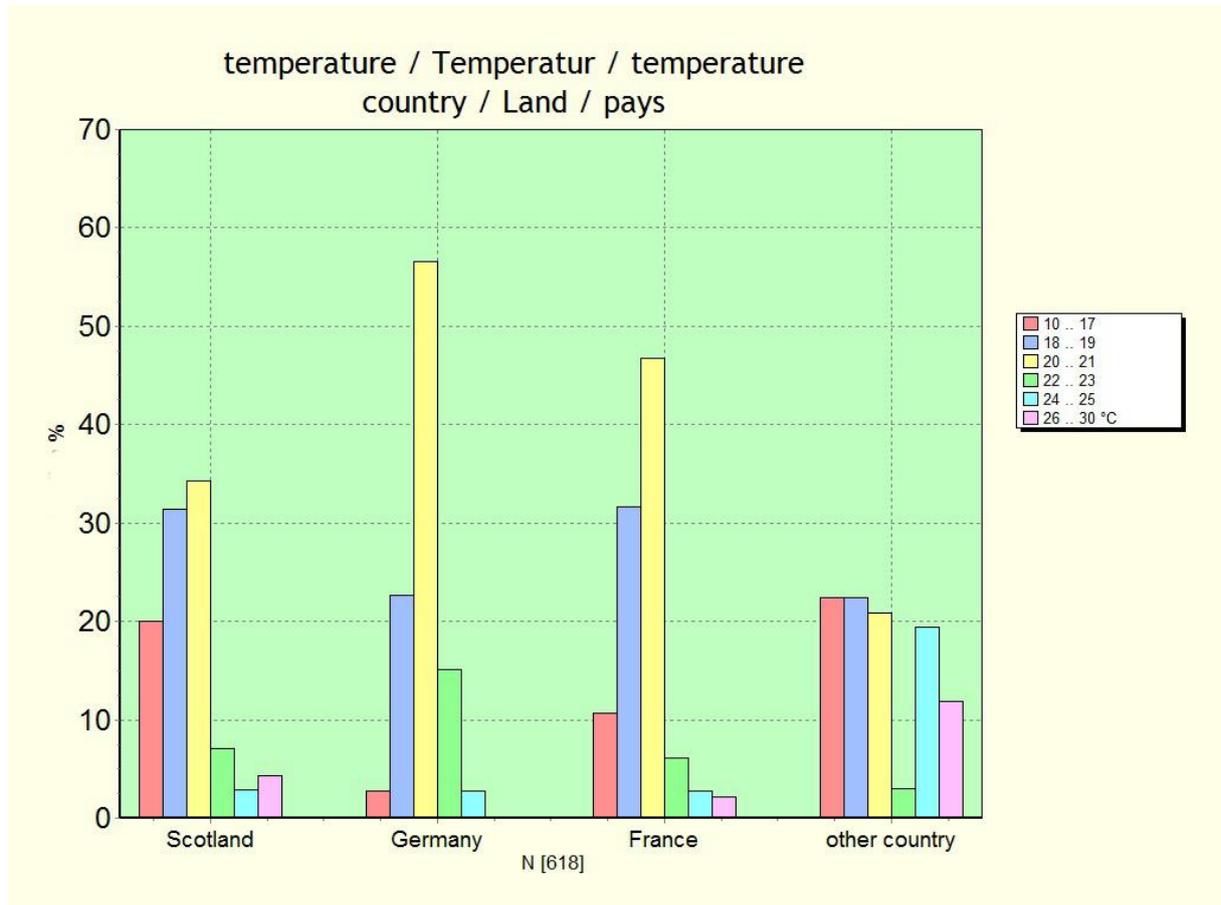


In general it is very important to use regional products in order to avoid CO2 consumption by transportation of the products.

In all our countries a majority of people use mainly regional products, especially in Scotland, but it is still alarming that about 50 % use these products seldom or not at all. This could easily be improved.

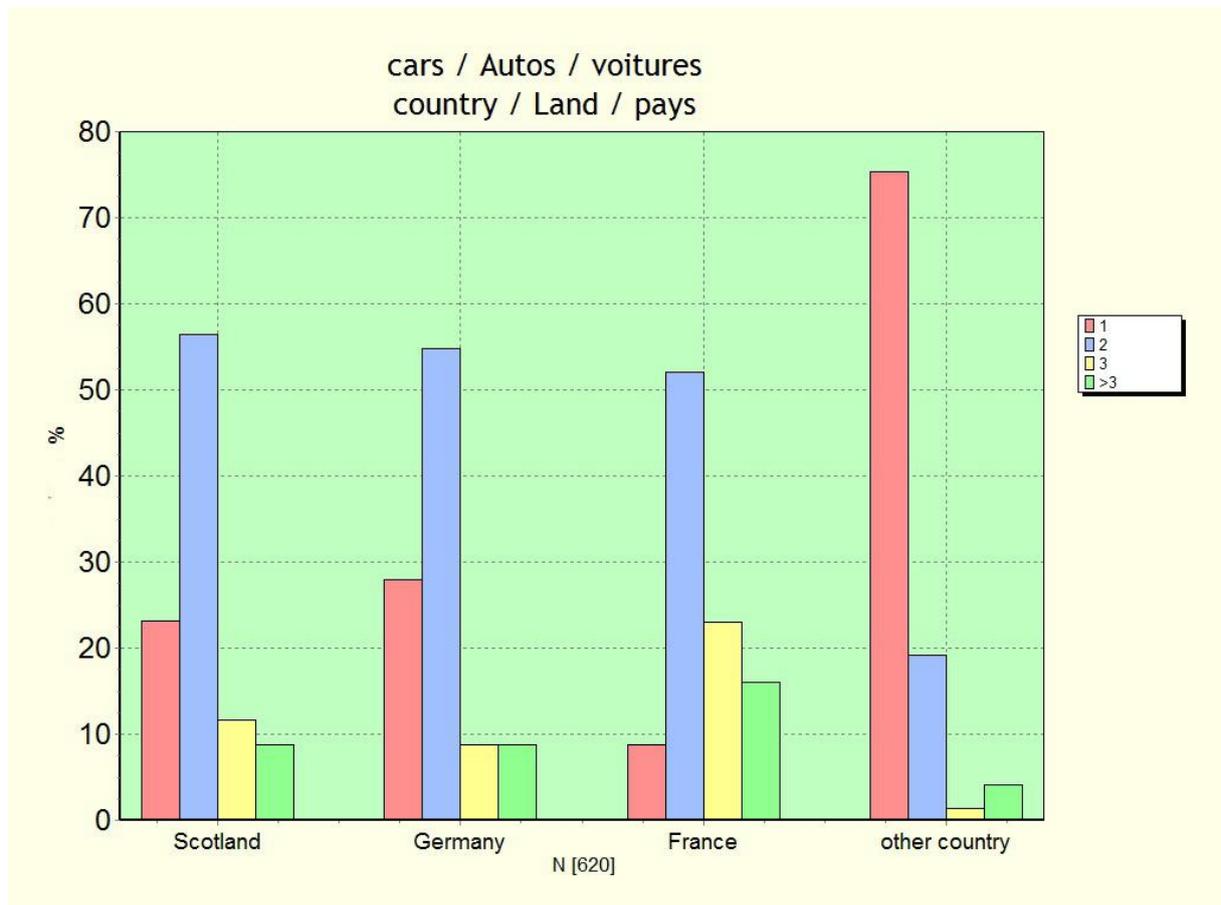


A very easy way to take care of our CO2-footprint is to have a reasonable temperature of about 18 or 19 degrees Celsius in our houses during the heating period.



As we can see in the diagram many people, especially in Germany have temperatures of 20 degrees or more. Effort should be made to reduce this.

One major source of CO2 production is the car.



It is worrying that in three European countries we have a significant number of households with three or more cars. This should be reduced drastically creating a greater percentage of single car households as in other countries.

## Conclusions

There are no major discrepancies between our countries. However the carbon footprint is slightly lower in Scotland and in Germany than in France.

There are many things that can be done, like using energy saving lightbulbs or owning fewer cars.

In our opinion it is most important to improve Europeans' sense of responsibility for the value of energy, especially for younger people. This can be done by emphasis on this subject during early education at school.