

China's 5G base station electricity costs

Can 5G reduce energy consumption in China?

With 5G base stations consuming approximately 3 times more power per base station unit, this means 5G networks could result in a nine-fold increase in electricity costs and carbon emissions. In the face of this challenge, many solutions are being trialled and introduced to reduce 5G energy consumption, and not just in China.

How much electricity does China use per base station?

For China, based on a single base station power's energy consumption of 11.5 KWh (Huawei, 2019), we estimate that the electricity consumed by its 5G network by 2030 will be 6.04 × 10⁵ GW for 6 million base stations, the equivalents of 8.4 % of China's national total power generation in 2019, respectively.

How does a 5G base station consume energy?

In terms of energy consumption, 5G base stations require continuous operation and stability, which leads to significant electricity consumption (Guo et al., 2022a). This power is mainly supplied by transmission equipment and auxiliary equipment, such as transformers, UPS power supplies, and cooling equipment.

How much electricity will China's 5G network consume in 2030?

Under the scenario of business-estimated six million base stations in 2030, the share of electricity consumed by China's 5G networks in 2030 could reach 8.4 % of the national total power generation, causing 0.44 GtCO₂ /yr CO₂ emissions.

Does China Mobile have a 5G base station?

China Mobile has tried using lower cost deployments of MIMO antennas, specifically 32T32R and sometimes 8T8R rather than 64T64R, according to MTN. However, Li says 5G base stations are carrying five times the traffic as when equipped with only 4G, pushing up power consumption.

Does China have a 5G network?

Given that China currently has the largest 5G network in the world (~1.53 million base stations by the end of 2021, Table S1) and that base station number was projected by up to 6-8 million by 2030 (CCID Consulting, 2020), concerns are being expressed regarding 5G mobile networks' environmental effects and sustainability.

If you add all these together, excluding rent and labor, if you build a new 5G macro base station, it will cost about 300,000 yuan. If you include rent and labor, the average cost is estimated to be ...

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