

# A Study and Assessment of the Carbon Footprint of Tianjin University's Weijin Road and Peiyangyuan Campuses, China

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## Research

**Keywords:** Carbon neutrality, Colleges and universities, Carbon footprint, Tianjin university, GHG accounting, Sustainable university, Zero-emission university, Carbon offsetting, University campus, Per capita carbon footprint

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1      **A Study and Assessment of the Carbon Footprint of**

2      **Tianjin University's Weijin Road and Peiyangyuan**

3      **Campuses, China**

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9      **Abstract**

10     **Background:** A living University campus is like a model city; its energy and carbon  
11    auditing can also model how energy and carbon can be studied and analyzed in a city.  
12    China's colleges and universities face grave problems, now and in the future - from  
13    declining quality of campus environments to deteriorating building performance,  
14    antiquated facilities, and inefficient energy and resources consumption. While research  
15    and discussion exists on improving existing university buildings' energy performance  
16    and evaluation standards - much of that research focuses on energy savings, rather than  
17    on greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Calculation of campus carbon emissions is the  
18    first step for transforming and planning each existing university to carbon neutral  
19    campus. Some researchers of campus carbon emissions in China have made  
20    calculations, which, although as yet unpublished, create an initial framework for carbon-  
21    neutral campus plan targets. The present research gives an overview of universities'

22 drive towards sustainability in China and in other countries. The paper then details  
23 carbon footprint accounting steps, quantifying major carbon emission sources and  
24 carbon sequestration by vegetation inside the Tianjin University's Weijin Road and  
25 Peiyangyuan Campuses. Results from China's universities are compared with  
26 international results in the scientific literature. In this paper, based on this data, we  
27 suggest strategies and show preliminary target settings for how to transform Weijin  
28 Road into a carbon-neutral campus.

29 **Results:** Annual carbon emissions for 2019 of the Weijin Road campus were 58,172.68  
30 tonnes, (2.60 tonnes per person), and Peiyangyuan campus, 55,213.75 tonnes (2.46  
31 tonnes per person). The largest sources of the two campuses' greenhouse gas emissions  
32 were electricity and gas; Weijin Road campus; electricity = 61.42%, gas = 20.73%, and  
33 Peiyangyuan campus electricity = 69.32%, gas = 11.60%. Carbon sequestered in the two  
34 campuses by vegetation are 11,257.34 tonnes and 27,856.51 tonnes respectively. The  
35 renewable energy contribution to carbon reduction in Peiyangyuan campus is 50.85  
36 tonnes.

37 **Conclusion:** Per person carbon emissions of Tianjin University's two campuses are  
38 below the average for some US campuses, but are also greater than some in European  
39 countries. Research may investigate methods used by successful campuses towards  
40 becoming carbon neutral.

41 **Keywords:** Carbon neutrality, Colleges and universities, Carbon footprint, Tianjin  
42 university, GHG accounting, Sustainable university, Zero-emission university, Carbon  
43 offsetting, University campus, Per capita carbon footprint

44 **Paper Type:** Research Paper

45 **1 Introduction**

46 Climate Change caused by daily human activity is threatening the sustainability of  
47 the earth and confronting Climate Change is critical for the sustainable development of  
48 the Earth ([Edenhofer, 2015](#)). In 1988 an intergovernmental UN body, the  
49 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established, 1990 IPCC  
50 completed its first report and concluded that the global mean surface air temperature has  
51 increased by 0.3 to 0.6 °C over the last 100 years ([IPCC, 1990](#)). The increase of  
52 greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere is the main reason for Climate Change, and  
53 water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and ozone are  
54 considered to be the main parts of GHG total emissions and those gases are called carbon  
55 footprint, or CO<sub>2eq</sub> when accounting for these gasses as the results are easy to compare.

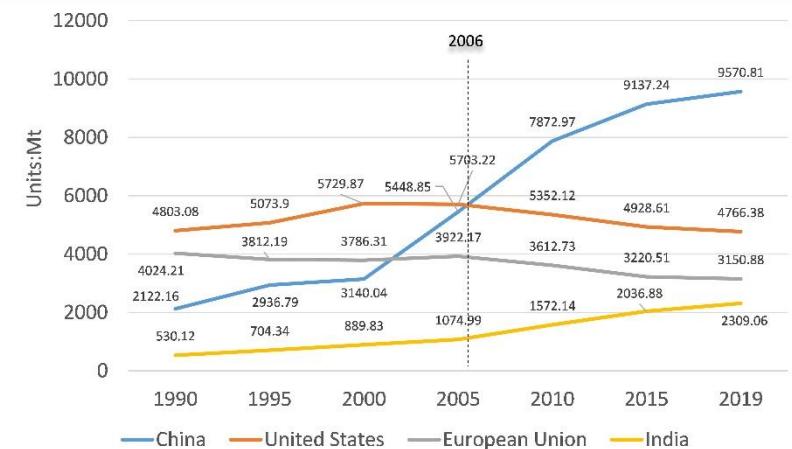
56 To reduce GHG emissions, in 1997 the Kyoto protocol was adopted in Kyoto,  
57 Japan. The protocol requested countries to adopt necessary policies and measures to  
58 limit the GHG emissions and report their efforts periodically. Unfortunately, this failed  
59 mainly because some countries were not bound by the Kyoto Protocol, notably China  
60 and the United States, which together were responsible for approximately 40 percent of  
61 global carbon dioxide emissions ([Rosen, 2015](#)). In 2015, world leaders established the  
62 Paris Agreement, which pledged to control the temperature rise of 2° compared with the  
63 Pre-industrial time (1850-1900). Although in recent years there have been pledges and  
64 other carbon reduction related policies implemented by countries, the most recent being  
65 the IPCC report which noted that the past five years have been the hottest on record  
66 since 1850. The 2021 report also suggests that human activity is changing the climate in

67 an unprecedented and sometimes irreversible way (McGrath, 2021).

68 China is now the world's  
69 largest carbon emission  
70 contributor since 2006 (Fig.  
71 1), according to the  
72 International Energy Agency  
73 statistics, and by the end of

74 2019, total carbon emissions  
75 in China were 9.57Gt (Gigatonnes) of CO<sub>2</sub>, which accounts for about 28% of total world  
76 carbon emission (IEA, 2021). Most recent studies and news reports suggest that China's  
77 GHG emission is critical to the world (Brown, 2021). With the growing attention to  
78 Climate Change, in the 75<sup>th</sup> UN meeting, China announced an ambitious 'Plan to  
79 reducing GHG Emissions' and set a target for the country, known as the "30-60" target,  
80 whereby 2030 will reach the peak value of the GHG emission and 2060 will reach  
81 carbon-neutral country (China Plus, 2020).

82 Climate Change is an important topic, and many organizations and universities  
83 have realized the importance of mitigating their carbon footprint, and some have  
84 completed their greenhouse gas inventories to determine their greenhouse potential,  
85 which is the first step towards a planned carbon emission target (Roche *et al.*, 2014).  
86 Colleges and Universities are seen as an important part of society with the main  
87 characteristic of a high density of population, and high energy consumption. Finding  
88 how to reduce colleges and universities carbon emissions is now an important reference  
89 and challenge for the whole of society.



**Fig. 1. World Major Countries and their CO<sub>2</sub> Emission**  
Source: International Energy Agency (IEA), author A.Zayit

90        Between 5-16 June 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Environment was  
91        held in Stockholm, Sweden, and for the first time mentioned ‘green school’, but that  
92        particular reference concerned environment-related teaching ([NATIONS, 1972](#)). In  
93        1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) published the  
94        Brundtland Report, also called ‘Our Common Future’, and introduced the concept of  
95        sustainable development ([Lélé, 1991](#)). In 1990, 350 universities from 40 countries  
96        around the world signed the Talloires Declaration ([Butt \*et al.\*, 2009](#)), and emphasized  
97        the role of universities in sustainable development, and agreed to the 10 action plans of  
98        sustainability ([University, 1990](#)), and as of February 2021, total signatory institutions  
99        reached 519 ([Future, 2021](#)). Universities began to pay attention to the sustainable  
100       problems, with the introduction of ‘COPERNICUS University Charter for Sustainable  
101       Development, which started to raise awareness of ‘Sustainability’ throughout Europe  
102       ([UNECE, 2005](#)). December 1991, 33 Higher Institutions from 10 countries on 5  
103       continents signed the Halifax Declaration ([Evangelinos \*et al.\*, 2009](#)), emphasizing the  
104       role of Higher Institutions in education, research and the public service sector’s  
105       sustainable development. In December 2002, United Nations General Assembly  
106       proclaimed the ‘The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development’  
107       (DESD, 2005-2014), its aims were to reorient education policy, practice and investment  
108       to address sustainability, bringing world focus to the important issues of education for  
109       sustainable development ([UNESCO, 2022](#)).

110       On April 22, 2010, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) signed the American  
111       College and University Presidents’ Climate commitment (ACUPCC), amid increasing  
112       concerns for Climate Change. It premised the initiative for universities and colleges to

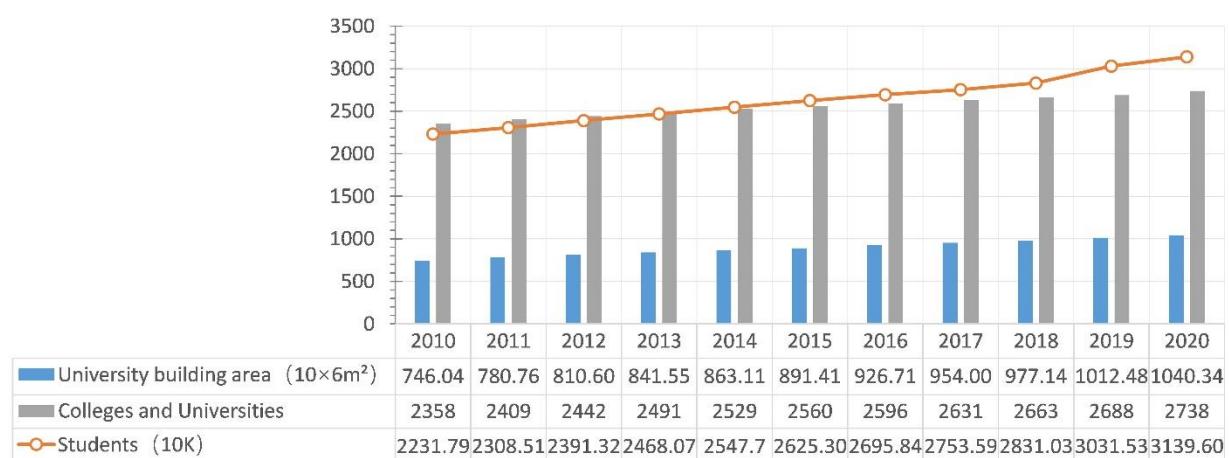
113 be carbon neutral before 2030, as ACUPCC implored universities to change direction  
114 for carbon emission, and was applied to approximately 400 colleges and universities  
115 which signed the agreement ([Denison, 2010](#)). In summary, ‘green school’ initially  
116 started outside of China from a sustainability concept. This developed into  
117 environmental education and from there it developed to include higher education,  
118 colleges and universities holding various conferences, and signed declarations which  
119 ultimately pushed colleges and universities into a sustainable campus direction.

120 In 1996, The Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection published the  
121 ‘National Action Plan’ for environmental publicity and education, demanding conduct  
122 of “Green School” activities throughout the country ([China, 1996](#)). In 1999, the Ministry  
123 published the ‘National Environmental Education and Promotion Plan for 2001-2005’,  
124 which proclaimed the ‘Green University’ ([China, 2001](#)). October 2009 Ministry of  
125 Housing and Urban-Rural Development published ‘Technical Guide for Colleges and  
126 Universities Building Energy Efficiency Supervision System’ ([China, 2009](#)) providing  
127 a guide for Chinese colleges and universities to establish ‘Conservation-Oriented  
128 Campuses’.

129 The Chinese government later published various guidelines and technical guides  
130 for building energy saving, ecological campus and more. Most recently, September 8,  
131 2021, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic  
132 of China (MOHURD) published the 'General standard for building energy conservation  
133 and renewable energy utilization'. It is the first mandatory standard in Chinese building  
134 history which requires all new and renovated buildings to meet the carbon emission  
135 reductions requirements (effective April 1, 2022) ([China, 2021](#)). The 'National

136 Assessment Standard' for 'Green Campus' (GB/T51356-2019) was officially launched  
137 in October 2019 ([Ministry Of Housing And Urban-Rural Development, 2019](#)). This  
138 standard was composed of five major parts, which are: 1. Planning and Ecology, 2.  
139 Energy and Resources, 3. Environment and Health, 4. Operation and Management, 5.  
140 Education and Spread. China's higher education campus construction developed from  
141 Energy-Saving Campus to Technical Standards and then to National Standards which  
142 concentrate mainly on 'Campus Energy Saving' ([Zhu et al., 2021](#)) ([Zhu and Dewancker,](#)  
143 [2021](#)), which ultimately led to the 'Green Campus' in China.

144 Although assessing a university's environmental impact is common, it is not  
145 common in Chinese colleges and universities to calculate the carbon footprint. This is  
146 mainly because there are few sustainable assessment tools for colleges and universities  
147 in China from the perspective of carbon emission evaluation. The assessment standard  
148 for the Green Campus in China included only a few points of the carbon assessment  
149 indicator which concentrated on-campus buildings, but the standards and technical  
150 guidelines were unable to measure and evaluate carbon emissions for the whole campus,  
151 which could not meet the current demand for creating a carbon-neutral campus.

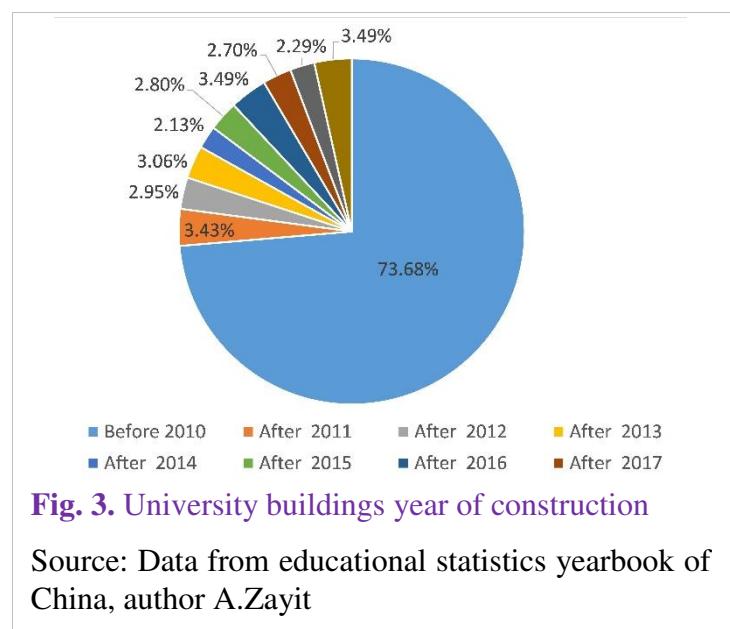


**Fig. 2 Statistics of colleges and universities in China, From 2010-2020**

Source: Data from educational statistics yearbook of China, author A.Zayit

152       The higher education sector in China has a higher population than that of any  
153       country in the world. By the end of 2019, there were 2688 colleges and universities,  
154       with over 30.31 million students enrolled in mainland China (**Fig. 2**). The education  
155       system includes Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral degrees, as well as non-degree  
156       programs, and is also open to foreign students.

157       Colleges and universities'  
158       building area built before 2010  
159       makes up 73.68% of total  
160       building area (**Fig. 3**), which  
161       means many campus buildings  
162       across China cannot meet  
163       “Green” building standards.  
164       Some of them have been  
165       renovated, although only a limited number.



**Fig. 3. University buildings year of construction**

Source: Data from educational statistics yearbook of China, author A.Zayit

166       On 17-18 April 2021, China Carbon Neutral University Campus Forum, was held  
167       in Tongji University in Shanghai, PRC. 44 colleges and universities across China joined  
168       the global and national ambition for carbon neutrality and signed the Declaration on  
169       Carbon Neutrality of Chinese Colleges and Universities by 2050 (**Development, 2021**).

170       This paper assesses the GHG emissions of the first university in modern Chinese  
171       history. Firstly, it assesses and analyzes major carbon emission sources of the Weijin  
172       Road (Old) Campus and the Peiyangyuan (New) campus of Tianjin University (**Fig. 4**),  
173       Tianjin, China by selecting electricity, natural gas (used for heating and cooking),  
174       transportation, waste generation, human activity, and tap water, as the target research.

175 These areas have been selected by other researchers, where they also calculate the  
176 carbon footprint of universities (Yazdani *et al.*, 2013, Ridhosari and Rahman, 2020).  
177 Secondly, this paper also attempts to explain how the calculations are carried out, and  
178 finally, comparing two campuses' carbon emission results with other universities around  
179 the world, giving an explanation and strategies to help develop and transform.

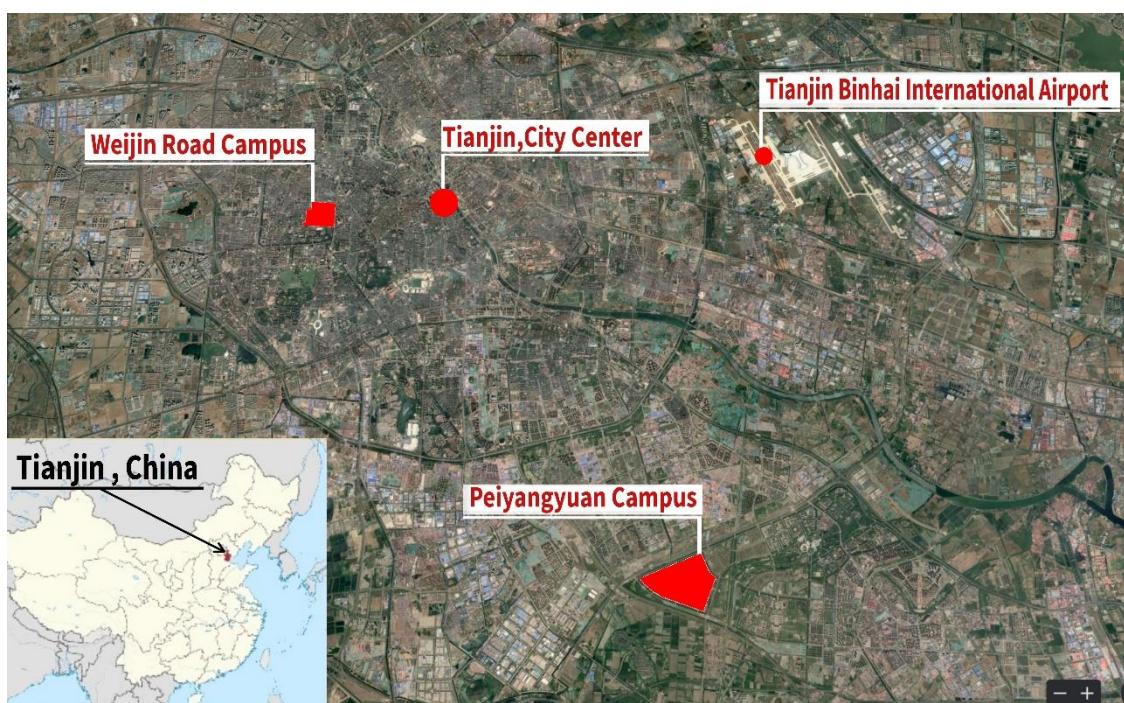


Fig. 4 Tianjin, China, and TJU two campuses relationship map, author A.Zayit

## 180 **2 Review of carbon footprinting of colleges and universities**

181 The first step for reducing GHG on campus is the calculation of carbon emissions  
182 that are emitted by campus activities, which is the basis for further development and  
183 implementation of carbon reduction strategies. To quantify carbon emission, the concept  
184 of carbon footprint emerged, with the carbon footprint concept coming from the  
185 ecological footprint. In 1990, Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees introduced the  
186 concept of Ecological Footprint' (Wackernagel and Rees, 1998), which according to the

187 ecological footprint is the carbon footprint as an area of the earth that needs to absorb  
188 emission produced by one person's whole life. Although many articles and research  
189 have been done regarding carbon footprint, until 2007, not everything was clear. In 2007,  
190 Thomas Wiedmann and Jan Minx provided clearer definitions of the carbon footprint  
191 and introduced the calculation method of CO<sub>2</sub>, which considers a full life-cycle approach  
192 ([Wiedmann and Minx, 2008](#)) and the ISO 14064 (Greenhouse Gas Validation and  
193 Verification <https://www.iso.org/iso-14064> ) standards which also uses life cycle  
194 assessment methods ([Sangwan et al., 2018](#)).

195 Calculating carbon emissions of university campuses is challenging, with the main  
196 obstacle being the lack of data for the calculations. Nunes, Catarino, Teixeria M R. put  
197 forward a framework for the inter-comparison of the ecological footprint of universities  
198 [J] entitled: ECOLOGICAL INDICATORS, but this method required repeated  
199 calculations with some inherent uncertainties ([Nunes et al., 2013](#)).

200 In the academic field, calculating the environmental impacts of a university started  
201 to consider beyond a single building and it began to emphasize operational stage  
202 calculations. For example, Aly Abdelalim calculated 45 educational buildings carbon  
203 emissions in Canadian universities ([Abdelalim et al., 2015](#)). Chia Chien Chang studied  
204 Nanyang Technological University's (NTU) 22 academic buildings, with a study  
205 showing that energy consumption in the operational stage is between 63% and 95%,  
206 while the remaining 5%-37% is from embodied energy. This suggested the necessity for  
207 expanding the research to the non-academic buildings to better understand overall  
208 campus' embodied carbon emissions, and it established a local database for major  
209 building materials to ensure higher accuracy for calculation of embodied energy([Chang](#)

210 *et al., 2019*), meaning that the operational stage made the most emissions.

211 Results from further studies also suggest that transportation and carbon  
212 sequestration of green plants also contribute a large part to carbon emissions, for  
213 example: the University of Talca's carbon emissions results show the transportation of  
214 people produced the highest contribution of 0.41 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person (*Yañez et al., 2020a*).  
215 The University Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) considered air transportation utilized by  
216 university students and employees contributed 34.74% and electricity usage contributed  
217 19.37% (*Naderipour et al., 2021*). Pusan National University campus carbon emissions  
218 calculated the movement of the campus' members which were 21.5% (*Jung et al., 2016*),  
219 and the University of 'Lille 1' calculated the mobility users as 56% (*Bouscayrol et al.,*  
220 *2017*).

221 Carbon absorption by vegetation also cannot be ignored. For example, studies show  
222 that the green belt in the SVNIT campus is absorbing 76.92 to 84.63% of CO<sub>2</sub> emission  
223 annually (*Suresh et al., 2021*), Shandong Jianzhu University carbon sequestration of  
224 green spaces in 2015 was 11936 tonnes, which was equal to about 34.7% of the total  
225 carbon emissions (*ZOURan, 2017*).

226 In summary, studies have shown that campus carbon accounting emphasizes both  
227 special and temporal circumstances.

228 (1) Quantifying campus carbon footprint should emphasize the whole campus. It is  
229 necessary to move the carbon neutrality calculations beyond campus buildings and this  
230 should include buildings, mobility, carbon sequestration, and carbon reduction as a  
231 result of renewable resources.

232 (2) Studies related to the carbon emissions calculations of campuses mostly

233 emphasize the operational stage of a university campus.  
234 (3) In the selection of carbon accounting objectives, due to their high percentages,  
235 studies have suggested including the importance of calculating carbon emission of  
236 mobility and the sequestration of green plants on campus (Bouscayrol et al., 2017,  
237 Suresh et al., 2021, ZOURan, 2017).

### 238 **3 Study area and methodology of work**

#### 239 **3.1 Case Study: Tianjin University**

240 Tianjin University (TJU) was founded in 1895 as Peiyang University and is the  
241 first university in modern (1840-1919) Chinese history. In 1951, Peiyang University and  
242 Hebei Technical College combined under the name of TJU. The University has 3  
243 campuses, and this research aims to calculate the carbon emission of TJU Weijin Road  
244 Campus (old campus) and Peiyangyuan Campus (new campus). The total numbers of  
245 domestic and foreign students, academic staff, and non-academic staff can be seen in

246 **Table 1.**

247 **Table 1** TJU'S Weijin Road and Peiyangyuan Campus's characteristics in 2019

	Weijin Road Campus	Peiyangyuan Campus	Total
Academic staff	2569	2500	5069
Undergraduates	10004	9784	19788
Postgraduates	8247	9080	17327
Foreign students	1243	824	2067
Non-academic staff	300	300	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>22363</b>	<b>22488</b>	<b>44851</b>

248 **Source:** TJU Office of Student Affairs & Office of Human Resources

#### 249 **3.1.1 Study area configuration**

250 TJU Weijin Road campus enclosed areas is 1,362,000 m<sup>2</sup>. TJU Peiyangyuan  
251 campus enclosed areas is 2,436,000m<sup>2</sup> (University, 2020a) . Weijin Road Campus is

252 divided into two parts, Part A is the main campus area and it has three entry gates each  
253 marked with a number in the figure. Part B is the old and extended parts of TJU Weijin  
254 Road Campus and no longer part of the university, and therefore it can be excluded as  
255 it doesn't have any energy relationship with the study area (Fig. 5).

256 The object of this study is to include all the buildings and facilities (including  
257 teaching buildings, laboratories, libraries, logistics, all canteens, etc.) under the control  
258 of TJU, and all the carbon emissions and activities relating to the daily life of the two  
259 campuses. The research area includes a campus area illustrated below, which also has  
260 No.42 dormitory building that is used for guest accommodation, but due to the  
261 complexity of statistics for visitors, this study will not include the No.42 dormitory  
262 building.

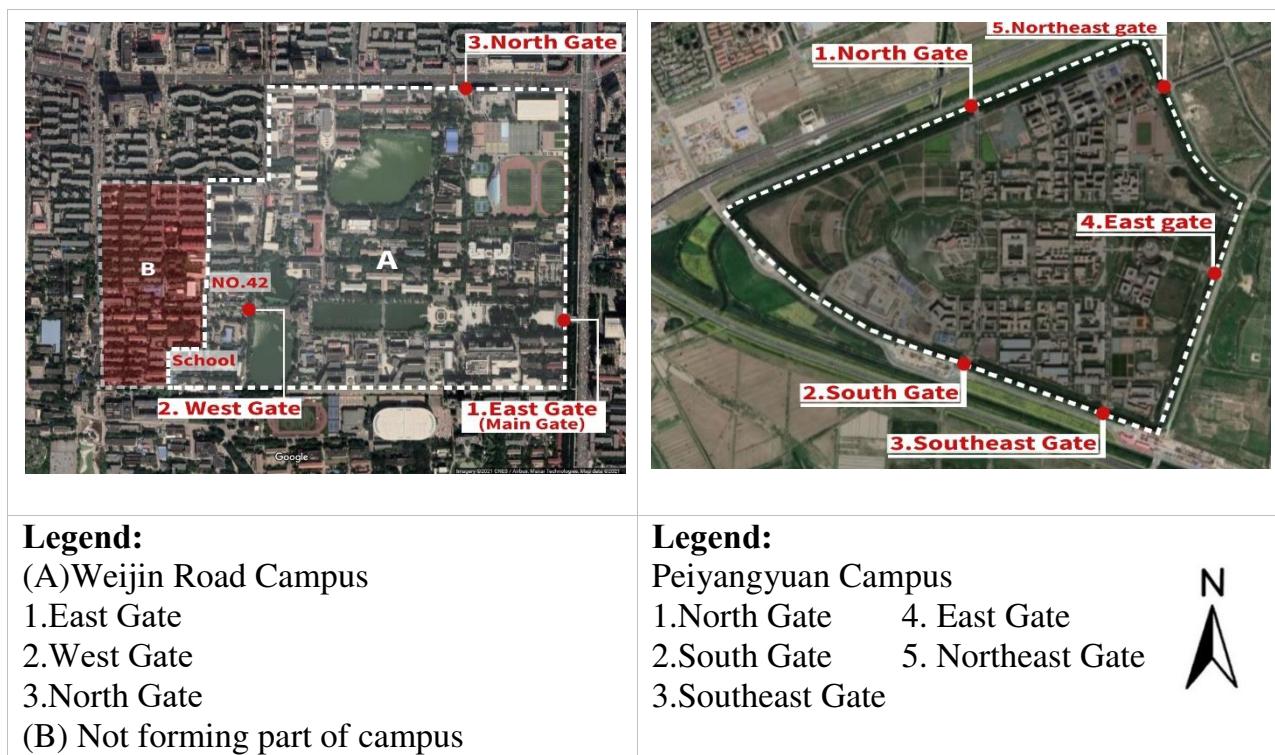


Fig. 5 TJU'S Weijin Road and Peiyangyuan Campus's study area

263 **3.1.2 Scope and phases considered**

264 Many universities around the world have considered the carbon footprint of the

265 mobility of students and staff from outside the campus area where its impact is normally  
266 lower than that of electricity ([Helmers et al., 2021](#)). The situation in China is not the  
267 same and is impractical to calculate due to the very high number of students and staff.  
268 Students and staff at TJU travel from various parts of China, and they have various  
269 modes of transport, making it difficult to predict or anticipate when and where mobility  
270 occurred. Some studies have suggested questionnaire-based calculations for the mobility  
271 of students and staff ([Helmers et al., 2021](#)), but due to the long distances covered and  
272 the mobility situation in China, ‘questionnaires’ for the thousand (two campuses with  
273 a combined population of approximately 45000 people in total) were beyond the scope  
274 of this study - but an estimate would be sufficient rather than attaining precise and  
275 reliable travel statistics from outside the campus.

276 The carbon footprint of a university should be intrinsically focused on emissions  
277 caused by activities within the campus, rather than the mobility of students and staff  
278 occurring outside of the campus boundary which cannot be controlled by the university.  
279 It is also supported by Isiaka Adeyemi Abdul-Azeez, who pointed out in his research  
280 that carbon emission assessment should be focused on the sources which a university  
281 authority has control over where carbon emission strategies could be applied ([Adeyemi,](#)  
282 [2018](#)).

283 In this regard, this research considers electricity, natural gas (heating and canteen  
284 cooking), and mobility of cars within the campus, solid waste generation, tap water, and  
285 human activity are each quantified for carbon emission accounting. Data was collected  
286 to quantify the ‘operational stage’ of GHG emissions of the two campuses in 2019.

287      **3.2 Selection of Carbon footprinting accounting method**

288      There are several standards for quantifying greenhouse gas emissions; IPCC, GHG  
289      Protocol, PAS2050, and ISO14064. IPCC is mainly for countries around the world to  
290      assess their carbon emission inventories and calculation methods. Countries make their  
291      reports and submit to the UN about the emission status and plans of reduction (*Arndt et*  
292      *al., 2020*). GHG Protocol is established by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the  
293      World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) (*WRI, 2004*),  
294      PAS2050 is established by the British Standards Institution (BSI) (García and Freire,  
295      2014). These two carbon emission systems are mainly for quantifying product and  
296      product-related services. ISO14064 is established by the International Organization for  
297      Standardization (ISO), which is a standard to calculate Greenhouse Gas emissions and  
298      Carbon Footprints (*Wintergreen and Delaney, 2007*).

299      As discussed earlier, PAS 2050 is mainly for products and their service and is not  
300      suitable for colleges and universities carbon emission calculations. IPCC is the most  
301      recognized carbon emission calculation standard at a national level, however, it is not  
302      suitable for China's present energy structure status and development.

303      Quantification of GHG emission methods vary among universities, some use ISO  
304      14064 standards and some universities around the world use a corporate accounting and  
305      reporting standard - GHG Protocol (*WBCSD, 2004*), but of this study, we established a  
306      carbon footprint calculation method, using both IPCC, ISO14064 and officially  
307      authenticated documents, standards, and regulations relevant to China. IPCC sets the  
308      target of carbon emission, the carbon absorption ISO14064 method, categorizing carbon  
309      emission sources, and finally, China's national standard 'General rules' have been

310 applied for calculating the comprehensive energy consumption, GB/T 2589-2020  
311 ([Information, 2020](#)), ‘Provincial Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Inventories(PGGGI)’  
312 ([Development, 2011](#)), ‘China's Regional State Grid Average Carbon Dioxide Emission  
313 Factor for 2011-2012’ ([China, 2014](#)) were used to select the coefficients and form  
314 carbon accounting methods which are most suitable for Tianjin city regions of China.

315 Calculation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, equal to the energy consumption and coefficient;

$$316 \quad E = \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n A_{D_i} \times E_i$$

317 Where E represents CO<sub>2</sub> emission due to energy consumption. i represents the  
318 corresponding energy coefficient, and E<sub>i</sub> is the emission factor.

## 319 **4 Carbon emissions accounting**

### 320 **4.1 University campus carbon emissions inventory**

321 [Fig. 6](#) identifies the carbon emissions inventory which can be classified based on  
322 the emission source. The most important source is the emission from the campus  
323 buildings. Carbon emissions of buildings are composed of: the product stage,  
324 construction stage, operational stage, and the end of the life, or recycling stage. The  
325 carbon emission from the ‘use’ stage is mainly from its operational stage, where we  
326 conducted carbon emissions calculations in our research.

327 The second source of emissions is mobility. A campus can be considered as a small  
328 city, where people move regularly across the two sites as well as different logistic  
329 vehicles which provide services. Based on the users, mobility can be divided into four  
330 main parts: support staff and teaching staff, students, visitors from outside and logistics.

331 The third source of emissions is campus life activities generating high levels of  
332 carbon emissions. The most carbon emissions can be observed from waste generation

333 and people breathing inside the campus. The other factors are food and water usage  
334 inside the campus. Out of these emissions, food, waste and water could be controlled or  
335 managed more effectively. The carbon emission from people breathing inside the  
336 campus cannot be controlled, instead this could be replaced by carbon sequestration  
337 using more plantations.

338 In summary, the campus carbon emission inventory diagram can be used as a guide  
339 for calculating both campuses' carbon emissions. In this study, we calculated carbon  
340 emissions through their operational stage. In later sections of this paper we will examine  
341 embodied carbon, and the operational platform which will monitor, review, estimate,  
342 and most importantly, demonstrate - the carbon reduction paths for colleges and  
343 universities.

## 4.2 Campus carbon emissions inventory diagram

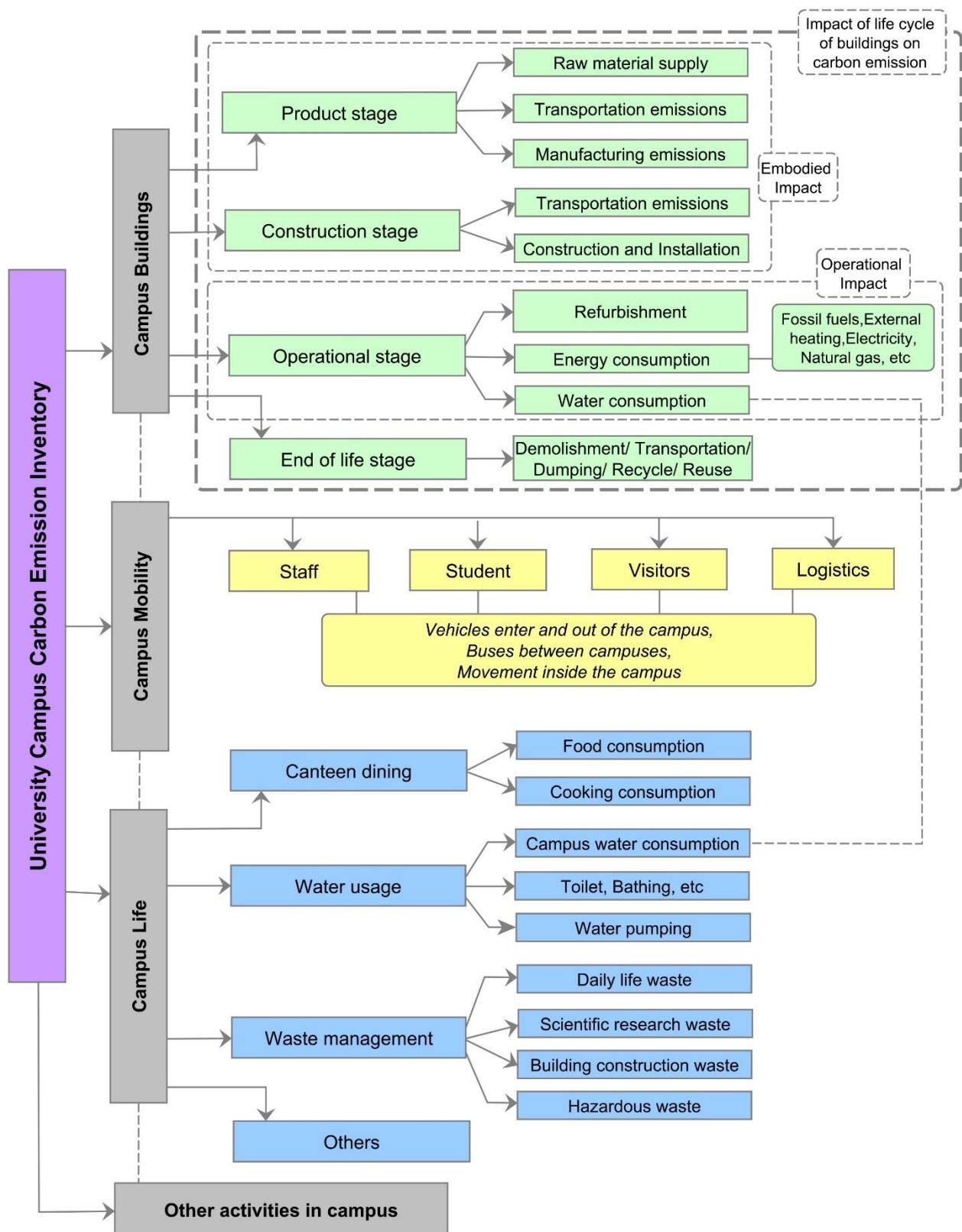


Fig. 6 Campus carbon emissions source system and classification

345    **4.3 Carbon emission accounting of Tianjin University**

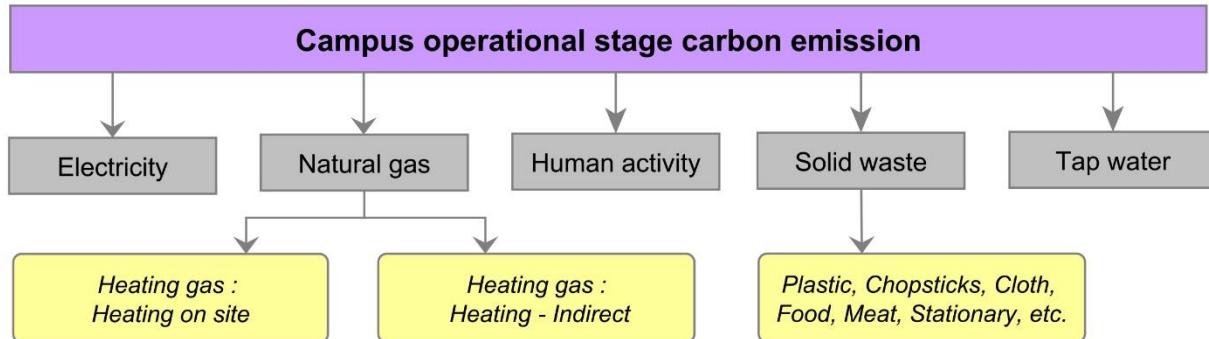


Fig. 7 Campus carbon emission calculation model based on the operational stage

346    **4.4 Carbon emissions of electricity usage**

347       The arithmetic terms of calculation are the following:

348

$$E_{electricity} = \sum_{i=1}^n S_i \times I_{electricity}$$

349       Where,  $S_i$  is the electricity consumed by  $i$  buildings (KWh),  $i$  represents the  
350       number of buildings.  $I_{electricity}$  emission factor (kgCO<sub>2</sub>/KWh).

351       The electricity used in both campuses is from the China State Grid, according to  
352       China's Regional State Grid average carbon dioxide emission factor for 2011-2012,  
353       published by the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's  
354       Republic of China, Tianjin belongs to the North China Branch of the State Grid. The  
355       standard emission factor for electricity is given as  $I_{electricity}=0.8843\text{kgCO}_2/\text{kWh}$  (China,  
356       2014). There is no official data available for the standard emission factor for Tianjin in  
357       2019, although the most recent research, published by academician Jiang yi, pointed out  
358       that the national average electricity carbon emission factor for 2019 is:  $I_{electricity}=0.577$   
359       kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kwh (Yi and Shan, 2021). So for this purpose, we use the average electricity  
360       carbon emission factor of China in 2019.

361        Thus, the total carbon emission of Weijin Road Campus from electricity:

362        = 35729.77 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

363        And, the total carbon emission of Peiyangyuan Campus from electricity:

364        = 38274.03 tonnesCO<sub>2</sub>

365        **Table 2 Carbon emissions of TJU's two campuses from electricity usage**

Campus	CO <sub>2</sub> emission of electricity usage
Weijin Road Campus	35729.77 tonnes
Peiyangyuan Campus	38274.03 tonnes

366        **4.5 Carbon emission by natural gas (consumption during heating)**

367        Natural gas data for the Weijin Road Campus is used for combustion engines and  
368        gas-fired boilers for heating Teaching Buildings No.25 and partially for the Student  
369        Dormitory. In 2019, the total amount of natural gas consumed inside the campus is  
370        158200m<sup>3</sup> (per annum).

371        Heating for the majority of buildings within Weijin Road campus is provided by  
372        the city municipality, using natural gas. Heating in Peiyangyuan campus is from heating  
373        appliances also using natural gas.

374        The arithmetic term of calculation is the following:

$$375 \quad E_{natural\ gas} = \sum_{i=1}^n S_i \times I_{natural\ gas}$$

376        Where, S<sub>i</sub> natural gas used in No. i building (m<sup>3</sup>)

377        I<sub>natural gas</sub> is the carbon emission caused by burning 1 m<sup>3</sup> natural gas,

378        Natural gas measured (Tianjin area) has a calorific value of 33,486.8144KJ/m<sup>3</sup>. Carbon  
379        content per unit of calorific value is 15.32 TC/TJ and carbon oxidation rate is 0.99

380 (2021), so the standard emission factor for natural gas is:

381  $I_{natural\ gas} = (1 \times 33,486.8144\ KJ/m^3 \times 15.32\ TC/TJ \times 0.99 \times 44/12)/1000000 =$

382  $1.862321\ kgCO_2/m^3.$

383 Thus, the total carbon emission Weijin Road Campus from natural gas (for heating):

384  $= 12060.76\ tonnes\ (per\ annum)$

385 The total carbon emission for Peiyangyuan Campus from natural gas:

386  $= 6402.47\ tonnes\ (per\ annum)$

387 **Table 3 Carbon emission of TJU's two campuses from natural gas usage**

Campus	CO <sub>2</sub> emission of natural gas usage
Weijin Road Campus	12060.76 tonnes
Peiyangyuan Campus	6402.47 tonnes

388 **4.6 Carbon emissions from mobility**

389 The mobility of vehicles within TJU is complex, as the area of the university is  
390 large, densely populated, and generally very busy at peak times. To overcome this  
391 problem an average travelling distance inside the university was calculated based upon  
392 the entry points and parking bay locations. The travelling distance to each parking bay  
393 was calculated with the aid of Google Maps to measure optimum travel distances.  
394 Distances were carefully plotted and the average of these distances were assimilated.  
395 Entry points and parking bays for the TJU Weijin Road Campus are shown in **Fig. 8**.  
396 Weijin Road Campus has three main entry gates which are called East Gate, West Gate,  
397 and North Gate. All vehicles are allowed to enter from these gates.  
398 The distance from each entry point to the most used parking bays is shown in  
399 Table **Appendix A**. It was observed from this calculation that the average travelling

400 distance of any vehicle inside the Weijin Road campus is 1.594 km.

401 The entry points and parking bays for the TJU Peiyangyuan Campus are shown in  
402 [Fig. 9](#). It was observed from this calculation that the average travelling distance of any  
403 vehicle inside the Peiyangyuan Campus is 2.720 km ([Appendix B](#)).

404 Data regarding vehicles entering and exiting the university campus was obtained  
405 from the Security Department of Weijin Road and Peiyangyuan Campus. Weijin Road  
406 campus during 2019 had a total count of cars entering and exiting amounting to 92964,  
407 whereas Peiyangyuan campus had 860359 cars entering and exiting the campus.

408 Overall average distance travelled inside the campus:

409 Weijin Road Campus:  $D = 929641 \div 2 \times 1.594\text{km} = 740923.9\text{km}$

410 Peiyangyuan Campus:  $D = 860359 \div 2 \times 2.720\text{km} = 1170088\text{km}$

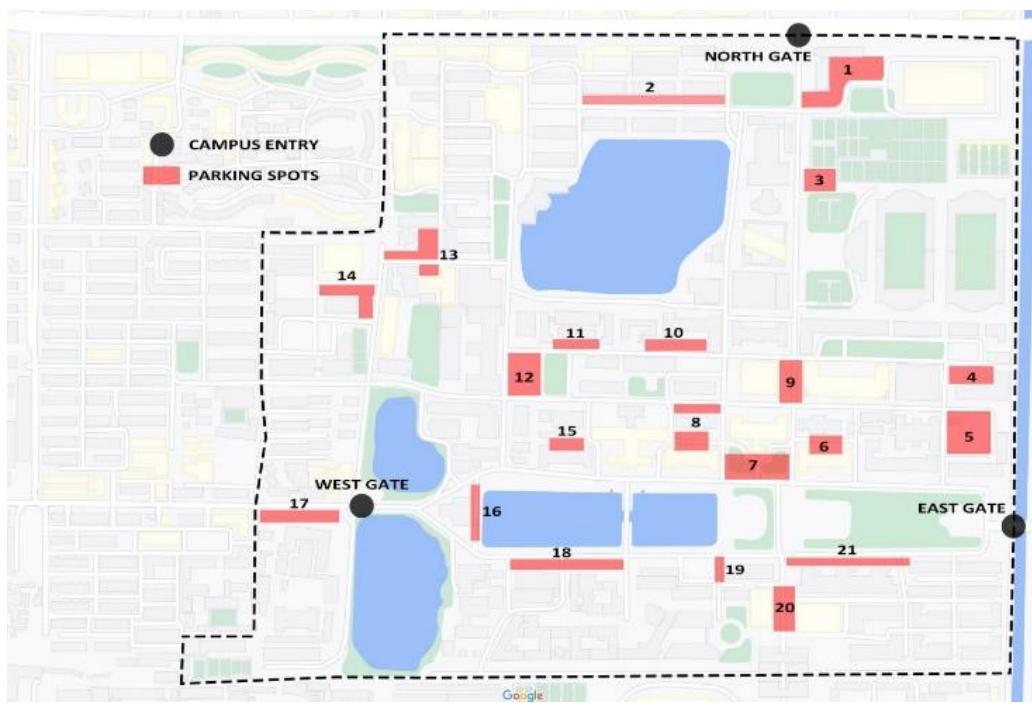
411 The arithmetic term of CF calculation of transportation is the following:

$$412 E_{transportation} = \sum_{i=1}^n D_y \times Q_{fuel\ consumption} \times I_{fuel\ consumption} \div 100$$

413 Where:  $E_{transportation}$  is carbon emission,  $D_y$  a car travel distance over a year (km/d.  
414 per car),  $Q_{fuel\ consumption}$  (fuel consumption/100 km),  $I_{fuel\ consumption}$  is the carbon  
415 dioxide emission coefficient of energy (kgCO<sub>2</sub>/kg), and i is the energy consumed.

416 According to the ‘Automobile Enterprises Corporation’, the average fuel  
417 consumption published by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the  
418 People’s Republic of China, the corporate average fuel consumption is 5.56L/100km  
419 ([China, 2020](#)).

420 The standard emission factor for diesel oil is given as  $I_{Diesel\ oil}=3.096\text{kgCO}_2/\text{kg}$ ,  
421 one liter of diesel is 0.9kg on average ([2021](#)).



**Fig. 8.** Entry, exit and parking spots inside the Weijin Road Campus

422      **Weijin Road Campus:**

423       $E_{transportation} = 740923.9 \text{ km} \times (5.56 \times 0.9 \text{ kg}) / 100 \text{ km} \times 3.096 \text{ kg CO}_2/\text{kg} = 114.79$

424      tonnes (per annum)

425      **Peiyangyuan Campus:**

426       $E_{transportation} = 1170088 \text{ km} \times (5.56 \times 0.9 \text{ kg}) / 100 \text{ km} \times 3.096 \text{ kg CO}_2/\text{kg} \div 100 =$

427      181.27 tonnes (per annum)

428      Table 4 Annual vehicles entering and exiting the campus, Note: Data obtained from the Security  
429      Department of Weijin Road and Peiyangyuan Campus.

430

Campus	Total count of vehicles enter and exit	CO <sub>2</sub> emission of the vehicle
Weijin Road Campus	929641	114.79 tonnes
Peiyangyuan Campus	860359	181.27 tonnes

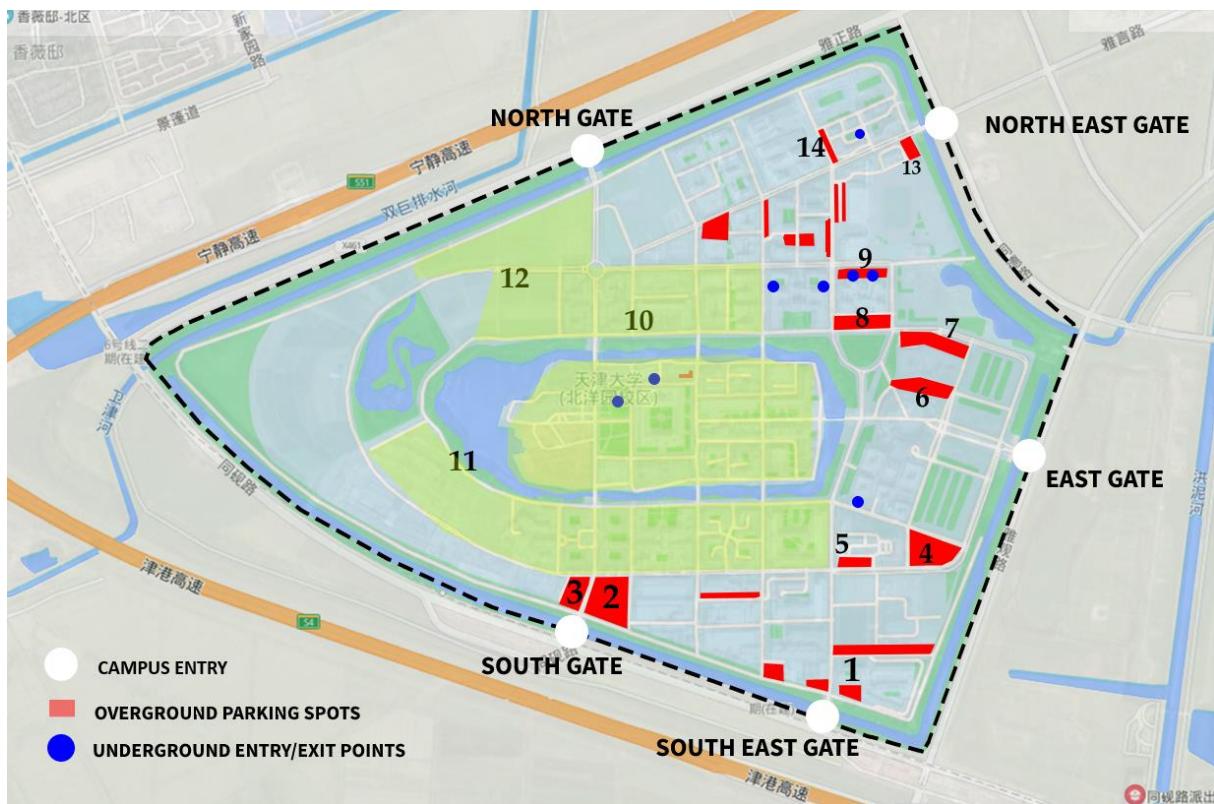


Fig. 9 Entry, exit and parking spots inside the Peiyangyuan Campus

#### 431    4.7 Carbon emission by solid waste generation

432       Solid waste treatment in the Tianjin campus is by incineration. According to IPCC  
433       CO<sub>2</sub> emission of the total amount of waste combusted can be calculated by the equation:

$$434 \quad \text{CO}_2 \text{ Emissions} = \text{MSW} \times \sum_{i=1} (WF_i \times dm_i \times CF_i \times FCF_i \times OF_i) \times 44/12$$

435       **Where:** CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions in inventory year, tonnes/per annum;  
436       MSW: the total amount of municipal solid waste as wet weight incinerated or  
437       open burned, tonnes/per annum,  
438       WF<sub>j</sub>: fraction of carbon in the dry matter (total carbon content),  
439       dm<sub>j</sub>: dry matter content in the component i of the MSW incinerated or open-  
440       burned, (fraction)  
441       CF<sub>j</sub>: fraction of carbon in the dry matter

442 FCF<sub>j</sub>; fraction of waste type/material of component i in the MSW( as wet weight  
443 incinerated or open-burned)

444 OF<sub>j</sub>; oxidation factor, (fraction)

445 44/12: conversion factor from C to CO<sub>2</sub>

446 i: component of the MSW incinerated/open-burned (IPCC, 2016);

447 CF<sub>j</sub>=20%; FCF<sub>j</sub>=39%;OF<sub>j</sub>=95% (Commission, 2013) (Zhao *et al.*, 1762)

448 During the 2019 academic year at TJU there were 292 school days and 73 days for  
449 winter and summer vacations (University, 2019), Vacations are calculated at 1/4 of  
450 waste generated.

451 Peiyangyuan Campus waste generation per day is about 35 tonnes (after  
452 dehydration). Therefore, the total waste during the year = during school day + during  
453 vacation  $(292 \times 35t) + (73 \times 35 \times 1/4) = 10858.75$  tonnes.

454 Therefore total MSW<sub>peiyangyuan</sub> = 10858.75 tonnes.

455 **Peiyangyuan Campus:** CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from solid waste= $10858.75 \times 0.20 \times 0.39$   
456  $\times 0.95 \times 44/12 = 2950.32$  tonnes.

457 Weijin Road campus solid waste is managed by the Tianjin City Municipality and  
458 it is not clear how much waste is generated on campus each day or per annum. An  
459 average per capita solid waste generation for Peiyangyuan Campus was estimated and  
460 used to calculate the Weijin Road Campus carbon emission from solid waste.

461 Total waste generated during the year in Weijin Road campus = (Total waste in  
462 Peiyangyuan Campus/Total population in Peiyangyuan)  $\times$  Total population in Weijin  
463 Road Campus =  $(10858.75/22488) \times 22363=10798.39$  tonnes.

464       **Weijin Road Campus:** CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from solid waste= 10798.39 × 0.95 × 0.20

465       × 0.39 × 44/12 = 2933.92 tonnes.

466       **4.8 Faculties and students' daily life consumption**

467       The emission caused by faculties, students, and other nonacademic staff on campus  
468       is difficult to assess, so approximate values were derived from similar situations. The  
469       most recent study on carbon emission caused by human activity is from Peking  
470       University. In this study, it was estimated that daily consumption of plastic, chopsticks,  
471       cloth, food, meat, buying a book, and paper, etc. created an average of 0.53 tonnes/per  
472       person per annum, so during the academic year of 292 days, the average was 0.39  
473       tonnes/per person per academic year ([Y Zheng, 2011](#)).

474        $E_{daily\ life} = C_{DAY} \times R \times t$

475       Where, C<sub>i</sub> per capita carbon emission per day, R total population of campus, t  
476       number of days for calculation.

477       Weijin Road Campus = 6977.26 tonnes;

478       Peiyangyuan Campus = 7016.26 tonnes

479       **Table 5 Carbon emission of TJU's two campuses from human activity**

Campus	Total population	CO <sub>2</sub> emission of human activity
Weijin Road Campus	22363	6977.26 tonnes
Peiyangyuan Campus	22488	7016.26 tonnes

480       **4.9 Carbon emission by tap water**

481       The arithmetic term of Carbon footprint calculation of tap water is the following:

482        $E_{water} = \sum_{i=1}^n S_i \times I_{water}$

483 Where  $S_i$  is water used by i buildings ( $m^3$ ), i represents the number of buildings.

484  $I_{water}$  emission factor ( $kgCO_2/m^3$ )

485 Tap water consumption is considered with a conversion factor of  $0.194kgCO_2/m^3$

486 (Com, 2015).

487 **Weijin Road Campus:**  $E_{water} = 356.18$  tonnes

488 **Peiyangyuan Campus:**  $E_{water} = 389.40$  tonnes

489 **Table 6** Carbon emission caused by using tap water for consumption

Campus	CO <sub>2</sub> emission of tap water usage
Weijin Road Campus	356.18 tonnes
Peiyangyuan Campus	389.40 tonnes

490 **4.10 Total Carbon emission**

491 The total Weijin Road Campus emission for 2019

492 **E(Total) = E(electricity) + E(natural gas) + E(transportation) + E(solid waste) + E(tap**  
493 **water) + E(human activity)**

494 **Table 7** TJU Weijin Road Campus - Fiscal Year 2019 emissions and percentages

Item	Emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> )	Percentage %
Purchased electricity	35729.77	61.42
Natural gas for heating	12060.76	20.73
Human activity	6977.26	11.99
Solid waste	2933.92	5.04
Tap water	356.18	0.61
Transportation	114.79	0.20
<b>Total Carbon emission</b>	<b>58172.68</b>	<b>100%</b>

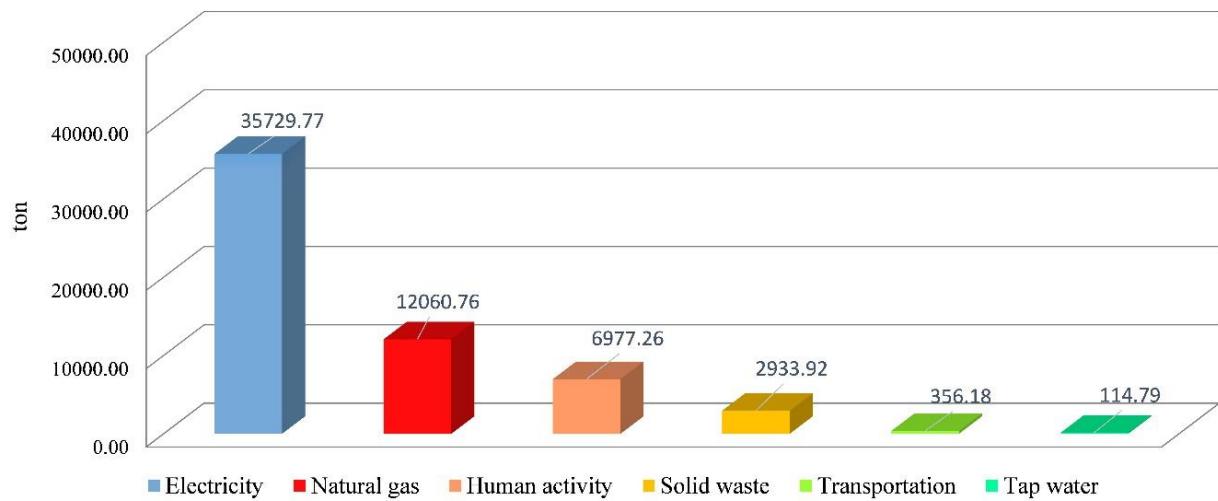


Fig. 11 Carbon footprint by source at Weijin Road Campus

495

**Table 8** TJU Peiyangyuan Campus's– the Fiscal Year 2019 emissions and percentages

Item	Emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> )	Percentage %
Purchased electricity	38274.03	69.32
Natural gas for heating	6402.47	11.60
Human activity	7016.26	12.71
Solid waste	2950.32	5.34
Tap water	389.40	0.71
Transportation	181.27	0.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>55213.75</b>	<b>100%</b>

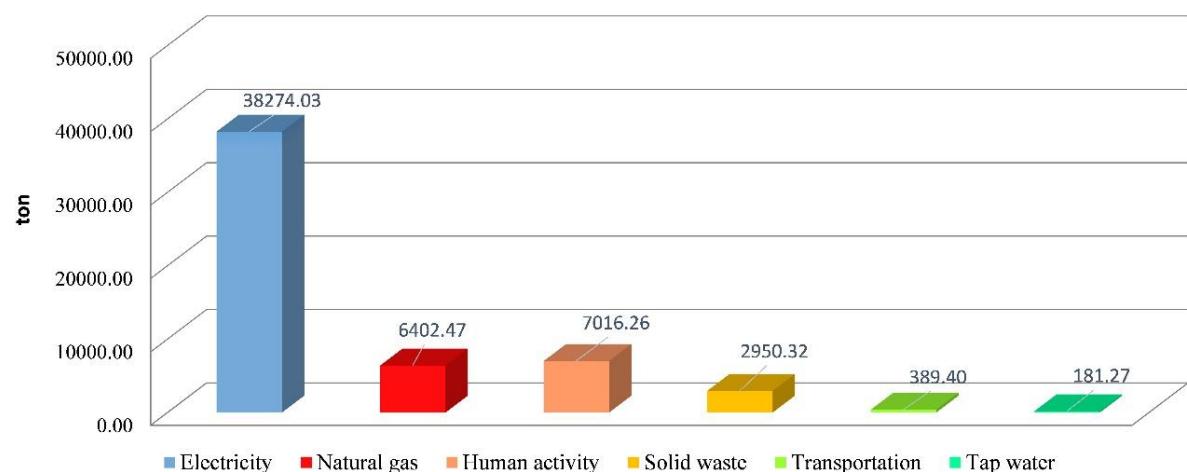


Fig. 10 Carbon footprint by source at Peiyangyuan Campus

496      **4.11 Total carbon sequestered amount by trees and green areas**

497      The intensity of green plant photosynthesis and the plant's leaf area is critical for  
498      carbon sequestration. To account for the carbon sequestration of green plants on campus,  
499      the green-lands type structure on campus is divided into four types: tree-shrub-herb type,  
500      shrub-herb type, lawn type, and grassland.

501      The arithmetic term of carbon sequestration amount is the following:

502      
$$C_{\text{sequestration}} = \sum_{i=1}^n T_i \times S_i \times D$$

503      Where  $T_i$  is  $i$  are green-lands with daily carbon sequestration ( $\text{g} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ )

504       $S_i$  and  $i$  area green-lands area ( $\text{m}^2$ ); D number of days for calculation, generally D=365.

505      **Weijin Road Campus:** the lawn area is approximately  $153700\text{m}^2$  and there are  
506      15,000 trees and shrubs.

507       $C_{\text{lawn}} = 153700\text{m}^2 \times 55.42\text{g} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1} \times 365 = 3109.09 \text{ tonnes}$

508      The available published report regarding Weijin Road campus's carbon  
509      sequestration suggests that  $1,950\text{m}^2$ area with 50 tree-shrub-herb types or shrub-herb,  
510      have total average carbon sequestration of approximately 27.16 tonnes (Garden, 2021);

511       $C_{\text{trees and bush}} = (\text{Total tree - shrub - herb type shrub - herb})/\text{unite carbon sample area}$   
512      total tree-shrub-herb  $\times 27.16 \text{ tonnes} = 8148.25 \text{ tonnes}$

513      Therefore, the total carbon sequestration of the Weijin Road Campus is:

514       $C_{\text{lawn}} + C_{\text{trees and bushes}} = 11257.34 \text{ tonnes}$

515      **Peiyangyuan Campus:** the lawn area is about  $808,750\text{m}^2$ , there are 110 types of  
516      trees making a total of 59,740 trees inside the campus.

517       $C_{\text{lawn}} = (808,750\text{m}^2/2 \times 55.42\text{g} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1} \times 365) + (808,750\text{m}^2/2 \times 23.38\text{g} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1} \times 365) = 11257.34 \text{ tonnes}$

518  $2 \cdot d-1 \times 365) = 11630.63$  tonnes

519  $C_{\text{trees and bushes}} = (\text{Total tree-shrub-herb type shrub-herb})/\text{Unite carbon sample area}$

520  $\text{total tree-shrub-herb} \times 27.16/2$  tonnes = 16225.88 tonnes

521 The total carbon sequestration of Peiyangyuan Campus is:  $C_{\text{lawn}} + C_{\text{trees and bushes}} =$   
522 27856.51 tonnes.

523 **Table 9** Different kinds of green-lands and types of plant structure per unit area for  
524 daily carbon sequestration amount ( $\text{g} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ) (GUO Xinxiang, 2010)

Type	tree	bush	lawn	Total
tree-shrub-herb type	35.67	20.95	23.38	79.99
shrub-herb	15.29	33.52	23.38	72.18
lawn	15.29	16.67	23.38	55.42
grassland	0.00	0.00	23.38	23.38

525 **4.12 Carbon emissions reduction by renewable energy**

526 **4.12.1 Solar water heater**

527 Weijin Road Campus has no renewable energy at the moment, whereas, on  
528 Peiyangyuan Campus there are solar water heaters, ground source heat pumps and air  
529 source heat pumps in use.

530 According to the design specification, Peiyangyuan Campus solar water heater  
531 system's design terms are: water temperature should be considered 60°C, and the winter  
532 temperature of tap water set at 10°C. Total water consumed during 2019 at 3387.20  
533 tonnes = (11.69 tons per day  $\times$  292 school day), with solar fraction factor being 60%.

534 Total heat absorbed:  $Q = C_p m \Delta T = 4.18 \times 3387200 \times (60 - 10) = 0.71 \times 10^{12} \text{J}$ .

535 Where: Q is heat absorbed,  $C_p$  is the specific heat capacity of liquid water  
536 ( $C_p=4.18 \text{KJ/kg} \cdot ^\circ\text{C}$ ), m is mass of water,  $\Delta T$  is the change in temperature, defined as

537 the difference between the final temperature and the initial temperature.

538 
$$Q' = Q \times 60\% = 0.71 \times 10^{12} \text{J} \times 60\% = 0.43 \times 10^{12} \text{J}$$

539 Carbon emission coefficient of standard coal 94.60t/TJ, and the efficiency of  $\eta$   
540 boiler=80%. So the amount of carbon reduction by the solar water heater, BE=  $(0.43 \times$   
541  $10^{12} \div 80\%) \times 94.60 \text{t/TJ} \times 10^{-12} = 50.85 \text{ tonnes}$

542 Therefore, the total avoided greenhouse gas emission due to using a solar water  
543 heater system is 50.85 tonnes.

#### 544 **4.13 Carbon neutrality assessment**

545  $E_{\text{net}} = E(\text{total}) - E(\text{sequestered}) - \text{carbon reduction by renewable energy}$

546 **Table 10 Carbon neutrality assessment**

Campus	Total carbon emission (tonnes)	Total carbon Sequester (tonnes)	Carbon reduction by renewable energy (tonnes)	Net carbon emission (tonnes)
Weijin Road Campus	58172.68	11257.34	—	46915.34
Peiyangyuan Campus	55213.75	27856.51	50.85	27357.23

## 547 **5 Results comparison analysis**

### 548 **5.1 Comparison of the two campuses**

549 According to the 2019 inventory, Tianjin University's two campuses emitted  
550 113,386.42 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. Fig. 10 shows that, at Tianjin  
551 University's both campuses, electricity was the greatest source of emission, producing  
552 65.27 % of total carbon emission followed by natural gas for heating, producing 16.28%,  
553 human activity producing 12.34%, solid waste generation producing 5.19%, tap water  
554 and transportation producing 0.66% and 0.26% respectively (Fig. 12).

555 **Table 11 Carbon emission by sector**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Emissions ( tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
Purchased electricity	74003.80	65.27
Natural gas for heating	18463.23	16.28
Human activity	13993.51	12.34
Solid waste	5884.25	5.19
Tap water	745.58	0.66
Transportation	296.06	0.26
<b>Total Carbon emission</b>	<b>113386.42</b>	<b>100.00</b>

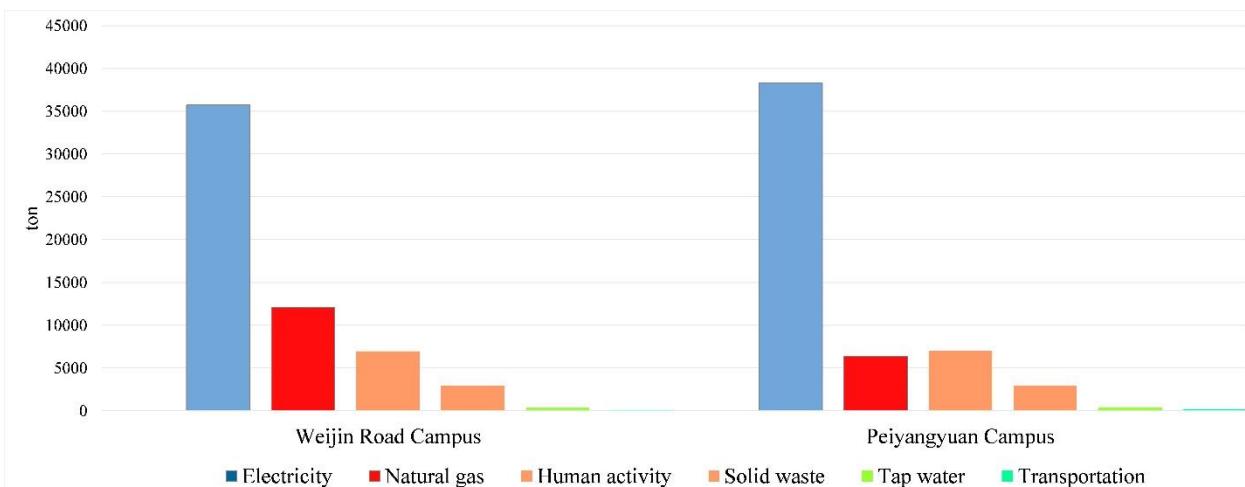


Fig. 12. Carbon emissions percentage by sector

556 Results show that the campus's emissions are mostly concentrated on a daily  
 557 'operational stage'. Most of the energy use is heating related to the winter season,  
 558 followed by air conditioning, lighting, and canteen cooking, affecting CO<sub>2</sub> campus  
 559 emissions. The majority of energy consumed on both campuses is electricity, and natural  
 560 gas, constituting 81.55% (Fig. 13) of total carbon emission with electricity usage being  
 561 highest on both campuses. The main difference in carbon emissions is natural gas usage.  
 562 Weijin Road Campus uses heat provided by the Municipal Corporation of Tianjin,  
 563 whereas Peiyangyuan Campus produces heating on its own. Carbon emissions from

564 transportation in both campuses are very low and this could be reduced in the future by  
565 using electric vehicles. The most important factor to be considered in reducing carbon  
566 emissions is the reduction of national grid electricity and natural gas usage. These two  
567 energy sources are indirectly related and both could change through improvements and  
568 renovations to all buildings with a view to upgrading heating, lighting, and ventilation  
569 equipment and appliances that require less energy input. A carbon emission reduction  
570 program should begin as soon as possible to ensure the best overall outcome.

## 571 **5.2 General comparison with other campuses around the world**

572 This section outlines the comparison between carbon emissions from different

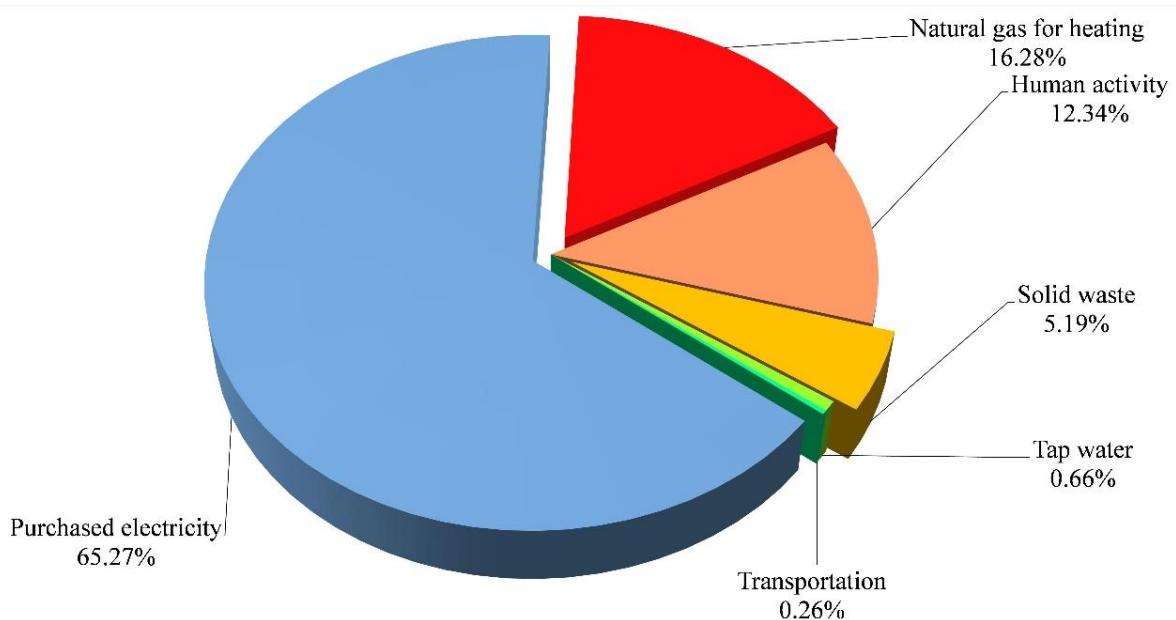


Fig. 13 Carbon emission percentage by sector

573 universities around the world using at least two universities from each continent. There  
574 were many universities from Europe and USA but only one university from Africa and  
575 South America, where current research data was available. In total, 13 Universities were

576 selected as shown in **Table 12**, together with Tianjin University. For this comparison,  
577 both campuses were combined to represent Tianjin University as a whole.

578 The survey started with analyzing published research papers regarding the carbon  
579 emissions of universities around the world. Only specific data was used for each  
580 university so that all universities can be compared within the same parameters together  
581 with scientific papers and university reports. It wasn't possible to collate data for the  
582 same year as each university had research or publications carried out in different years  
583 and therefore data is presented from universities not older than 2013. The total number  
584 of students and staff was directly adopted with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions taken from existing  
585 research papers and university reports. The carbon footprint of each university is further  
586 evaluated based upon two main factors, per capita and per build-up area. The term 'Build  
587 Up Enclosure Area' is used as a common term to describe the different areas under  
588 consideration while calculating carbon emissions. These areas differ between  
589 universities as they use alternative units such as: measuring internal net floor areas,  
590 deducting lift shafts, vertical service shafts, stairs, etc. In this study, it is assumed under  
591 the same collective term for general comparison.

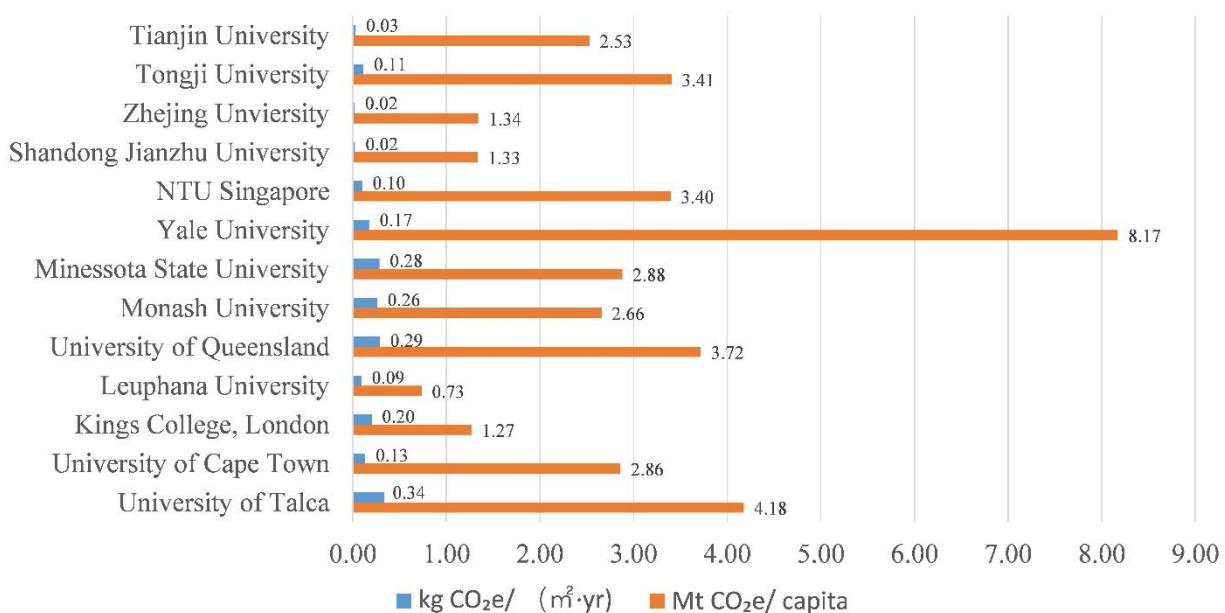
592      **Table 12** Universities around the world and their carbon emissions (Note: data a & b  
 593      taken from 2017 Zhejiang university yearbook)

NO	University (Or campus)	Country	Research period	Total No. of students and staff	Build up enclosure areas (m <sub>2</sub> )	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e emitted / per annum	Ref
1	Tianjin University	China	2019	46269	3,798,000	113,386.42	(University, 2020b)
2	Tongji University	China	2014	53000	1,600,000	180,480	(Li <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
3	Zhejiang University	China	2016	57185 <sup>a</sup>	4,265,653 <sup>b</sup>	76,649.99(Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2021)	
4	Shandong Jianzhu University	China	2015	27622	1,600,000	36798	(Chen Yue, 2016)
5	NTU Singapore	Singapore	2017	40750	1,382,388	138,402	(NTU, 2017)
6	Yale University	USA	2016	28642	1,342,297	234,024	(University, 2016)
7	Minnesota State University	USA	2017	15567	157,930	44,831	(UNIVERSITY, 2019)
8	Monash University	Australia	2015	70924	728,193	188,416	(University, 2016)
9	University of Queensland	Australia	2015	57621	747,523	214,249	(QUEENSLAND, 2015)
10	Leuphana University	Germany	2015	10339	83,300	7,593	(Opel <i>et al.</i> , 2017, Lüneburg)
11	Kings College, London	Great Britain	2018	39877	251,154	50,556	(London, 2020)
12	University of Cape Town	RSA	2013	31041	668,165	88,752	(TOWN, 2013, Rippon and Davison)
13	University of Talca	Chile	2016	7869	98,000	32,869	(Yañez <i>et al.</i> , 2020b)

594      Intercorrelations of carbon footprints were investigated between all the universities  
 595      based upon per square meter of carbon emissions and carbon emissions per person.  
 596      Based on the data from the previous table these two factors were calculated and placed  
 597      in the chart shown in Fig14 .. It can be seen that TJU carbon emissions are lower in  
 598      comparison to most of the selected universities around the world. As the campus area of  
 599      TJU is very large, it accounts for less carbon emission per square meter, but

600 unfortunately, TJU carbon emissions are higher than many European Universities.  
601 Monash University (Australia) has almost the same carbon emission per person and  
602 capita as TJU, and it intends to reach carbon neutrality in 2030 by implementing energy-  
603 efficient retrofitting into the buildings, reducing energy consumption, and establishing  
604 renewable electricity plants. In this comparison, data presented here suggest that TJU  
605 could have zero carbon emissions possibly sooner.

606 Moreover, in 2019, the total expenditure of TJU was 5411567300 Rmb ([University](#),  
607 [2020c](#)), which is equal to 838768.61 USD (Buying Rate=645.18, BOC Exchange Rate  
608 2021.09.24 15:06:58). Thus the carbon footprint per USD1000 is 134.25kgCO<sub>2</sub>e.



[Fig .14Carbon footprints comparing universities around the world](#)

## 609 **6 Carbon neutrality 'Road Map' for Weijin Road and Peiyangyuan**

### 610 **Campus**

611 A hypothetical carbon reduction 'Road Map' can now be proposed. The first  
612 proposal is a carbon reduction plan for every each year until the total emission is zero.

613 The second proposal, as an alternative, is a 5-year plan giving a carbon reduction target  
 614 for the next five years until the total emission is zero.

## 615 **6.1 Time planning of carbon reduction target**

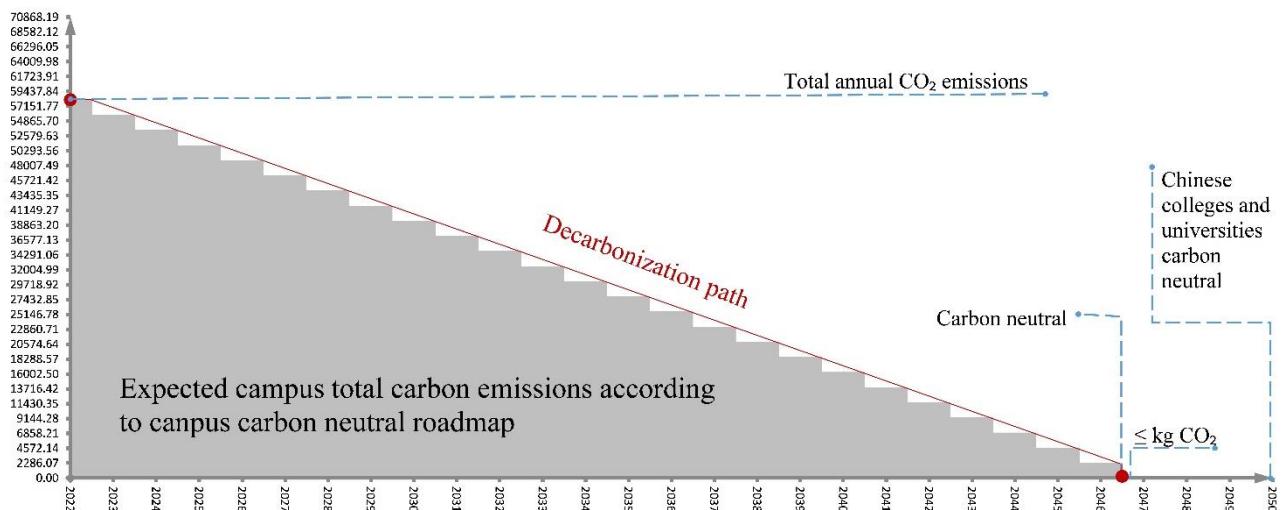


Fig. 15 Decarbonisation path for Weijin Road campus on a yearly based plan

616 **Yearly Carbon Reduction Plan:** Fig. 15 shows a carbon reduction strategy up to  
 617 the year 2050. This path explains one possible direction for carbon reduction over a long  
 618 period of time, 2326.91 tonnesCO<sub>2</sub> should be reduced each and every year to achieve  
 619 carbon neutrality in 2047.

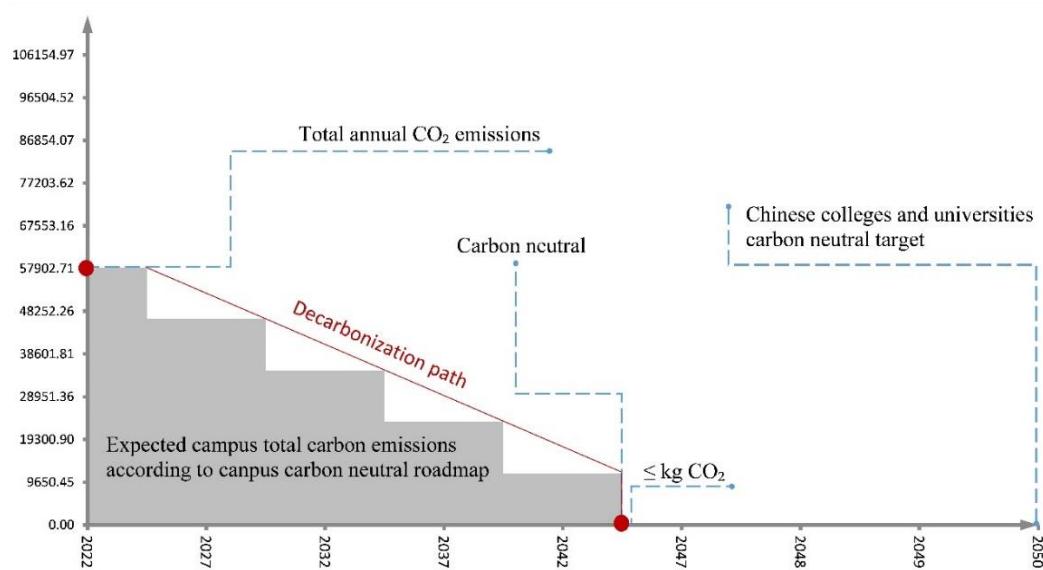


Fig. 16 Decarbonisation path for Weijin Road Campus five-yearly based plan

620 **Five Year carbon reduction plan:** Fig. 16 shows how a series of targets need to be  
621 achieved in successive five yearly stages to achieve zero carbon emission in the target  
622 year of 11634.54 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> should be reduced each and every five years to achieve  
623 carbon neutrality in 2047. The carbon reduction roadmap formulas are listed as below:  
624 B2= (\$A\$N-A2)\*ABS(SLOPE(\$D\$2:\$D\$3,\$C\$2:\$C\$3)) (formula reference for Excel  
625 based Table 13)

626 X— Initial total carbon emission;  
627 N— Final net zero carbon target year;  
628 T— Target year of net-zero carbon emission;  
629 E— Annual carbon reduction amount

630 **Table 13 Campus annual carbon emission reduction amount calculating tool**

A	B	C	D	E
1	Year	Carbon emission in the corresponding year	Year	Initial total carbon emission
2	2022		2022	X
3	2023		T	0
...	...			
N	T			?

631 **7. Limitations of this research**

- 632 • Eating routines of students and staff are variable, throughout the year, where up  
633 to three meals per day are consumed on the premises per person. Eating off-site is an  
634 unknown variable and therefore not included in this study.
- 635 • Sequestration of trees and green spaces lacks detailed onsite information where  
636 there are no standards currently available to accurately calculate sequestration of trees

637 and green spaces. This study has therefore taken an average minimum, which in the  
638 future needs to be calculated more precisely and objectively.

639 • Since  $Q_{fuel\ consumption}$  (fuel consumption/100 km) is closely related to vehicles  
640 type, model (such as Audi, BMW...etc.), and age. We don't have this specific and  
641 detailed information regarding vehicle types, models and age for carrying out emission  
642 calculations for transportation, but there is official data on the total number of cars  
643 entering and leaving the site. Therefore in this study for  $Q_{fuel\ consumption}$  (fuel  
644 consumption/100 km), we have taken a corporate average for fuel consumption, which  
645 is 5.56L/100km but in reality,  $Q_{fuel\ consumption}$  (fuel consumption/100 km) could be  
646 higher than 5.56L/100km.

647 • Studies have shown that university carbon footprint from food is large, as a study  
648 from the campus cafeteria in Peking University shows. There is a necessity for further  
649 studies in the future on how best to reduce canteen carbon / ecological footprints and  
650 their emissions from daily food consumption and canteen practices (HUANG Bowei,  
651 2016).

## 652 **Conclusions**

653 China has set a “30-60” target (China Plus, 2020), but there are still no official  
654 standards or technical guides for colleges and universities to plan for ‘carbon emissions  
655 accounting and evaluation standards’ (Zhu and Dewancker, 2021). The Assessment  
656 Standard for the green campus-GB/T 51356-2019’ in China lacks comprehensive carbon  
657 assessment indicators, which in turn, currently constrains colleges’ and universities’  
658 plans toward achieving carbon-neutral campuses. This study has laid out detailed  
659 accounting steps for a carbon footprint calculation methodology and outlined a scope of

660 carbon accounting in an attempt to bring assessment theory and practice much closer  
661 together. This methodology may be used as a guide or framework for other Chinese  
662 colleges and universities to establish their carbon inventory and to assist in their future  
663 planning for a roadmap towards a carbon-neutral campus.

664 At present, fossil fuels still supply 84% of world energy ([Plc, 2021](#)). Carbon  
665 neutrality is a huge challenge for everyone. It is ultimately in everyone's best interest,  
666 and colleges and universities must set an example and should lead this new era of  
667 evolution.

668 **Abbreviations**

669 Tianjin University: TJU;

670 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

671 Not applicable

672 **Consent for publication**

673 All the authors have approved the contents of this manuscript and have all agreed to  
674 submit it to Environmental Sciences Europe. All the authors confirm that the work  
675 described has not been published by any academic papers or in any form of a thesis and  
676 also is not under consideration for publication in any other Journals.

677 **Availability of data and material**

678 Datasets supporting the research included area in Appendix.

679 **Competing interests**

680 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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685 Conceived the original idea, conceptualization, writing original draft preparation,  
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688 A.Z. and A.B.G; project administration, A.Z.; K.S. supervised and reviewed all work

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707 **Appendix A: Average distance travelled inside Weijin Road Campus**

<b>Destination</b>	<b>From the west gate in(km)</b>	<b>From the east gate in(km)</b>	<b>From the east gate in(km)</b>		
1	2.440	2.000	0.360		
2	1.860	2.020	0.600		
3	2.500	1.582	0.440		
4	2.000	1.560	1.600		
5	2.000	1.560	1.600		
6	1.720	1.280	1.320		
7	1.200	0.820	1.360		
8	1.080	1.080	1.400		
9	1.560	0.980	0.960		
10	1.340	1.320	1.220		
11	0.980	1.840	1.500		
12	0.800	2.000	1.740		
13	0.820	2.400	1.680		
14	0.720	2.400	1.840		
15	0.700	1.440	1.760		
16	0.460	1.700	2.200		
17	0.160	2.080	2.660		
18	0.600	1.460	2.200		
19	1.160	0.940	1.700		
20	1.360	0.760	1.520		
21	1.480	0.560	1.560		
Average	1.282	1.513	1.486		
<b>Average</b>		<b>1.427</b>			
East Gate to West Gate (Return)	1.940				
North Gate to West Gate (Return)	2.500				
North Gate to East Gate (Return)	1.940				
North Gate to South Gate (Return)	1.746				
East Gate to South Gate (Return)	0.940				
West Gate to South Gate (Return)	1.500				
<b>Average</b>		<b>1.761km</b>			
<b>Overall average distance travelled inside the campus</b>	<b>1.594km</b>				

## Appendix B: Average distance travelled inside Peiyangyuan Campus

<b>Destination</b>	<b>From the north gate in(km)</b>	<b>From the northeast Gate in (km)</b>	<b>From the east gate in (km)</b>	<b>From the southeast gate(km)</b>	<b>From the south gate(km)</b>
1	4.08	3.36	2.02	0.20	2.20
2	3.8	3.56	2.26	1.00	1.64
3	3.8	3.16	1.80	0.40	2.00
4	1.4	3.48	2.12	1.40	0.4
5	2.3	4.18	2.74	2.06	0.2
6	3.68	3.36	0.96	1.26	2.04
7	3.6	2.86	1.40	0.82	1.60
8	3.36	2.6	1.24	1.32	2.06
9	3.24	2.6	0.60	3.00	3.96
10	2.8	2.12	1.04	2.40	3.34
11	2.32	1.58	1.48	2.26	2.92
12	1.98	1.26	1.86	2.62	3.38
13	1.66	1.30	2.24	2.72	3.42
14	2.00	0.84	2.40	2.86	3.52
15	1.68	0.96	3.00	3.00	3.24
16	2.76	0.20	3.00	3.40	3.80
17	2.4	0.64	2.66	3.10	3.60
18	1.2	1.54	3.40	4.00	2.60
19	1.2	1.98	3.00	4.20	2.24
20	1.36	3.12	3.40	3.16	1.44
21	1.9	3.66	3.36	2.60	1.00
Average	2.50	2.30	2.19	2.28	2.40
<b>Average</b>		<b>2.33 km</b>			
North Gate to Northeast Gate (Return)		2.8			
North Gate to East Gate (Return)		3.8			
North Gate to Southeast Gate (Return)		4.2			
North Gate to South Gate (Return)		2.4			
Northeast Gate to East Gate (Return)		3			
Northeast Gate to Southeast gate (Return)		3.6			
Northeast Gate to South Gate (Return)		4.2			
East Gate to Southeast Gate (Return)		2.06			
East Gate to South Gate (Return)		2.86			
Southeast Gate to South Gate(Return)		2.2			
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.11 km</b>				
<b>Overall average distance travelled inside the campus</b>		<b>2.72 km</b>			

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