



**SolarTech Power Solutions**

# **Electricity consumption of communication base stations**



## Overview

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How do base stations affect mobile cellular network power consumption?

Base stations represent the main contributor to the energy consumption of a mobile cellular network. Since traffic load in mobile networks significantly varies during a working or weekend day, it is important to quantify the influence of these variations on the base station power consumption.

How much energy does a communication base station use a day?

A small-scale communication base station communication antenna with an average power of 2 kW can consume up to 48 kWh per day.<sup>4,5,6</sup> Therefore, the low-carbon upgrade of communication base stations and systems is at the core of the telecommunications industry's energy use issues.

How much electricity does a communication base station consume in China?

Based on the actual number of base stations in each province of China in 2021,<sup>13</sup> we calculated the national electricity consumption of communication base stations (methodology detailed in Note S4), which amounted to 83,525.81 GWh (95% confidence interval [CI]: 81,212.38–85,825.86 GWh) for the year (Figures 2 A and 2C).

Will communication base stations reduce electricity consumption?

Our findings revealed that the nationwide electricity consumption would reduce to 54,101.60 GWh due to the operation of communication base stations (95% CI: 53,492.10–54,725.35 GWh) (Figure 2 C), marking a reduction of 35.23% compared with the original consumption. We also predicted the reduction of pollutant emissions after the upgrade.

What is the largest energy consumer in a base station?

The largest energy consumer in the BS is the power amplifier, which has a share of around 65% of the total energy consumption. Of the other base station elements, significant energy consumers are: air conditioning (17.5%),

digital signal processing (10%) and AC/DC conversion elements (7.5%) .

How to reduce the energy consumption of a base station?

So when the inter-cell distance is too large, it is necessary to increase the distance between cells, thus reducing the power consumption of the base station. In the actual network, in order to reduce the energy loss caused by frequent switching, the following two methods can usually be used: increase the distance between cells.

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