



**SolarTech Power Solutions**

# **The cost of building a green communication base station**



## Overview

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The article discusses the costs associated with building and maintaining a communication base station, categorizing them into initial setup costs such as site acquisition, design and engineering, equipment procurement, construction and installation, permits and licensing, and testing and commissioning, and ongoing maintenance costs like rent or lease expenses, power consumption, equipment maintenance, software updates, security measures, and staff salaries. How much electricity does a communication base station use a year?

In 2021, the annual electricity consumption from communication base stations was 83,525.81 GWh, and it is estimated to rise to 458,495.18 GWh by 2030 (average across three scenarios), with an increase of 448.93% compared with 2021.

How much does a base station upgrade cost?

The upgrade costs include the base station equipment upgrade and platform construction (detailed cost breakdown in Table S8), totaling an estimated cost of 195.450 billion renminbi (RMB) to upgrade all communication base stations nationwide (detailed information by province in Table S9).

Can a 5G base station promote green development of mobile communication facilities?

However, a significant reduction of ca. 42.8% can be achieved by optimizing the power structure and base station layout strategy and reducing equipment power consumption. Overall, this study provides a clear approach to assess the environmental impact of the 5G base station and will promote the green development of mobile communication facilities.

How does a communication base station upgrade affect emissions?

(D) Total emissions of major pollutants (CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and PM 2.5) generated by the electricity consumption of communication base stations before and after the upgrade. Paired bars with the same color represent pre-

and post-upgrade comparisons for the same pollutant. Emissions of all pollutants are significantly reduced after the upgrade.

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.

Can a low-carbon base station improve public health?

The results of this study indicate that low-carbon upgrades of base stations can not only significantly reduce the operational costs and carbon emissions of communication systems but also reduce pollution and bring considerable public health benefits. However, this transformation still needs to overcome multidimensional challenges.

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