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A Calculation and Decomposition Method Embedding Sectoral Energy Structure for Embodied Carbon: A Case Study of China's 28 Sectors

Yunlong Zhao ^{1,2}, Linwei Ma ^{1,2,*} , Zheng Li ^{1,2} and Weidou Ni ^{1,2}

- ¹ Tsinghua-BP Clean Energy Research and Education Centre, State Key Laboratory of Power Systems, Department of Energy and Power Engineering, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China; yl-zhao17@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn (Y.Z.); lz-dte@tsinghua.edu.cn (Z.L.); niwd@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn (W.N.)
- ² Tsinghua-Rio Tinto Joint Research Centre for Resources, Energy and Sustainable Development, Laboratory for Low Carbon Energy, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China
- * Correspondence: malinwei@tsinghua.edu.cn

Abstract: The measurement and allocation of carbon emission responsibilities is a fundamental issue in China's low-carbon development. However, existing studies of embodied carbon do not sufficiently consider the sectoral energy structure. In this work, we developed a high-resolution calculation method for embodied carbon that embeds the sectoral energy structure into traditional input–output methods, thus expanding the driving factors of SDA decomposition. Based on this method, we calculated the quantity, final consumption structure, and energy structure of embodied carbon in China's 28 sectors from 2002 to 2018, drew a carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China in 2018, and calculated the SDA decomposition results for 2002–2010 and 2010–2018. The results indicate that fixed capital formation was still the top contributor of embodied carbon, and it caused more coal consumption. “Construction for fixed capital formation” and “other services for domestic consumption” were the two most important drivers of carbon emissions. The final consumption quantity and energy intensity were the main factors that promoted and inhibited the growth of embodied carbon, respectively, while the effects of the input–output structure, sectoral energy structure, and carbon emission coefficient on reducing carbon emissions were obvious after 2010. This also revealed that policymakers should formulate differentiated emission reduction strategies according to the carbon emission characteristics of key sectors.

Keywords: carbon emissions; SDA decomposition; Sankey diagram; sectoral energy structure



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1. Introduction

Facing the increasingly severe challenges of climate change, global low-carbon development is imperative. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) pointed out that if the global warming caused by the continuous increase in carbon emissions is not curbed, it will lead to irreversible changes in the global ecosystem and cause widespread negative impacts. For this reason, it is necessary to keep the global temperature rise in this century below 2 °C higher than the pre-industrial level and strive to further limit the temperature rise to 1.5 °C [1]. This means that people must fundamentally transform traditional production methods, lifestyles, and consumption methods, promote transition and innovation, and follow a green, low-carbon, and circular development path. For this reason, it is necessary to treat the economy, energy, and the environment in the process of climate change as a large system, especially to realize the coordinated development of energy and economy and to build a green, low-carbon, circular, and developmental economic system [2].

China is a typical case for the study of the coordinated development of energy and economy. As the world's largest energy consumer, the largest carbon-emitting country,

and the second largest economy, the contradiction between China's energy and economic coordinated development is very obvious. On the one hand, China's target of building a modern and powerful country by the middle of this century puts forward long-term requirements for its rapid and sustainable economic development [3]. On the other hand, China's government attaches importance to addressing climate change and regards it as an important strategic measure for sustainable development. Starting from the 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011–2015), carbon emissions per unit of GDP have been a binding target for national development [4]. In 2015, China proposed nationally determined contribution targets, such as peaking carbon emissions around 2030 and reaching this peak as soon as possible [5]. Policy measures such as optimizing the energy structure and improving the efficiency of energy resource utilization were proposed to accelerate the green and low-carbon development of the whole society. In 2020, China further pledged to "reach the peak before 2030 and strive to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060" [6]. The policy requirements for carbon emission intensity, the proportion of non-fossil energy, and forest carbon sinks were also strengthened [7]. In 2021, China further positioned the construction of a green, low-carbon, circular, and developmental economic system as an important part of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality [8]. China needs to achieve rapid economic development and low-carbon energy transition at the same time and balance the contradiction between the two, which is "the coordinated development of energy and economy". Therefore, it is necessary to conduct in-depth research on the coordinated development of energy and economy in China.

In research on the coordinated development of energy and economy, the measurement and allocation of carbon emission responsibilities is one of the key fundamental issues. The energy system and the economic system are complex in composition, and there is a network coupling relationship between them. At present, the research methods in the energy and economic fields do not completely match (see Section 2.1). Studies in the energy field are usually based on energy statistics. From the perspective of producers, carbon emission responsibilities are measured and distributed according to the direct energy consumption and carbon emissions of each sector. Based on economic input–output tables, researchers in the economic field allocate responsibilities according to the embodied energy and embodied carbon in the final consumption of different sectors. Under the guidance of the coordinated development of energy and economy, these two fields have shown a trend of extending in their respective directions. For example, Chong et al. [9] tried to put forward an energy distribution analysis method that integrates commodity production and consumption from the perspective of producers, in order to analyze the relationship between commodity production and energy consumption in China. Zhang et al. [10] studied the energy embodied in construction services in China's economic development from the perspective of consumers. However, the former did not involve carbon emissions, while the latter did not consider factors on the production side; the energy structure of various sectors has not been further considered. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a method of measuring and distributing embodied carbon that can not only consider the distribution of energy structure in economic sectors but also consider economical input–output relationships to solve this problem.

On the basis of measurement and allocation, another important issue is to clarify the impact of relevant driving factors on embedded carbon to better understand trends and formulate policies. In this regard, the structural decomposition analysis method (SDA) based on the input–output method is a common research method. Compared with the general index decomposition analysis method (IDA), SDA has higher data requirements and must rely on complete input–output data. The advantage of SDA is that it can use input–output models to comprehensively analyze various direct or indirect driving factors, such as the input–output relationship between sectors, the energy consumption of each sector, and the quantity and structure of final consumption. Many scholars also use this method to study carbon emissions in China and other countries and regions (see Section 2.2). However, we found that current research does not consider sectoral energy structure as an

independent driving factor in the SDA research related to carbon emissions. The reason is that the existing embodied carbon calculation methods either ignored the energy structure at the sector level or calculated the input–output calculations after calculating the direct carbon emissions of each sector. In other words, there is still a lack of appropriate methods in SDA to embed the sectoral energy structure into the research framework of embodied carbon calculation and driving factor analysis.

The purpose of this paper is to embed the sectoral energy structure into the traditional calculation methods of embodied carbon to realize the traceability from embodied carbon in final consumption to various energy varieties directly consumed by various sectors. On this basis, the driving factors of the existing SDA method are expanded. We use China as a case study to verify the feasibility and significance of the method. We calculated the embodied energy and embodied carbon in the final consumption of 28 sectors in eight specific years from 2002 to 2018 in China to observe historical trends and the status quo. To show the status quo of carbon emission of China's energy economy system, we drew a carbon emission allocation Sankey diagram of China in 2018 for 28 sectors and four energy varieties and described the key sectors. We also conducted SDA decomposition analysis on the embodied carbon in the two periods of 2002–2010 and 2010–2018 to analyze the impact of various driving factors, including energy structure.

The main contributions of this paper are as follows:

- (1) We developed a set of embodied energy and embodied carbon measurement and distribution methods considering the sectoral energy structure and calculated the embodied energy and embodied carbon of 28 sectors in eight specific years in China from 2002 to 2018.
- (2) We further expanded the driving factors of SDA, and we analyzed the embodied carbon growth in China during the two periods of 2002–2010 and 2010–2018.

The contents of this paper are as follows. A literature review is introduced in Section 2, including a carbon emission responsibilities study based on different perspectives in Section 2.1, and a research review on carbon emission SDA in Section 2.2. The methodology and data sources are provided in Section 3. The results and discussion are shared in Section 4. The policy recommendations are given in Section 5, and conclusions and recommendations are presented in Section 6.

2. Literature Review

2.1. The Measurement and Distribution Method of Embodied Carbon

In recent years, scholars have proposed a series of energy consumption and carbon emission responsibility allocation methods. According to Zhang [11] and Zhang et al. [12], the current mainstream methods are mainly divided into two categories: methods based on producer responsibility and methods based on consumer responsibility.

The method of producer responsibility specifies that “who produces is responsible”. The responsibility for energy consumption and carbon emissions is directly assigned to the sector or region where the emissions occur [11]. As the logic is concise and clear, the division of responsibilities is clear, and the difficulty of data statistics is relatively low, this method is currently the most widely used method of distribution of responsibilities. For example, most of the existing research on direct energy consumption or carbon emissions [13–19], the official statistics of various countries [20–22], and the energy consumption and carbon emissions data released by institutions such as the IEA [23] and the World Bank [24] are all based on the method of producer responsibility. China's “3060” dual-carbon target, as well as key indicators such as energy consumption and carbon emission control targets in the national energy plan [25], are also proposed based on this method. The method based on producer responsibility is often used in research in the energy field for the analysis of the impact of various production factors such as industrial structure and energy intensity on energy consumption and carbon emissions from the perspective of commodity production. However, this method ignores the significant roles played by final consumption sectors in the process of energy consumption and carbon emissions [9]. Under this responsibility

distribution model, all the responsibilities are borne by the production sector, while the final consumption sector bears hardly any responsibility for energy consumption and carbon emissions. In order to solve this problem, scholars have begun to pay attention to the perspective of consumer responsibility.

The method of consumer responsibility specifies that the final consumption region and sector should be responsible for the energy consumption and carbon emissions generated during the production of energy, goods, and services [26]. In the economic system, various regions and sectors are interdependent and integrated. For the products of some regions and sectors, while satisfying the demand for their own final consumption, more products are used to meet the needs of other regions and downstream sectors for intermediate-use commodities [10]. In this process, the energy consumption and carbon emissions generated by the production sector will flow into the intermediate use and final consumption of other regions and sectors in the form of embodied energy and embodied carbon. From this perspective, the final consumption regions and sectors should shoulder the responsibility for this part of energy consumption and carbon emissions. Since it is closely integrated with the economic input–output table, the method based on consumer responsibility can be used to better analyze the impact of economic factors such as final consumption quantity and the input–output structure on energy consumption and carbon emissions, which is conducive to reducing excessive high-carbon products. However, Chong et al. [9] pointed out that among the two commonly embodied carbon calculation methods, the mixed input–output method would lose the economic information of energy-related sectors, resulting in economic non-conservation. The energy intensity method would lose the information of production factors such as the sectoral energy structure in calculation process, which is not conducive to obtaining policy enlightenment on the energy side.

Under the guidance of the issue of the coordinated development of energy and economy, these two fields have shown a trend of extending each other. For example, Chong et al. [9] tried to propose an energy distribution analysis method that integrates commodity production and consumption from the perspective of producers in order to analyze the relationship between commodity production and energy consumption in China. However, the study did not involve the issue of carbon emissions. From the perspective of consumers, Zhang et al. [10] studied the energy embodied in construction services in the process of China's economic development. However, this study did not further consider the energy structure of various sectors. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a new method to preserve and present the energy information in the embodied carbon calculation process while ensuring the conservation of energy and economy. This new method can improve measurement accuracy and strengthen the connection between production-side factors and consumption-side factors in related research. It is also more conducive to attain the policy improvement of considering both the energy side and the economic side.

2.2. The SDA Study of Embodied Carbon

Facing the continuous increase in carbon emissions, scholars have carried out numerous studies to observe the main driving forces of China's carbon emissions growth. As shown in Table 1, the SDA method is widely used to study the historical trend of carbon emissions and reveal the impact of key driving factors. In these studies, population, per capita final consumption, the input–output structure (Leontief inverse matrix), and carbon emission intensity are generally considered to be the key driving factors affecting embodied carbon [27]. In addition to these key driving factors, many scholars further expanded the factors on the economic side, including production structure [28–30], technological change [31–33], urbanization rate [34], consumption mode [28,34,35], and per capita income [36]. However, for the driving factors of the energy side, the resolution of the existing research is insufficient. A considerable number of studies include only one energy side driving factor of carbon emission intensity. In fact, the carbon emission intensity of a region or sector is determined by the three elements of carbon emission coefficient, energy structure, and energy intensity. However, the existing research has not completely

disassembled these three elements. Ninpanit et al. [32] divided carbon emission intensity into energy intensity and carbon emission coefficient but did not further divide energy structure from the carbon emission coefficient. Yang et al. [37] and Ma et al. [38] divided carbon emission intensity into energy intensity and energy structure but did not further divide the carbon emission coefficient from energy structure. Feng et al. discussed the carbon emissions of the direct consumption of different energy varieties in the economic sector but did not include the energy structure as an independent driver in the SDA study [39]. Only Dong et al. [40] regarded the energy structure as a separate driving factor when studying China's carbon emission intensity. Therefore, further disassembling carbon emission intensity into three driving factors—the sectoral energy structure, sectoral energy intensity, and carbon emission coefficient—is of significance for improving the resolution of related research and better distinguishing the impact of production-side and consumption-side driving factors on embodied carbon.

Table 1. Studies concerning embodied carbon growth based on SDA methods.

No.	Author	Time Period and Research Object	Driving Factors
1	Su and Ang [27]	2002, China	Final consumption quantity, final consumption structure, input–output structure, carbon emission intensity
2	Wang et al. [41]	2002–2012, Guangdong province	Population, GDP per capita, industrial structure, final consumption structure, carbon emission intensity
3	Deng and Xu [42]	1995–2009, China, the U.S., India, and Japan	Carbon emission intensity, input–output structure, export quantity
4	Pan et al. [43]	2002–2010, China	Final consumption, input–output structure, carbon emission intensity
5	Ninpanit et al. [44]	1990–2015, Thailand	Population, final consumption per capita, final consumption destination, final consumption structure, industrial structure, energy intensity, carbon emission coefficient
6	Li et al. [45]	1997–2012, China	Final consumption quantity, final consumption structure, input–output structure, carbon emission intensity
7	Ali et al. [46]	1995–2009, the U.K.	Final demand level, final demand structure, ecological technology level
8	Wu et al. [47]	1997–2012, 30 provinces in China	Population, GDP per capita, industrial structure, final consumption structure, carbon emission intensity
9	Cai et al. [48]	2009–2016, China	Population, GDP per capita, industrial structure, final consumption structure, primary input, carbon emission intensity
10	Xu et al. [49]	2002–2017, Guangdong province	Population, per capita final consumption, final consumption structure, input–output structure, carbon emission intensity
11	Yang et al. [37]	2007–2015, China	Final consumption quantity, input–output structure, energy intensity, energy structure
12	Ma et al. [38]	2007–2015, China	Final consumption quantity, input–output structure, energy intensity, energy structure
13	Feng et al. [39]	1995–2009, China	Input volume, the input structure, input–output structure, carbon emission intensity
14	Wang et al. [50]	2002–2012, China	Carbon intensity, structural change, rural consumption, urban consumption, population, and urbanization

3. Methodology and Data

Based on the traditional energy intensity method, in this paper, we introduce the sectoral energy structure, so as to preserve the energy information on the production side while maintaining the conservation of energy and economy. The specific method is introduced in the following subsections.

3.1. Calculation of Embodied Energy and Embodied Carbon

3.1.1. Construction of General Input–Output Table

The calculation of embodied energy and embodied carbon is based on the mixed input–output method. The structure of a general economic input–output table is shown in Table 2 [10]. In the table, all symbols represent economic quantities. Among them, x represents the economic quantity of products of each sector used for intermediate use. F represents the economic quantity of products of each sector used for final consumption. T represents the total output and total input of each sector. The subscript i represents the sector that provides intermediate use in the process of intermediate input–output, and the subscript j represents the sector that obtains the intermediate use. Due to the principle of general equilibrium, the total input of each sector is equal to the total output.

Table 2. General economic input–output table.

	Intermediate Use j				Final Consumption				Import	Total Output
	1	2	...	n	Domestic Consumption	Export	Fixed Capital Formation	Other		
Intermediate input i	1	x_{11}	x_{12}	x_{1n}	$f_{c,1}$	$f_{e,1}$	$f_{f,1}$	$f_{o,1}$	$f_{i,1}$	t_1
	2	x_{21}	x_{22}	x_{2n}	$f_{c,2}$	$f_{e,2}$	$f_{f,2}$	$f_{o,2}$	$f_{i,2}$	t_2
	...									
	n	x_{n1}	x_{n2}	x_{nn}	$f_{c,n}$	$f_{e,n}$	$f_{f,n}$	$f_{o,n}$	$f_{i,n}$	t_n
Added value	v_1	v_2	v_n							
Total input	t_1	t_2	t_n							

Next, we define the direct consumption coefficient:

$$a_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij}}{t_j} \quad (1)$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

The direct consumption coefficient is the quantity of the product of sector i that must be input in order to produce 1 unit of the product of sector j .

In the input–output table, each row has “intermediate use + final consumption = total output”. A great portion of imports are consumed as intermediate goods in the process of commodity input and output. The embodied carbon in imports also flows into final consumption in this process. Therefore, the embodied carbon in imports is also one of the sources of embodied carbon for final consumption [51].

$$f_i = f_{c,i} + f_{e,i} + f_{f,i} \quad (3)$$

$$t_i = f_i + \sum_j x_{ij} = f_i + \sum_j a_{ij} \times \quad (4)$$

If each element in the formula is expressed in matrix form, then Formula (4) can be expressed as Formula (9).

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & \cdots & x_{1n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} t_1 \\ \vdots \\ t_n \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$T = F + A \times T \quad (8)$$

$$T = (I - A)^{-1} \times F \quad (9)$$

$$L = (I - A)^{-1} = [l_{ij}] \quad (10)$$

The mathematical relationship between final consumption F and total output T can be established by Formula (9). The matrix L is also called the Leontief inverse matrix.

The element l_{ij} is the quantity of all products i that need to be directly and indirectly inputted in order to obtain a unit of final consumption product j , which also refers to the total social output of products i . When the final consumption quantity of sector j is F_j , the total output quantity of the whole society that needs to be input is $\sum_i l_{ij} \times F_j$.

3.1.2. Introduction of Sectoral Energy Structure

We use Q_i to express the direct energy consumption of sector i . For intermediate input sector i , in the entire production process, the actual number of products produced is the total output T_i , and the amount of energy intensity is $\frac{Q_i}{T_i}$.

The energy consumption of sector i is expressed as follows:

$$Q_i = \sum_p Q_{ip} \quad (11)$$

where the subscript p represents different energy varieties. Correspondingly, the carbon emission coefficient of each energy variety is expressed as k_p .

For final consumption sector j , when the final consumption quantity is F_j , the total output quantity of the whole society is $\sum_i l_{ij} * F_j$. For the embodied energy in the final consumption of sector j , the quantity is equal to all the energy consumed in the production process of the corresponding total output of the whole society.

We use EE and EC to denote the amount of embodied energy in the final consumption of each sector. For sector j , the quantities of embodied energy and embodied carbon in final consumption are calculated by Formulas (12) and (13), respectively:

$$EE_j = \sum_i F_j \times l_{ij} \times \frac{Q_i}{T_i} = F_j \times \sum_p \sum_i l_{ij} \times \frac{Q_i}{T_i} \times \frac{Q_{ip}}{Q_i} \quad (12)$$

$$EC_j = \sum_p \sum_i F_j \times l_{ij} \times \frac{Q_i}{T_i} \times \frac{Q_{ip}}{Q_i} \times k_p \quad (13)$$

For imports, we assume that the quantities of embodied carbon in a unit of imports are the same as those of domestic products in the same sector.

3.2. SDA Decomposition Calculation

After the sectoral energy structure is introduced in the measurement and distribution of embodied carbon, the SDA decomposition formulas for embodied carbon can be

further developed, as shown in Formulas (15), where the subscript q represents the final consumption structure.

$$EE_j = \sum_q \sum_p \sum_i F_j * l_{ij} * \frac{Q_i}{T_i} * \frac{Q_{ip}}{Q_i} * \frac{F_{jq}}{F_j} \quad (14)$$

$$EC_j = \sum_q \sum_p \sum_i F_j * l_{ij} * \frac{Q_i}{T_i} * \frac{Q_{ip}}{Q_i} * k_p * \frac{F_{jq}}{F_j} \quad (15)$$

$$EC = \sum_{ijpq} F_j * \frac{F_{jq}}{F_j} * l_{ij} * \frac{Q_i}{T_i} * \frac{Q_{ip}}{Q_i} * k_p \quad (16)$$

$$EC_{ijpq} = F_j * \frac{F_{jq}}{F_j} * l_{ij} * \frac{Q_i}{T_i} * \frac{Q_{ip}}{Q_i} * k_p \quad (17)$$

Formula (15) can be sorted into the form of Formula (16), where F_j represents the final consumption quantity of each sector. $\frac{F_{jq}}{F_j}$ represents the structure of final consumption in various sectors. l_{ij} represents the input–output structure. $\frac{Q_i}{T_i}$ represents the unit energy consumption in the actual production process of each sector. $\frac{Q_{ip}}{Q_i}$ represents the energy structure of each sector. k_p represents the carbon emission coefficient of each energy type. EC_{ijpq} shows that the embodied carbon comes from the energy p consumed by sector i and finally flows into the final consumption of q in sector j .

The SDA decomposition of embodied carbon can also be developed around Formula (16). In this way, the impact of the six driving factors can be analyzed: final consumption quantity, final consumption structure, input–output structure, sectoral energy intensity, sectoral energy structure, and carbon emission coefficient. The specific SDA calculation formula is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. SDA decomposition formula of embodied carbon in final consumption.

Change in Embodied Carbon	$\Delta EC = EC^T - EC^0 = \Delta EC_f + \Delta EC_{fs} + \Delta EC_l + \Delta EC_{ei} + \Delta EC_{es} + \Delta EC_k$	
Final consumption quantity	F_j	$\Delta EC_f = \sum_{ijpq} \frac{EC_{ijpq}^T - EC_{ijpq}^0}{\ln EC_{ijpq}^T - \ln EC_{ijpq}^0} * \ln \left(\frac{F_j^T}{F_j^0} \right)$
Final consumption structure	$FS_{jq} = \frac{F_{jq}}{F_j}$	$\Delta EC_{fs} = \sum_{ijpq} \frac{EC_{ijpq}^T - EC_{ijpq}^0}{\ln EC_{ijpq}^T - \ln EC_{ijpq}^0} * \ln \left(\frac{FS_{jq}^T}{FS_{jq}^0} \right)$
Input–output structure	l_{ij}	$\Delta EC_l = \sum_{ijpq} \frac{EC_{ijpq}^T - EC_{ijpq}^0}{\ln EC_{ijpq}^T - \ln EC_{ijpq}^0} * \ln \left(\frac{l_{ij}^T}{l_{ij}^0} \right)$
Sectoral energy intensity	$EI_i = \frac{Q_i}{T_i}$	$\Delta EC_{ei} = \sum_{ijpq} \frac{EC_{ijpq}^T - EC_{ijpq}^0}{\ln EC_{ijpq}^T - \ln EC_{ijpq}^0} * \ln \left(\frac{EI_i^T}{EI_i^0} \right)$
Sectoral energy structure	$ES_{ip} = \frac{Q_{ip}}{Q_i}$	$\Delta EC_{es} = \sum_{ijpq} \frac{EC_{ijpq}^T - EC_{ijpq}^0}{\ln EC_{ijpq}^T - \ln EC_{ijpq}^0} * \ln \left(\frac{ES_{ip}^T}{ES_{ip}^0} \right)$
Carbon emission coefficient	k_p	$\Delta EC_{es} = \sum_{ijpq} \frac{EC_{ijpq}^T - EC_{ijpq}^0}{\ln EC_{ijpq}^T - \ln EC_{ijpq}^0} * \ln \left(\frac{k_p^T}{k_p^0} \right)$

3.3. Data Source

Due to the availability of input–output tables, we selected as the research objects China’s energy consumption and carbon emissions in eight specific years from 2002 to 2018: namely, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017, and 2018 [20]. All economic data came from eight input–output tables, and the energy consumption data of each sector came from the energy balance table and the final energy consumption table by sector in the *China Energy*

Statistical Yearbook [52]. The carbon emission coefficient of fossil energy comes from the IPCC [1]. The carbon emission coefficient of electricity is calculated according to the power generation structure of each year. It should be noted that energy consumption here refers to the end-use energy consumption of various sectors. The conversion of fossil energy into electricity and heat belongs to the intermediate conversion of the energy system, so there is no double calculation of carbon emissions from electricity. To ensure the consistency between the input–output table and the energy statistical yearbook for each sector, we merged the input–output tables of the 8 years into the input–output tables of 28 sectors. The codes and names of the 28 industries are shown in Table 4. The value range and meaning of each subscript are shown in Table 5. In order to make the results more continuous, we use the linear interpolation method to estimate the embodied energy and embodied carbon data in other years.

Table 4. Name and code of 28 sectors.

Code	Sector	Code	Sector
1	Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry, and Fishery	15	Manufacture of Metal Products
2	Mining and Washing of Coal	16	Manufacture of Machinery
3	Extraction of Petroleum and Natural Gas	17	Manufacture of Transport Equipment
4	Mining and Processing of Metal Ores	18	Manufacture of Electrical Machinery and Apparatus
5	Mining and Processing of Nonmetal Ores and Other Mining	19	Manufacture of Computers, Communication, and Other Electronic Equipment
6	Manufacture of Foods and Tobacco	20	Manufacture of Measuring Instruments and Machinery
7	Manufacture of Textile	21	Other Manufacture, Utilization of Waste Resources, and Repair Service Equipment
8	Manufacture of Wearing Apparel and Footwear	22	Production and Supply of Electric Power and Heat Power
9	Manufacture of Timber and Furniture	23	Production and Supply of Gas
10	Manufacture of Paper, Paper Products, and Articles for Culture, Education, and Sport Activities	24	Production and Supply of Water
11	Processing of Petroleum, Coking, and Processing of Nuclear Fuel	25	Construction
12	Manufacture of Chemical Products	26	Wholesale, Retail Trade, and Hotels, Restaurants
13	Manufacture of Non-metallic Mineral Products	27	Transport, Storage, and Post
14	Smelting and Pressing of Metals	28	Other Services

Table 5. The ranges and physical meaning of the subscripts.

Subscript	Ranges	Physical Meaning
i	1–28	Indicates that the embodied energy/embodied carbon comes from sector i .
j	1–28	Indicates that the embodied energy/embodied carbon eventually flows into the final consumption products of sector j .
p	1–4	Represents energy varieties: coal, oil, natural gas, and electricity and heat.
q	1–3	Represents the category of final consumption: consumption, fixed capital formation, and exports.

4. Results and Discussion

Based on the above method, we calculated the embodied energy and embodied carbon of 28 sectors in 8 years in China from 2002 to 2018 and drew the carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China in 2018. The SDA decomposition of embodied carbon in China's final consumption in the two time periods of 2002–2010 and 2010–2018 was also carried out.

4.1. Embodied Energy and Embodied Carbon in 2002–2018

Due to the large number of 28 sectors, which is not conducive to the observation of readers, we merged sectors 2–24 into the industry sector. Please refer to Appendix A for detailed data on the embodied energy and embodied carbon of the 28 sectors.

4.1.1. Embodied Energy and Embodied Carbon in Final Consumption

From 2002 to 2018, the embodied energy in China's final consumption continued to grow, but the growth rate gradually slowed down, as shown in Figure 1. The industry sector was still the sector with the most embodied energy. After 2012, the quantity of embodied energy in the industrial sector stopped growing and began to show a downward trend. The construction sector and the other services sector had the second and third-highest proportions of embodied energy, respectively, and their growth rates were significantly higher than those of other sectors. The agriculture sector; the wholesale, retail trade, and hotels, restaurants sector; and the transport, storage, and post sector accounted for a small proportion of the embodied energy in final consumption.

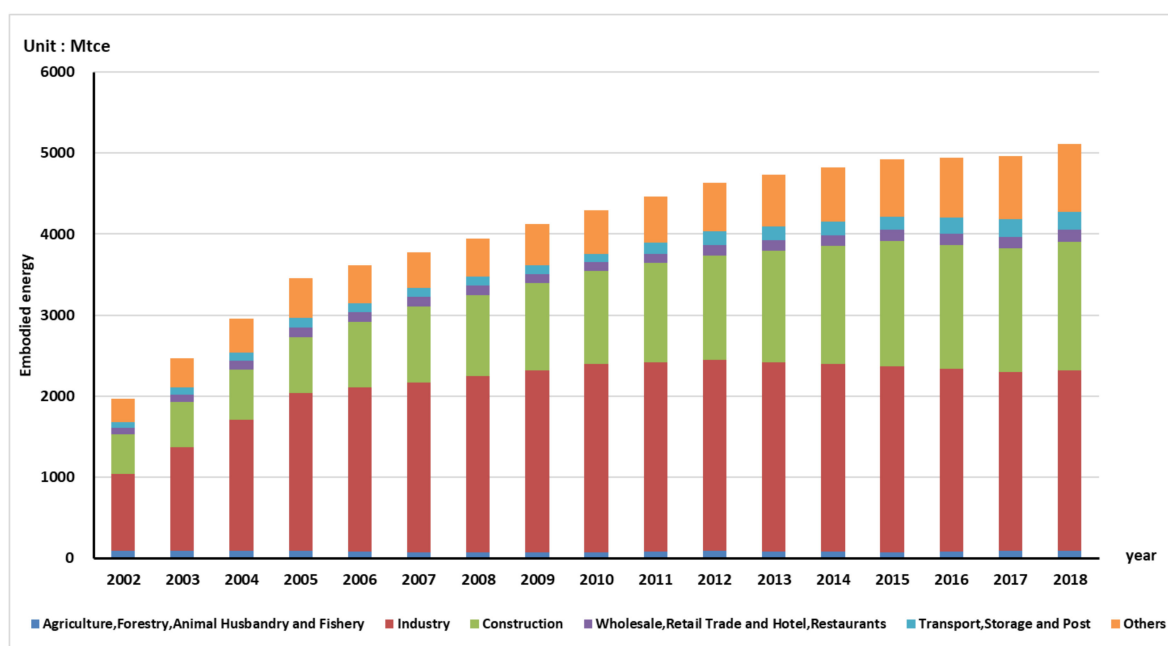


Figure 1. The embodied energy in the final consumption of each sector in China from 2002 to 2018.

The development trend of embodied carbon was similar to that of embedded energy, but the total quantity of embodied carbon stabilized after 2012, as shown in Figure 2. The total quantity of the industry sector began to decline significantly after 2012. Compared with embedded energy, part of the difference in the development of embodied carbon was mainly due to China's efforts to adjust its energy structure and promote renewable energy. The proportion of coal consumption in China dropped from 68.5% in 2002 to 59.0% in 2018. The proportion of coal power in electricity production also dropped from 80.9% to 71.1%. This also enabled China to maintain the stability of the total quantity of embodied carbon while the embodied energy continued to grow.

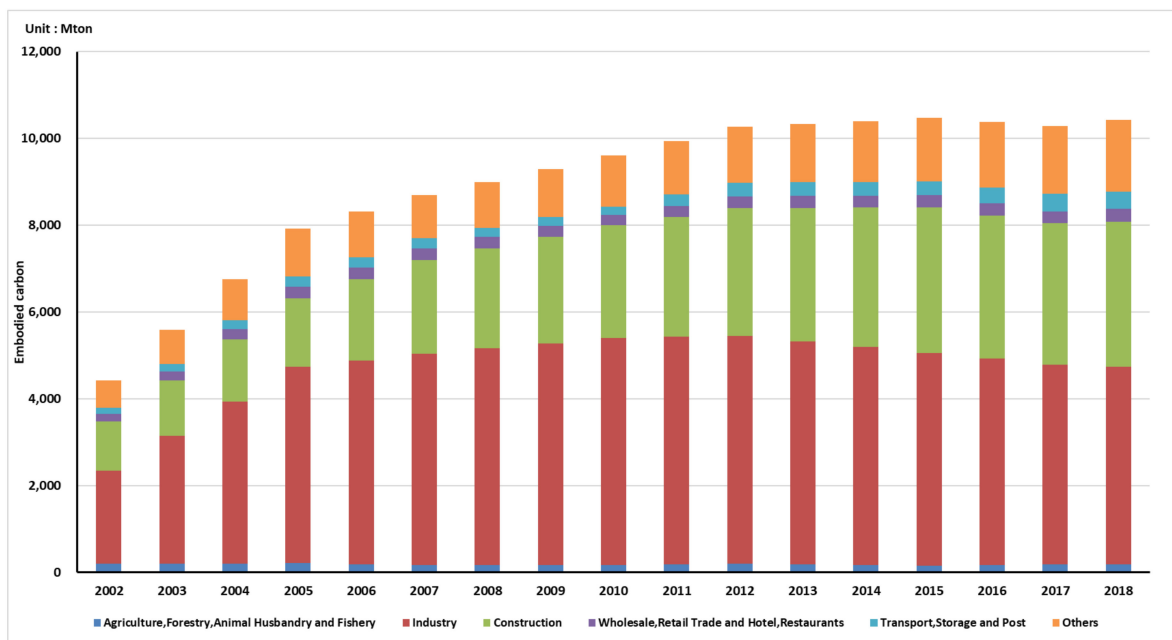


Figure 2. The embodied carbon in the final consumption of each sector in China from 2002 to 2018.

4.1.2. The Energy Structure of Embodied Carbon

Figure 3 shows the percentage of carbon emissions from different end-use energies in the final consumption of embodied carbon in 2002–2018. Coal and electricity were the two main sources of embodied carbon, and the proportion of embodied carbon derived from electricity surpassed that of coal in 2015. In 2018, the proportions of embodied carbon derived from electricity and coal were 45.7% and 33.7%, respectively. The embodied carbon derived from petroleum has been maintained at about 15% for a long time. The quantity of embodied carbon derived from natural gas was small but showed a continuous growth trend.

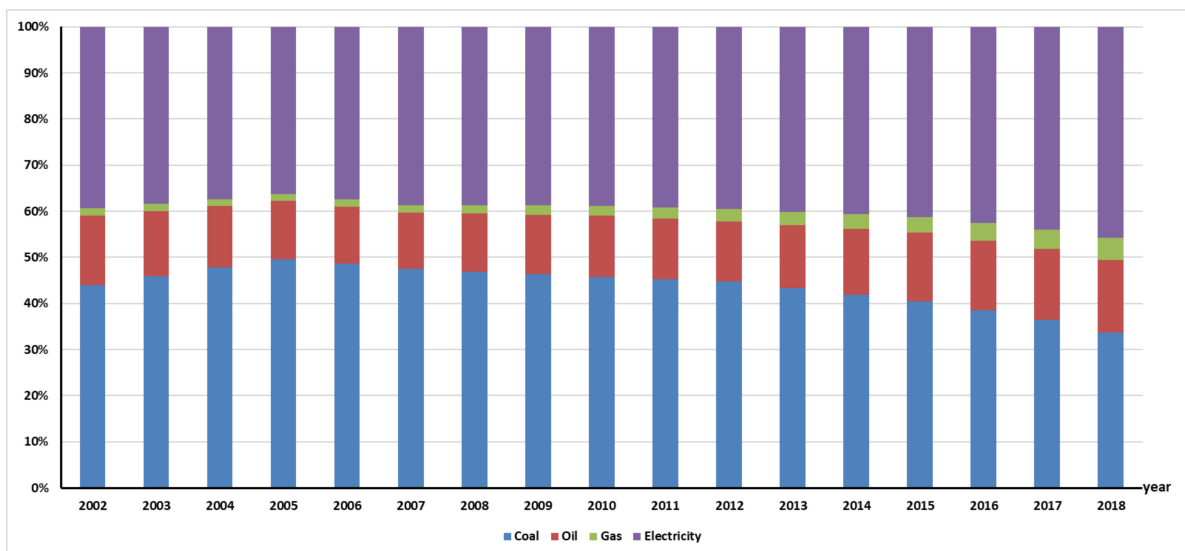


Figure 3. The energy structure of embodied carbon in final consumption from 2002 to 2018.

Specific to the sector level, there were obvious differences in the energy structure of different sectors' embodied carbon, as shown in Figure 4. For example, the sectors with a high proportion of coal in embodied carbon were mainly concentrated in industry (sectors 12–20) and construction (sector 25), while the industries with the highest proportion of electricity were industry 22 (electric heating production) and industry 24 (water production). Sectors with a relatively high proportion of oil mainly included industry 11 and industry 27 (oil-related industries and transportation), while sectors with relatively high proportions of natural gas included industry 3 and industry 23 (both natural gas-related industries).

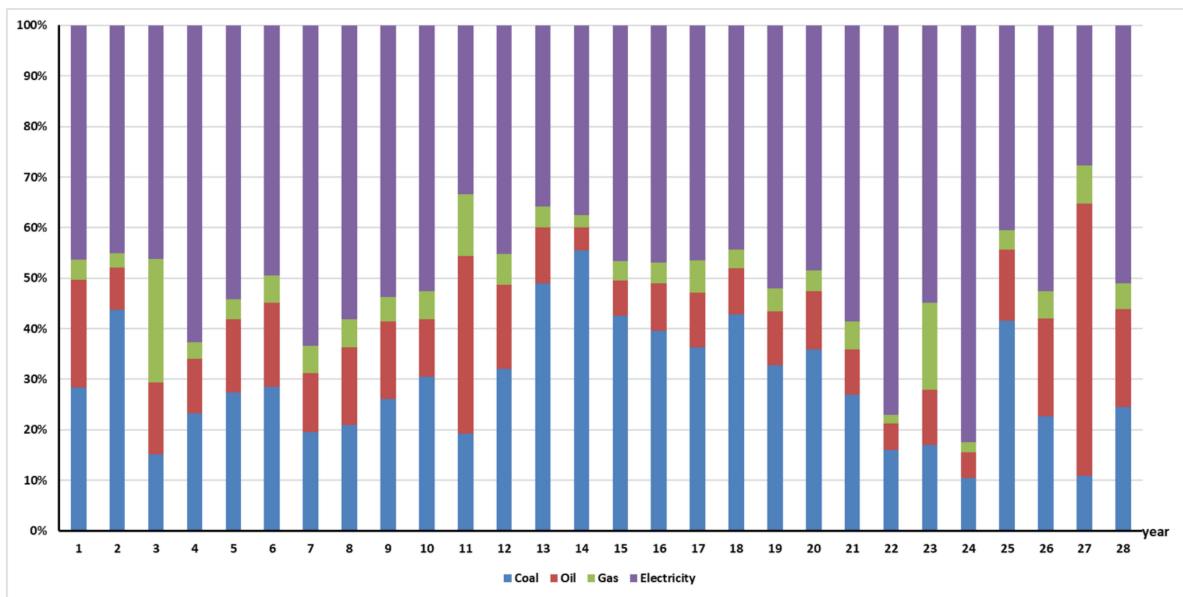


Figure 4. The energy structure of 28 sectors' embodied carbon in 2018.

4.2. The Carbon Emissions Allocation Sankey Diagram of China in 2018

To demonstrate the measurement and distribution methods of embodied carbon after the introduction of the sectoral energy structure, we describe the flow of embodied carbon in 2018 in the form of a carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram in Section 4.2.1. The carbon allocation Sankey diagram shows in detail the entire process from the direct consumption of the four energy types in various sectors to produce carbon emissions to the inflow of embodied carbon into the final consumption of various sectors.

4.2.1. The Carbon Emissions Allocation Sankey Diagram in 2018

Figure 5 shows the carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China in 2018. In the figure, all flows represent carbon emissions. The color of the flow indicates the energy type of the carbon emission source, and the width of the flow indicates the quantity of carbon emissions. From left to right, there are the energy sources of carbon emissions, the direct carbon emissions generated by energy consumption of each sectors, and the embodied carbon in the intermediate use of commodities flowing into the final consumption commodities of various sectors.

The carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China's commodity production and consumption in 2018
 Unit : 1 million tons of carbon emissions

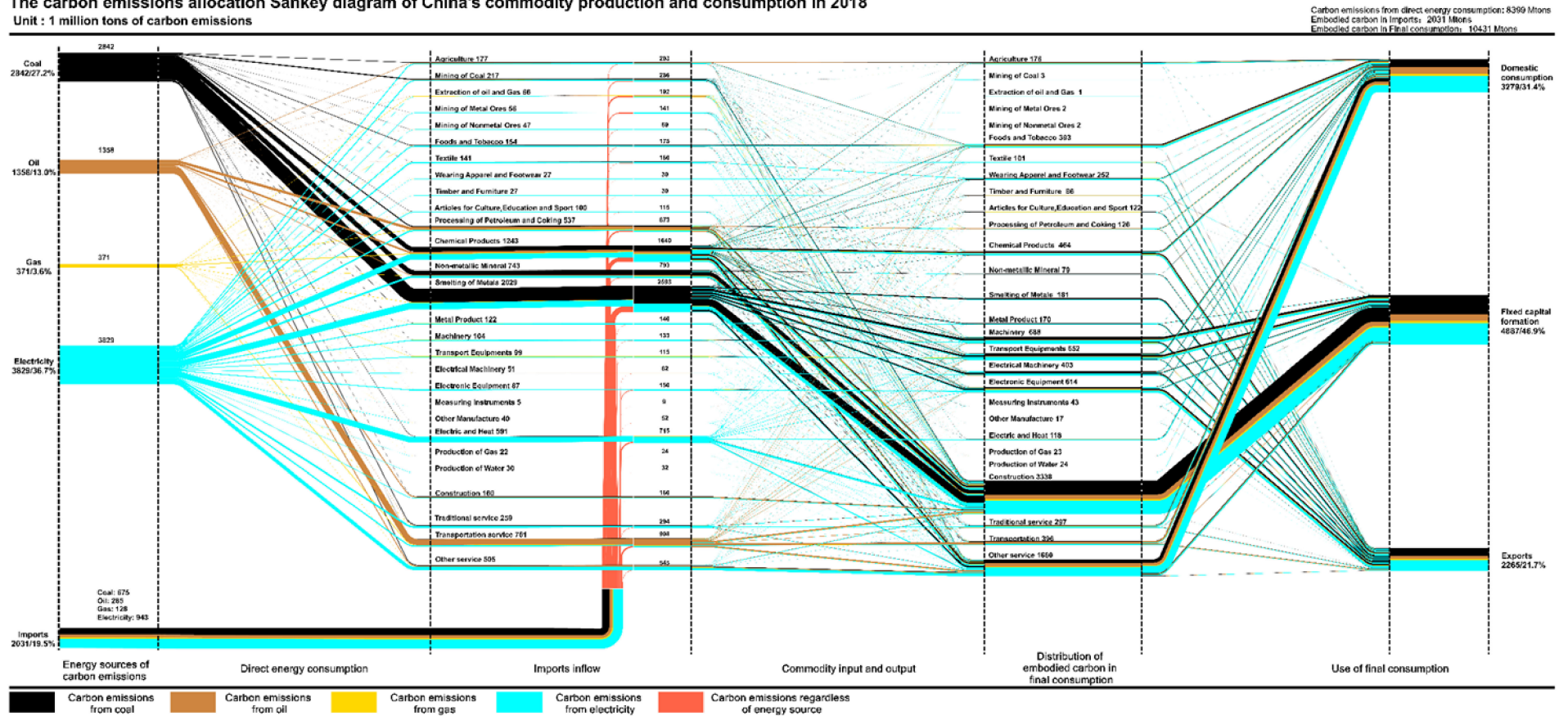


Figure 5. The carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China in 2018 (only carbon flows of more than 1 million tons are shown).

In 2018, the total quantity of embodied carbon in China's final consumption was 10.43 billion tons. The direct carbon emissions of economic sectors were 8.40 billion tons, and the quantity of embodied carbon in imports was 2.03 billion tons. From the perspective of energy sources of carbon emissions, electricity was the largest source of carbon emissions, followed by coal and oil. Sector 14 had the most direct carbon emissions, generating 2.03 billion tons of carbon emissions, accounting for 24.2% of the direct carbon emissions of all economic sectors. Sector 14 also had the largest coal consumption, accounting for 44.7% of direct coal consumption. In addition, sectors with more direct carbon emissions also included sector 12, sector 27, sector 13, and sector 22. From the perspective of embodied carbon in final consumption, sector 25 had the highest quantity of embodied carbon, reaching 3.34 billion tons and accounting for about 32% of the total amount of embodied carbon in China. The quantity of carbon embedded from coal was 1.390 billion tons, accounting for 39.5% of all carbon embedded from coal. Sector 28 had the second-highest quantity of embodied carbon, with 1.66 billion tons. In the use of final consumption, fixed capital formation accounted for the most (46.9%), and the proportion of embodied carbon from coal was significantly higher than the other two. The proportions of embodied carbon in domestic consumption and exports were 31.4% and 21.7% respectively.

Tracing the data back from final consumption, we can see that the carbon emissions of China's economic sectors were mainly driven by two industrial chains. In the first chain, fixed capital formation required a large quantity of sector 25's final consumption, which drove the direct carbon emissions of multiple industrial sectors, especially sector 14. This industrial chain has also driven a high amount of coal consumption. In the second chain, domestic consumption required a large quantity of sector 28's final consumption, which drove the direct carbon emissions of multiple industrial and service sectors. In this chain, the main energy source of embodied carbon was electricity. Considering the rapid development of renewable power, the second chain undoubtedly has greater emission reduction potential. This also shows that China should reasonably control the growth of fixed capital formation while continuously expanding domestic consumption.

4.2.2. Key Sectors of Carbon Emissions

Among the 28 sectors, sector 14 (smelting and pressing of metals sector) and sector 25 (construction sector) had the most direct and embodied carbon emissions, respectively, and they could also be considered as the top sectors of carbon emissions. The two departments also showed two different carbon emission responsibility allocation modes. Figures 6 and 7 show Sankey diagrams of the carbon emissions related to these two sectors.

Sector 14 was the most important sector in terms of producer responsibility. The direct carbon emission of sector 14 was 2.03 billion tons, accounting for 24.2% of the direct carbon emission of China's economic sector. The carbon emission from coal consumption was 1.36 billion tons, accounting for 46.9% of coal-related carbon emissions. The embodied carbon in imports of sector 14 was 554 million tons. However, most of the direct carbon emissions of sector 14 were used to meet the final consumption needs of other sectors. Only 137 million tons of sector 14's direct carbon emissions (about 5.3%) flowed into the final consumption of sector 14. The quantity of embodied carbon flowing into sector 25 reached 1.06 billion tons, accounting for 40.8%. In addition, the quantities of embodied carbon flowing into sector 16, sector 17, sector 28, and sector 18 were also greater than the quantity of embodied carbon flowing into the final consumption of sector 14. Meanwhile, the quantity of embodied carbon flowing into sector 14 from other sectors was only 43 million tons. Therefore, although sector 14 had the most direct carbon emissions, its carbon emissions actually served the final consumption of other sectors.

The carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China's smelting and pressing of metals sector in 2018

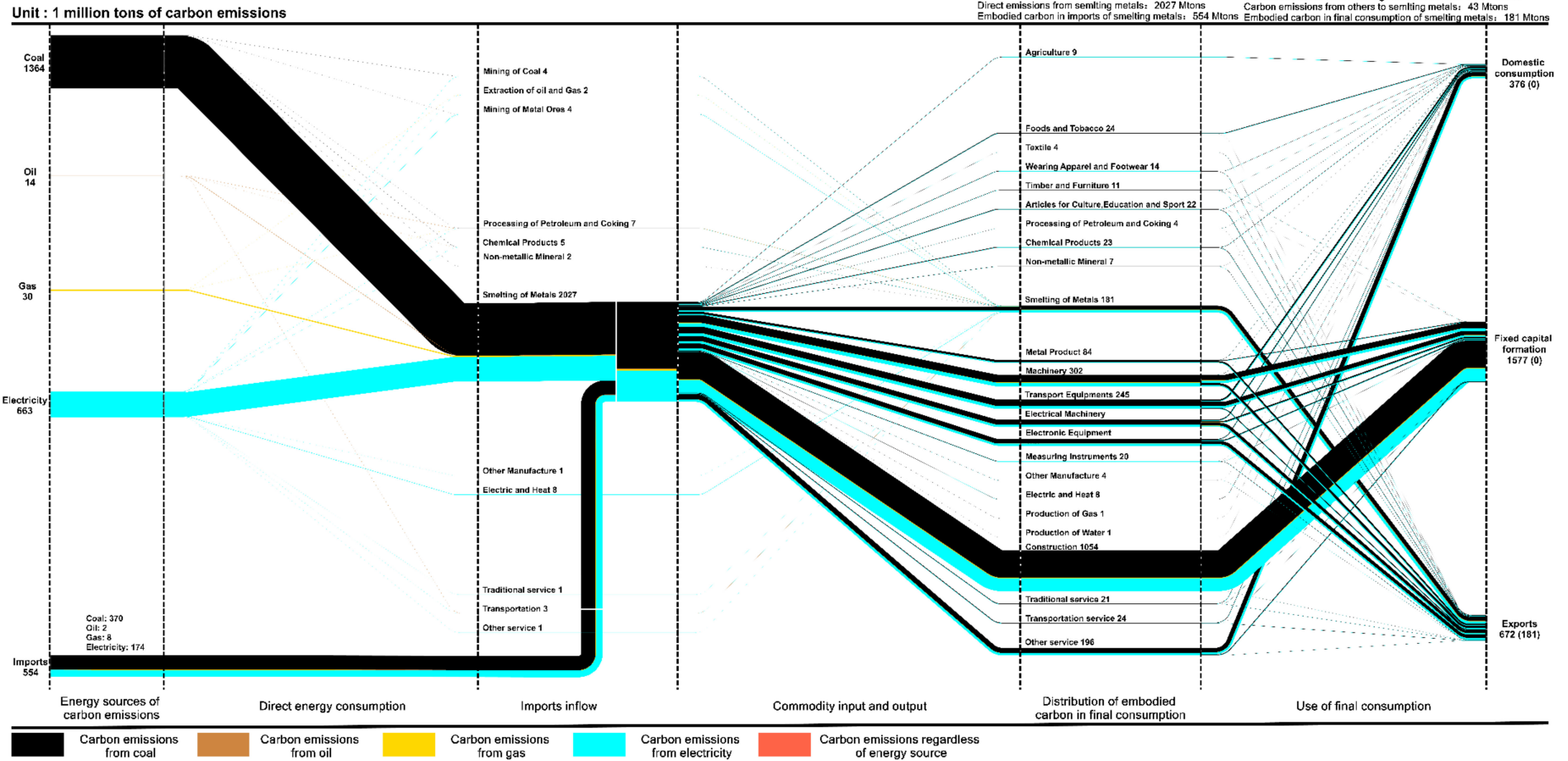


Figure 6. The carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China's smelting and pressing of metals sector in 2018 (the figures in brackets in the final consumption section represent the final consumption quantity of sector 14).

The carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China's construction sector in 2018

Unit : 1 million tons of carbon emissions

Direct emissions from construction: 160 Mtons
 Embodied carbon in imports of construction: 1 Mtons
 Carbon emissions from construction to others: 2 Mtons
 Carbon emissions from others to construction: 3180 Mtons
 Embodied carbon in final consumption of construction: 3338 Mtons

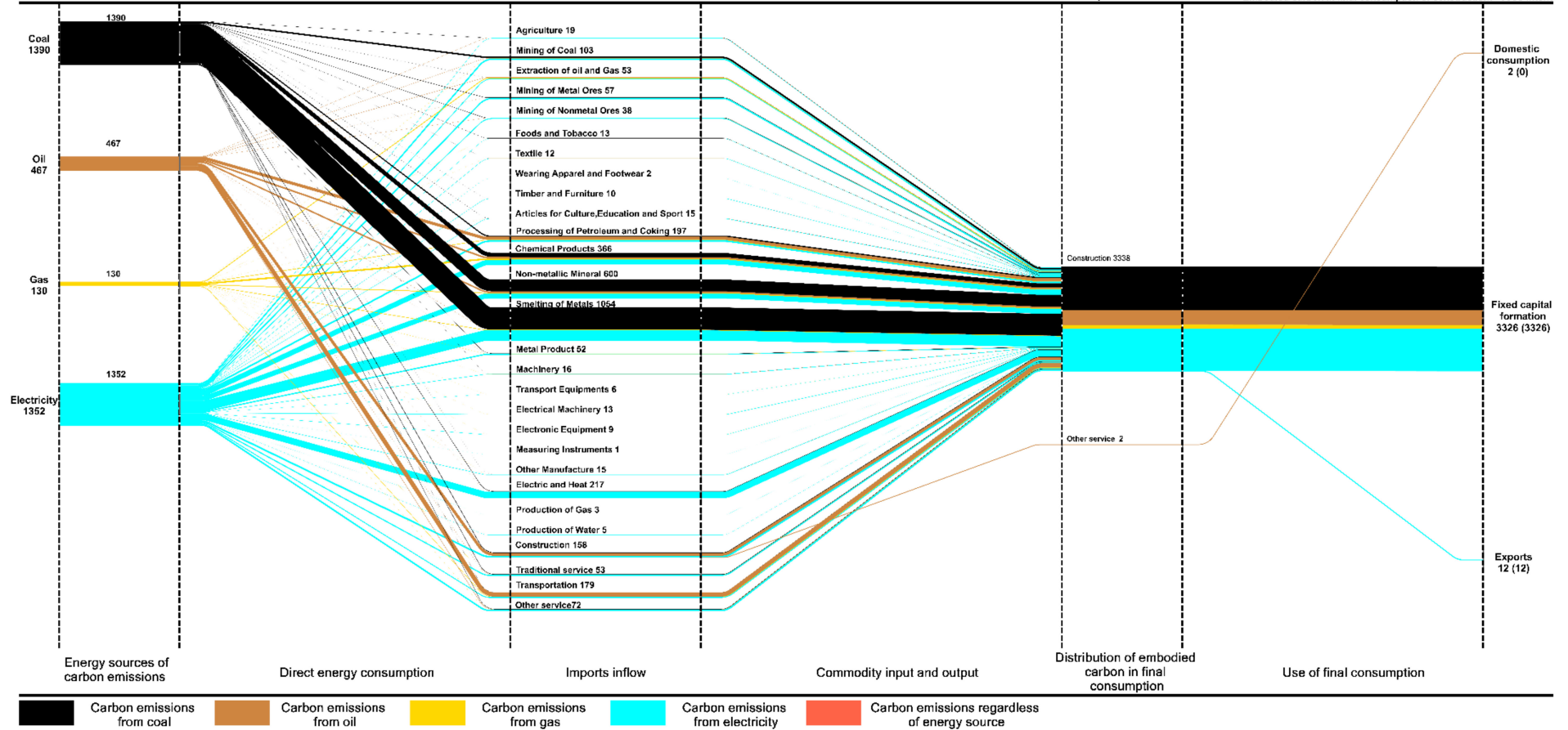


Figure 7. The carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China's construction sector in 2018 (the figures in brackets in the final consumption section represent the final consumption quantity of sector 25).

Sector 25 was the most important sector in terms of consumer responsibility. Its direct carbon emissions were only 158 million tons, while the embodied carbon in final consumption reached 3.34 billion tons. In other words, 95.3% of the embodied carbon in sector 25's final consumption came from the direct carbon emissions of other sectors, especially sector 14, sector 13, sector 12, sector 22, sector 11, and sector 17. Almost all the embodied carbon of sector 14 was used for fixed capital formation. Only 2 million tons of sector 25's direct carbon emissions flowed into the final consumption of sector 28. Therefore, although the direct carbon emissions of sector 25 were limited, they drove other upstream sectors to produce a large amount of direct carbon emissions.

4.3. The SDA Decomposition of Embodied Carbon in Final Consumption

Based on the extended SDA method, we divided 2002–2018 into two periods—2002–2010 and 2010–2018—and the SDA decomposition results are shown in Figure 8.

From 2002 to 2010, the embodied carbon in final consumption increased by 5.15 billion tons. The final consumption quantity was the ultimate factor in promoting the growth of carbon emissions, contributing 8.36 billion tons of embodied carbon growth. The input–output structure, final consumption structure, and sectoral energy structure contributed 1.81 billion tons, 17 million tons, and 1 million tons of embodied carbon growth, respectively. The main restraining factor was energy intensity, which reduced 4.98 billion tons of embodied carbon. The carbon emission coefficient also brought about a reduction of 54 million tons.

From 2010 to 2018, the embodied carbon in final consumption increased by 856 million. The final consumption quantity was still the most important growth driving factor, bringing about 7.07 billion tons of embodied carbon growth. The second most important factor was the final consumption structure, which contributed 28 million tons of growth. The main restraining driving factors were the input–output structure and sectoral energy intensity, which reduced 2.77 billion tons and 2.72 billion tons of embodied carbon, respectively. In addition, the sectoral energy structure and the carbon emission coefficient also reduced 305 million tons and 447 million tons of embodied carbon, respectively.

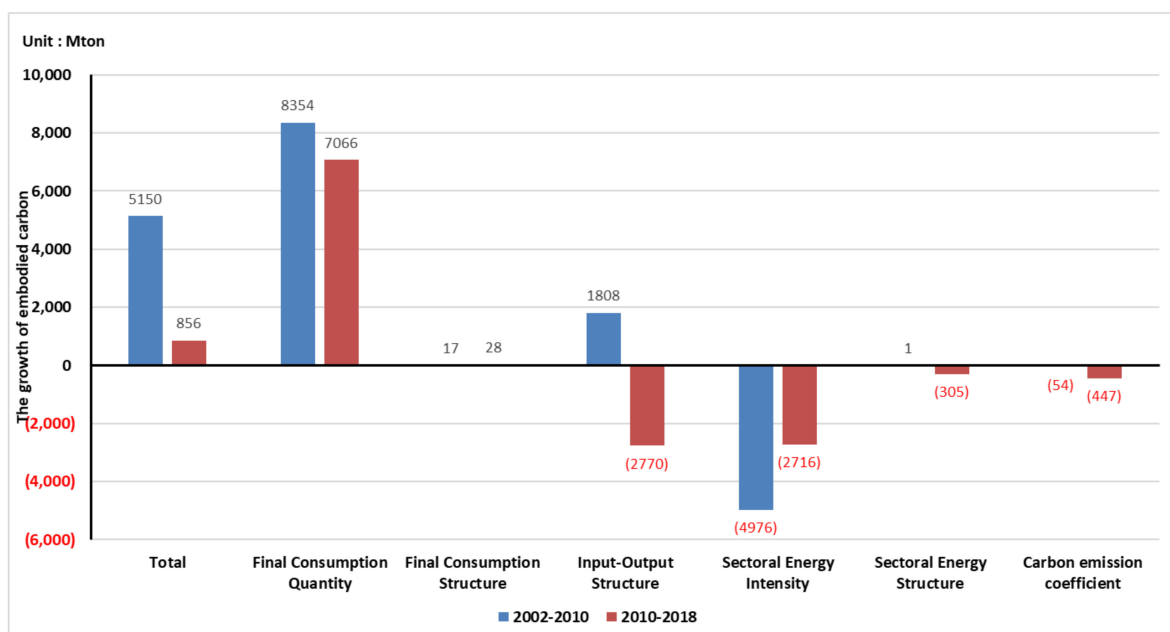


Figure 8. The SDA decomposition result of embodied carbon in 2002–2010 and 2010–2018.

4.3.1. Final Consumption Quantity

In 2002–2010 and 2010–2018, the increase in final consumption contributed 8.35 billion tons and 7.07 billion tons of embodied carbon growth, respectively, as is shown in Figure 9. In all sectors, the quantity of final consumption in most sectors increased, which led to

the increase in embodied carbon. Among them, sector 25 (construction sector) had the largest increase, contributing 2.22 billion tons and 2.75 billion tons of embodied carbon in the two periods, respectively. This was followed by sector 28 (other services sector), which contributed 990 million tons and 1.46 billion tons of embodied carbon in the two periods, respectively. In the two periods, only a few sectors' final consumptions did not increase, such as sector 2 and sector 3. Meanwhile, it should also be noted that the increase in most industrial sectors in 2010–2018 was less than the increase in 2002–2010, while the increase in the service sector in 2010–2018 was greater than the former. To a certain extent, this reflects the country's industrial adjustment trend from manufacturing to service industries.

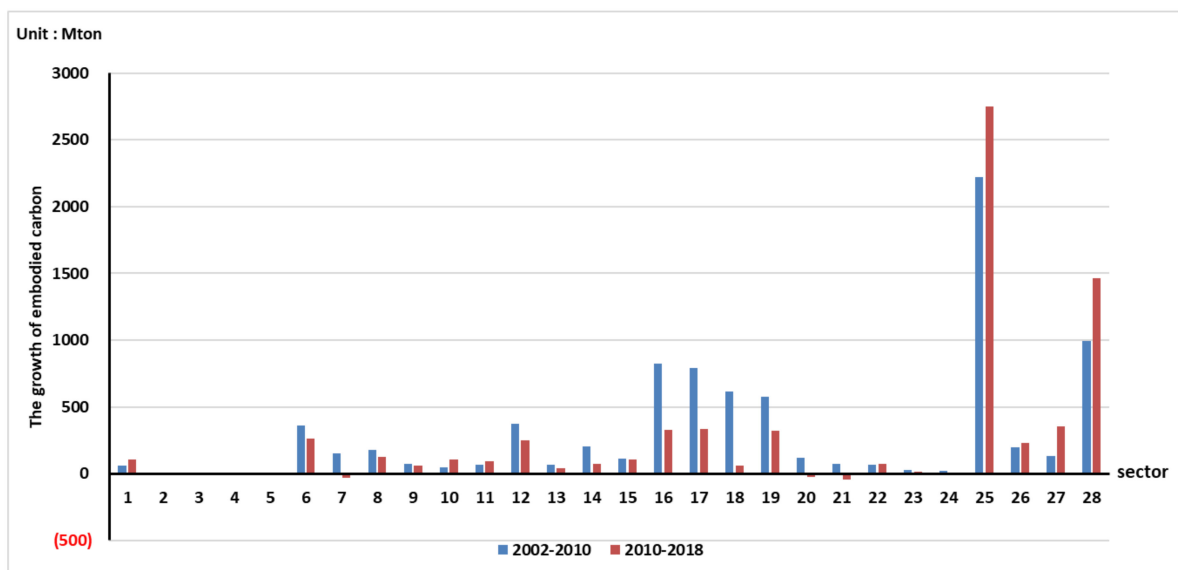


Figure 9. The impact of the final consumption quantity on embodied carbon in 2002–2010 and 2010–2018.

4.3.2. Final Consumption Structure

Since the final consumption structure only affected the distribution of final consumption and did not involve changes in quantity or efficiency, its impact on the total quantity of embodied carbon was close to zero, as is shown in Figure 10. However, in terms of structural changes, the two periods showed completely different results. From 2002 to 2010, as China joined the WTO and gradually became the “world’s factory”, the proportion of exports in final consumption increased significantly, especially the export volume of industrial products. At the same time, to meet the increasing demand for industrial production, related sectors carried out a large number of capacity expansions. As a result of these changes, exports and fixed capital formation brought more embodied carbon to final consumption, while the embodied carbon in domestic consumption decreased. From 2010 to 2018, with the advent of the international financial crisis and the end of China’s infrastructure construction wave, China began to shift to a development strategy focusing on the domestic market. Domestic consumption started to bring more embodied carbon growth, and the quantity of embodied carbon caused by exports and fixed capital formation began to decrease.

4.3.3. Input–Output Structure

In 2002–2010, changes in the input–output structure increased the embodied carbon by 1.81 billion, and between 2010 and 2018, it reduced 2.77 billion tons of embodied carbon, as is shown in Figure 11. Specific to the sector level, from 2002 to 2010, only the input–output structure of sector 26 (wholesale, retail trade, and hotels, restaurants) inhibited the growth of embodied carbon. In 2010–2018, changes in the input–output structure of all sectors inhibited the growth of embodied carbon.

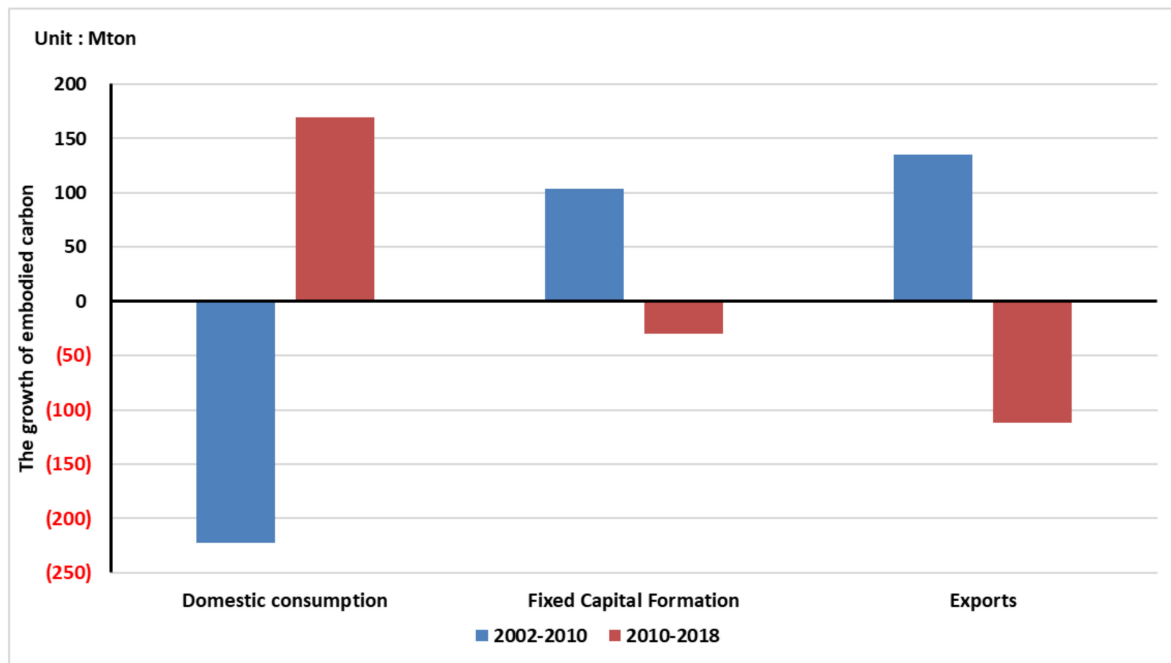


Figure 10. The impact of the final consumption structure on embodied carbon in 2002–2010 and 2010–2018.

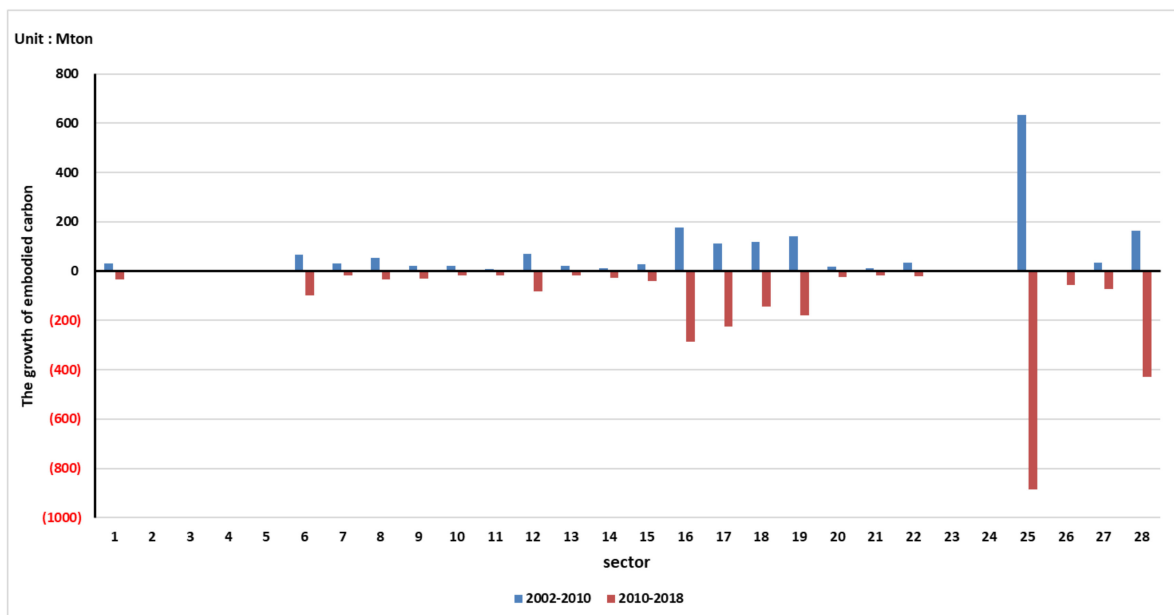


Figure 11. The impact of the input–output structure on embodied carbon in 2002–2010 and 2010–2018.

In the two periods, the impact of the input–output structure showed significant differences. From 2002 to 2010, the change in embodied carbon brought by the input–output structure was positive, which meant that to produce a unit of final consumption product, more intermediate goods needed to be consumed, which brought more carbon emissions. In 2010–2018, the impact of the input–output structure was the opposite. Based on our analysis, we believe that this phenomenon corresponded to different stages of China’s industrial upgrading: from 2002 to 2010, China was in the early stage of industrial upgrading, and various sectors were expanding rapidly and relatively extensively. In this process, some relatively backward production capacity construction would inevitably appear. At the same time, as the links between different sectors in China became increasingly close, some sectors

began to shift to the production of higher-precision products, which also increased the intermediate use input required to produce a unit of final product. In 2010–2018, on the one hand, industrial upgrading began to reap results, and the added value of output products increased significantly. Correspondingly, the intermediate use of unit economic output decreased. On the other hand, China also banned some backward production capacity, and the overall efficiency of intermediate use was improved.

The change in the impact of the input–output structure on embodied carbon showed that China’s industrial upgrading and structural adjustment not only contributed to sustained economic growth, but also were effective in reducing carbon emissions. With the overall advancement of “China Smart Manufacturing 2025”, quality first, structural optimization, and green development would be the basic policies for economic development. It is foreseeable that this development direction will continue to play a role in reducing carbon emissions in the future.

4.3.4. Sectoral Energy Intensity

It should be emphasized that the energy intensity mentioned here does not mean “energy consumption/sector added value” in the usual sense but refers to “energy consumption/sector total output”. Taking the total output of the industry as the denominator can better reflect the energy utilization efficiency of each sector during production and achieve an energy balance in the entire calculation.

In the two periods, the decrease in energy intensity reduced 4.98 billion tons and 2.72 billion tons of embodied carbon, respectively, as is shown in Figure 12. Specific to the sector level, except for industry 11 (processing of petroleum, coking, and processing of nuclear fuel) and industry 21 (other manufacturing, utilization of waste resources, and repair service equipment), whose energy intensity increased in 2010–2018, all industries maintained their energy intensity reduction during the two periods. Among them, the impact of reduced energy intensity was particularly prominent in industry 12 (manufacture of chemical products), industry 13 (manufacture of non-metallic mineral products), and industry 14 (smelting and pressing of metals). In addition, industry 22 (production and supply of electric power and heat power) experienced a significant reduction in energy intensity between 2002 and 2010.

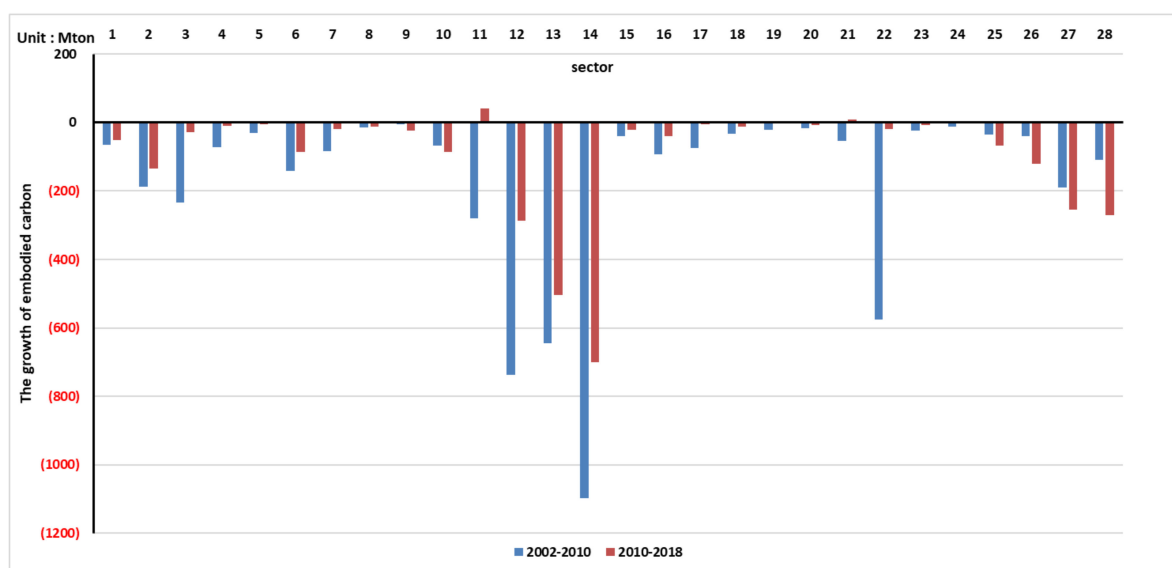


Figure 12. The impact of the energy intensity on embodied carbon in 2002–2010 and 2010–2018.

4.3.5. Sectoral Energy Structure

In 2002–2010, the adjustment of the sectoral energy structure brought 1 million tons of embodied carbon growth, while in 2010–2018, the total amount decreased by 305 million tons of embodied carbon, as is shown in Figure 13. On the whole, the adjustment of the energy structure was mainly reflected in a substantial reduction in the use of coal and an increase in the proportion of electricity and natural gas. In 2002–2010, the adjustment of the sectoral energy structure was relatively slow, so the impact on embodied carbon was limited. In 2010–2018, due to the country’s vigorous promotion of coal-to-gas and coal-to-electricity measures, the effect of reducing embodied carbon was obvious.

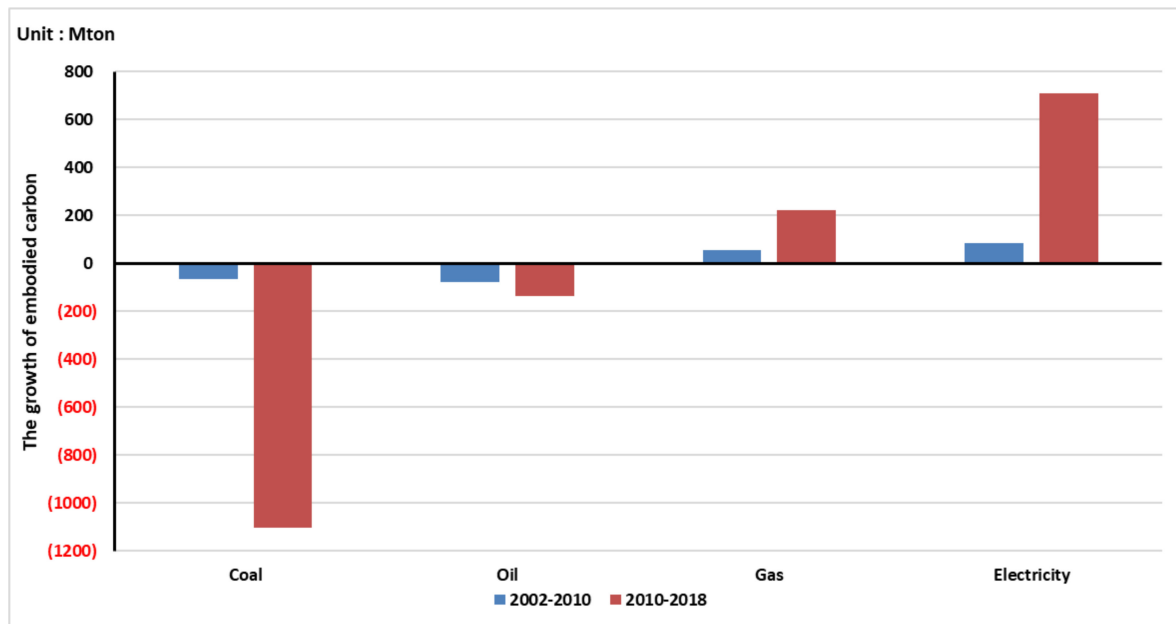


Figure 13. The impact of the energy structure on embodied carbon in 2002–2010 and 2010–2018 (by energy varieties).

Specific to the sector level, the adjustment of the energy structure in several sectors was relatively more obvious, as is shown in Figure 14. In 2002–2010, sector 2, sector 11, and sector 14 increased the use of coal, thereby increasing carbon emissions. Sector 3 and sector 27 used more natural gas, and sector 22 used electricity instead of coal consumption. Both adjustments reduced carbon emissions. In 2010–2018, almost all sectors reduced the use of coal and oil and switched to more natural gas and electricity, thus reducing carbon emissions, especially sector 2, sectors 11–14, and sector 22. Only sector 23 replaced oil consumption with natural gas, coal, and electricity, resulting in an increase in total carbon emissions.

Comparing the two periods, it is obvious that the national policy of adjusting the energy structure and reducing coal use played a significant role in reducing emissions in the second period. Considering China’s dual-carbon target requirements, the adjustment of the energy structure will continue. Meanwhile, due to the rapid development of renewable electricity, the carbon emissions per unit of electricity will continue to decrease, and the adjustment of the energy structure has more room for emission reduction. This result also confirms the necessity of incorporating the sectoral energy structure into the SDA method of embodied carbon.

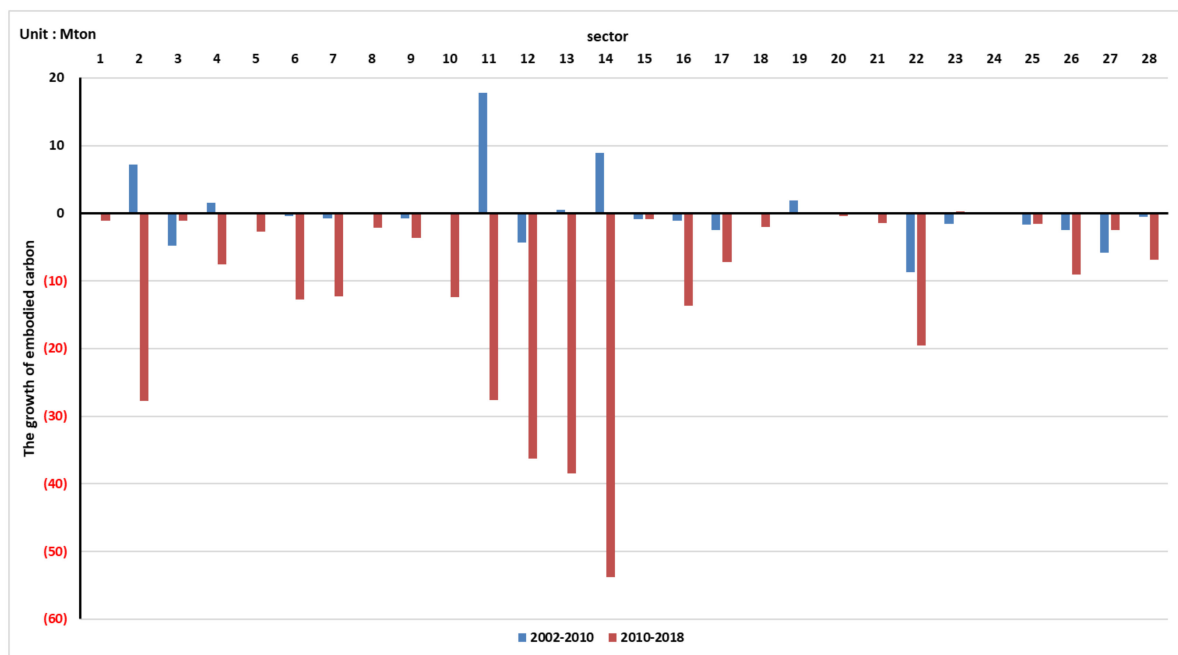


Figure 14. The impact of the energy structure on embodied carbon in 2002–2010 and 2010–2018 (by sectors).

4.3.6. Carbon Emission Coefficient

Since the carbon emission coefficient of fossil energy is considered to be constant, only the change in electricity's carbon emission coefficient affected the quantity of carbon emission. Due to the change in the power generation structure, especially the development of renewable power, the carbon emission coefficient of power decreased from 2.15 in 2002 to 2.11 in 2010, and further reduced to 1.89 in 2018 (unit: ton/ton tce). In the two time periods, the reduction in electricity's carbon emission coefficient contributed 54 and 447 million tons of carbon emission reduction, respectively. With the proposal of China's "3060" targets, the rapid development of renewable power is obvious. Therefore, the carbon emission coefficient of electricity will further contribute to reducing carbon emissions in the future.

5. Policy Implications

5.1. Formulate Long-Term Plans for Infrastructure Construction to Avoid Capacity Waste

Although the proportion of domestic consumption was rising year by year in the two periods studied, fixed capital formation still accounted for the largest proportion of final consumption. Whether it was the large-scale export of industrial products from 2002 to 2010 or the efforts to form a new pattern of domestic large-scale circulation in recent years, the proportion of fixed capital formation in embodied energy and embodied carbon has not shown a downward trend. With the beginning of a new round of infrastructure construction in 2020, it can be foreseen that for a period in the future, the fixed capital formation will still occupy a larger share of final consumption in China. Section 4.2 also indicated that compared with domestic consumption and exports, fixed capital formation would lead to more coal consumption, indicating the possibility of more carbon emissions. Therefore, formulating a long-term plan for infrastructure construction, avoiding repeating the problem of capacity fluctuations in history [51], and realizing the efficient use of embodied energy and embodied carbon should be the focus of future work.

5.2. Continue to Advance the Adjustment of Energy Structure and Develop Non-Fossil Electricity

The adjustment of the energy structure is of significance to China's long-term low-carbon strategy. With the national "3060" goal proposed, it is inevitable that renewable electricity will become the main energy source in the future. This means that the proportion

of electricity in energy consumption will continue to increase, while the proportion of non-fossil electricity in electricity will continue to increase. Taking 2018 as an example, if the electricity consumption of various sectors is increased by 1% in the form of “coal-to-electricity”, the total embodied carbon in the society can be reduced by about 0.4%. If the proportion of non-fossil electricity in electricity production increases by 1%, the total embodied carbon in the whole society will decrease by 0.6%. Therefore, the adjustment of the energy structure, including the development of low-carbon electricity, has a substantial potential for emission reduction in the future.

5.3. Formulate Differentiated Emission Reduction Strategies for Different Sectors

Due to the division of labor in the whole energy economy system, there are obvious differences in the quantity and distribution modes of carbon emissions in various economic sectors. Therefore, it is necessary to formulate differentiated emission reduction measures and low-carbon development paths according to the carbon emission characteristics of different sectors. For key emission sectors on the production side, such as sector 14, emphasis should be placed on improving production efficiency and promoting the cleanness of the energy structure, rather than simply controlling the total amount. The economic production of these sectors actually serves the downstream sectors. Even if the total production of these sectors is controlled, due to the demand of downstream sectors, the country still needs to obtain the same total amount of products through other channels, such as imports. For key emission sectors on the consumption side, such as sector 25 and sector 28, attention should be paid to improving the quality of products and services to improve economic benefits. Meanwhile, the total amounts of some sectors causing more embedded carbon, such as sector 25, must also be properly controlled.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

In this paper, we developed an embodied carbon calculation method that embedded the sectoral energy structure and used this method to expand the driving factors of embodied carbon SDA decomposition analysis. Based on the method, we calculated the quantity of embodied carbon in 28 sectors in China from 2002 to 2018. By drawing China’s 2018 carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram, we identified the key industrial chains and sectors of China’s carbon emissions. We also separately decomposed the growth of embodied carbon in the two periods of 2002–2010 and 2010–2018 by SDA decomposition analysis.

The main findings of our work are as follows:

- (1) Due to the efforts of energy structure adjustment and non-fossil electricity, while embodied energy continued to grow, the quantity of embodied carbon in China’s final consumption stabilized after 2012. The quantity of embodied carbon in the industrial sectors, which had the highest proportion, began to decrease, while the embodied carbon in the construction sector and the other services sector continued to grow.
- (2) The final consumption of the construction sector driven by fixed capital formation and the final consumption of the other services sector driven by domestic consumption were the two most important drivers of carbon emissions, and the former led to more coal consumption. The smelting and pressing of metal sector (sector 14) and construction sector (sector 25) are the largest carbon emission sectors on the production side and consumption side, respectively, and represented two different carbon emission distribution modes.
- (3) The most important driving factor for embodied carbon growth was final consumption quantity, while the major inhibitory driving factor was energy intensity. Compared with 2002–2010, the effect of the input–output structure, sectoral energy structure, and carbon emission coefficient on reducing carbon emissions was more obvious after 2010. This also reflects that China’s industrial structure upgrades and energy structure adjustment policies have achieved significant results.

The core value of our work is the embedding of the sectoral energy structure into the existing embodied carbon calculation method, thus expanding the driving factors

of the SDA decomposition of embodied carbon. We also drew a high-resolution carbon emissions allocation Sankey diagram of China in 2018 to show the overall picture of China's energy economy system. After adopting policies such as “coal to electricity” and “coal to gas” and accelerating the adjustment of the energy structure, the energy structure played a significant role in restraining the growth of embodied carbon in 2010–2018. With the continuous development of energy structure adjustment, especially the rapid development of renewable electricity, the energy structure will play a more prominent role in reducing embodied carbon in the future. This confirms the necessity of considering sectors' energy structure in the calculation and analysis of embodied carbon. Meanwhile, we also put forward the following policy recommendations:

- (1) Strengthen long-term planning and implementation of infrastructure construction;
- (2) Continue to promote industrial adjustment and upgrading, energy structure optimization, and non-fossil electricity development;
- (3) Strengthen the focus on energy conservation and emission reduction in key sectors on the consumer side.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Appendix A

Table A1. The energy consumption of 28 sectors based on producer responsibility from 2002 to 2018 (unit: million tce).

Sector	2002	2005	2007	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018
1	49.3	68.6	70.7	72.7	78.0	82.7	89.5	87.8
2	51.7	56.3	57.3	124.4	150.8	104.0	96.5	99.8
3	47.1	37.4	37.3	39.9	39.0	42.7	39.6	38.2
4	9.4	19.5	24.6	30.9	33.0	28.4	26.4	28.2
5	10.0	11.1	13.4	14.4	22.6	19.8	18.5	23.6
6	44.1	65.1	76.6	72.1	73.8	78.4	77.1	75.1
7	36.2	61.5	72.3	69.9	72.9	71.6	75.2	73.7
8	6.7	10.4	13.4	13.2	16.6	15.5	14.5	14.1
9	5.3	10.7	13.9	16.4	18.2	16.8	14.4	14.3
10	31.7	45.9	48.7	51.3	50.5	49.2	52.3	50.8
11	83.4	124.8	153.2	178.7	188.3	241.8	264.6	286.9
12	215.4	348.3	408.1	440.6	506.9	581.4	585.8	605.8
13	136.6	262.2	289.9	325.1	378.0	355.9	333.4	328.0
14	289.7	526.9	696.0	805.0	830.0	851.8	861.6	869.1

Table A1. *Cont.*

Sector	2002	2005	2007	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018
15	16.4	23.8	31.3	38.0	41.6	46.5	63.7	62.8
16	24.4	37.9	47.0	56.8	54.7	53.8	53.3	54.0
17	18.7	20.6	25.5	37.8	39.2	40.4	43.6	54.7
18	8.3	14.1	18.3	23.5	25.1	25.9	25.8	27.0
19	8.6	15.2	21.0	25.5	26.9	31.5	36.6	46.3
20	1.9	2.2	2.9	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.8
21	14.4	12.8	13.3	15.9	19.5	19.1	19.7	20.8
22	127.7	158.5	179.6	214.9	238.4	261.9	292.6	308.3
23	6.1	6.9	6.9	6.3	6.9	7.2	9.9	11.5
24	5.8	7.1	7.9	9.9	11.1	12.9	15.0	15.9
25	24.6	34.9	42.0	55.3	63.4	75.5	82.4	86.9
26	39.2	59.2	67.3	78.5	100.1	114.5	124.6	129.9
27	128.5	191.4	224.2	271.0	325.6	385.1	421.4	436.2
28	68.6	104.8	122.9	150.5	184.1	219.3	242.8	262.6
Total	1509.4	2338.0	2785.5	3241.8	3598.3	3836.5	3983.7	4114.9

Table A2. The carbon emissions of 28 sectors based on producer responsibility from 2002 to 2018 (unit: million tons).

Sector	2002	2005	2007	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018
1	105.9	147.6	153.5	154.8	165.4	170.4	182.8	176.7
2	123.4	135.9	140.6	302.1	363.4	237.2	216.5	217.0
3	89.3	72.7	70.3	72.7	71.1	75.5	69.4	66.3
4	21.0	44.8	56.6	69.6	71.4	59.2	53.2	56.0
5	22.9	25.7	31.7	32.4	49.0	41.2	37.2	47.1
6	104.5	159.4	187.0	168.7	169.4	172.8	164.5	154.3
7	83.0	144.2	168.7	156.9	161.2	147.5	147.8	141.1
8	14.9	23.9	31.0	29.4	36.4	32.1	28.4	26.8
9	12.6	25.5	32.8	36.9	40.6	35.3	28.4	27.1
10	74.2	109.2	116.2	118.6	114.6	104.0	106.9	100.0
11	163.3	248.2	311.8	361.3	376.9	473.8	500.3	537.1
12	480.3	804.6	938.7	969.5	1112.8	1249.3	1219.7	1243.1
13	333.8	655.8	723.5	790.5	919.1	842.7	768.0	742.6
14	714.3	1316.8	1739.8	1981.4	2035.2	2033.1	2029.0	2028.8
15	36.4	52.9	70.6	81.7	89.4	93.0	122.3	122.4
16	56.1	88.4	110.3	127.8	121.0	112.0	106.1	103.9
17	42.5	46.3	57.6	80.9	82.3	79.9	82.8	99.0
18	18.0	31.4	40.7	50.1	53.1	51.6	49.4	50.6
19	17.9	32.5	45.4	53.2	55.7	61.6	69.8	86.6
20	4.1	4.9	6.5	7.6	6.9	6.2	5.9	5.2
21	31.5	28.3	29.8	34.1	41.2	38.3	37.8	39.6
22	289.8	355.7	406.0	468.0	507.3	520.7	569.5	591.4
23	14.1	14.2	14.1	12.8	14.2	13.5	19.3	21.9
24	12.5	15.6	17.5	20.8	23.2	25.3	28.7	30.1
25	49.0	69.2	82.8	106.8	122.3	141.9	152.8	159.8
26	89.5	136.7	155.0	174.0	220.9	240.8	255.4	258.9
27	234.6	345.7	403.5	482.9	578.4	675.5	736.2	761.1
28	144.6	225.9	265.5	315.2	383.3	437.1	474.0	504.7
Total	3384.1	5362.0	6407.3	7260.7	7985.7	8171.3	8262.0	8399.1

Table A3. The energy consumption of 28 sectors based on consumer responsibility from 2002 to 2018 (unit: million tce).

Sector	2002	2005	2007	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018
1	84.3	88.0	69.8	68.8	87.8	71.5	86.7	85.1
2	4.7	3.6	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.8	1.1	1.0
3	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6	75.2	101.7	129.7	161.8	169.1	161.7	215.9	183.8
7	13.4	13.9	5.6	4.8	6.9	9.6	8.4	7.0
8	28.0	44.4	54.8	62.9	65.4	69.9	73.4	63.9
9	6.5	9.6	17.4	17.4	18.4	22.3	22.7	24.1
10	6.7	8.5	5.7	8.5	19.2	45.1	23.8	22.3
11	4.1	5.2	12.4	18.7	26.4	42.0	35.0	41.3
12	37.7	48.2	45.9	49.8	77.0	99.0	91.9	91.4
13	21.3	29.0	7.0	5.8	8.7	9.8	5.8	4.9
14	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	16.9	30.7	24.1	13.9	41.2	36.9	31.2	27.3
16	118.5	258.1	233.0	307.8	327.0	266.6	213.1	236.8
17	60.2	96.5	157.7	281.4	297.8	285.3	278.8	278.7
18	31.2	80.5	105.7	163.9	129.9	132.2	89.2	80.2
19	53.0	105.6	67.4	82.6	66.9	62.0	81.1	90.1
20	3.8	24.8	15.0	17.8	10.5	13.9	7.3	8.9
21	10.4	15.0	18.2	29.1	1.8	4.1	1.9	2.4
22	29.1	33.2	37.7	39.3	37.7	43.8	37.0	59.0
23	5.2	7.1	4.9	9.9	11.5	18.0	11.5	12.4
24	3.0	3.2	4.5	10.8	8.5	10.8	9.8	12.3
25	493.8	678.6	924.1	1134.2	1285.8	1536.2	1520.9	1584.3
26	57.7	79.1	91.4	78.5	87.2	92.4	106.0	113.4
27	42.7	69.8	59.8	56.0	109.5	110.9	161.5	154.6
28	271.5	463.3	413.3	512.0	576.7	688.6	756.7	820.7
Total	1481.2	2298.9	2507.0	3137.5	3472.8	3835.2	3870.7	4006.0

Table A4. The carbon emissions of 28 sectors based on consumer responsibility from 2002 to 2018 (unit: million tons).

Sector	2002	2005	2007	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018
1	184.3	196.2	155.7	149.1	188.3	148.3	176.0	170.0
2	10.9	8.4	4.8	4.1	4.6	6.1	2.3	2.1
3	1.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6	169.8	234.7	297.8	357.9	367.9	339.4	441.0	368.0
7	30.1	31.8	12.8	10.5	15.1	19.9	16.8	13.8
8	62.3	101.2	124.5	138.2	142.0	144.8	146.6	125.2
9	14.6	22.1	39.9	38.7	40.3	46.7	46.2	47.9
10	15.2	19.7	13.2	19.1	42.8	95.7	49.3	45.1
11	8.3	10.7	26.3	39.0	54.3	82.9	66.8	77.8
12	83.4	110.0	104.4	109.2	167.6	208.4	188.6	184.8
13	50.6	68.7	16.8	13.5	20.3	21.8	12.6	10.6
14	2.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	39.1	72.1	56.8	31.8	93.9	80.4	66.7	58.0
16	273.1	607.0	548.7	707.0	741.2	578.9	452.7	496.2
17	138.1	225.6	368.4	638.8	668.1	613.7	586.9	573.5
18	71.7	189.2	248.9	376.3	295.5	289.7	191.9	170.1
19	119.3	244.1	155.0	184.5	147.9	131.4	169.0	184.3

Table A4. Cont.

Sector	2002	2005	2007	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018
20	8.7	57.5	34.5	39.8	23.4	29.8	15.3	18.4
21	23.4	34.3	41.9	65.1	4.0	8.6	3.9	4.8
22	65.6	75.2	85.8	87.5	82.5	89.6	73.9	116.1
23	11.7	15.3	10.4	20.9	24.1	35.5	22.2	23.5
24	6.6	7.1	10.0	23.3	18.1	21.8	19.3	23.8
25	1124.8	1570.8	2155.1	2568.6	2920.7	3336.8	3240.4	3326.0
26	128.4	179.6	204.7	170.7	188.1	190.8	212.3	222.6
27	84.4	139.5	119.0	110.3	211.4	208.2	297.4	282.5
28	598.5	1046.4	927.7	1112.9	1239.5	1419.0	1519.7	1620.8
Total	3327.8	5270.6	5763.0	7016.9	7701.3	8148.2	8017.8	8165.8

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