

Quantitative Assessment of Energy Consumption at the Urban Scale: the Ecological Footprint of a University Campus

Original

Quantitative Assessment of Energy Consumption at the Urban Scale: the Ecological Footprint of a University Campus / Sonetti, Giulia. - ELETTRONICO. - (2019), pp. 213-213. (Intervento presentato al convegno European Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2019 – Circular Europe for Sustainability: Design, Production and Consumption).

Availability:

This version is available at: 11583/2850856 since: 2020-11-08T10:09:27Z

Publisher:

Institute for Sustainability Science and Technology, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech

Published

DOI:

Terms of use:

This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository

Publisher copyright

(Article begins on next page)

PROCEEDINGS

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



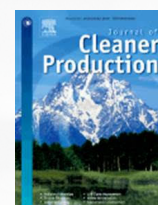
15-18 October 2019, Barcelona

19th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production



INSTITUTE FOR
Sustainability Science
AND TECHNOLOGY

SPONSORS





PROCEEDINGS

of the

19th European Roundtable for Sustainable
Consumption and Production

Circular Europe for Sustainability: Design,
Production and Consumption

Editors:

Jordi Segalàs, Boris Lazzarini

October 15 – 18, 2019 · Barcelona

Title:

Proceedings of the
European Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2019 –
Circular Europe for Sustainability: Design, Production and Consumption

ISBN Abstracts proceedings: 978-84-09-16794-4

Copyright © Institute for Sustainability Science and Technology, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech (ISST-UPC).

Note: the Proceedings as a whole are subject to copyright by ISST-UPC. Individual authors have the right to self-archive and disseminate their own papers, and are also free to seek their publication in scientific journals.

Cover design: Marta Santamaría Molina

Institute for Sustainability Science and Technology (ISST-UPC)
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – BarcelonaTech
C/ Jordi Girona, 1 – 3
08034 Barcelona
Spain

Phone: +34 934 05 43 91 - email: institut.sostenibilitat@upc.edu
<http://is.upc.edu>

Quantitative Assessment of Energy Consumption at the Urban Scale: the Ecological Footprint of a University Campus

Sonetti, G.^{1*}, Favaro, S.², Genta, C.¹, Fracastoro, G. V.³, Lombardi, P.¹

¹ *Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino and Università di Torino, Italy*

² *Department of Architecture and Design, Politecnico di Torino, Italy*

³ *Department of Energy, Politecnico di Torino, Italy *giulia.sonetti@polito.it, corresponding author*

Abstract

This paper explores the consumption-based ecological footprint method and its application aiming at performing a quantitative assessment of the sustainability of a university campus. The goal is to inform the planning decision-making process and evaluate the socio-technical solutions implemented in local urban settings to reduce energy consumption, decrease environmental impacts and improve the quality of life of the campus inhabitants. The case study taken for the analysis is the Politecnico di Torino, a 33,000-student-Higher-Education Institution (HEI) located in the north of Italy. Data were collected from different departments and administrative units of the Politecnico di Torino to estimate emissions and identify the pressure exerted by the campus activities on the local ecosystem during a reference year (2016). Six main categories of consumption were identified and associated with their ecological footprint, i.e., the amount of land needed to produce the required resources and to absorb the generated waste, including CO₂ emissions. Total footprint resulted in being of 6,200 gha: about the half of the total city area, meaning that the campus would need a 310 times larger area to be self-sufficient. Transports had the highest share, with 49.4% out of the total campus impact, whereas energy covered 40.1%. Food, waste, land use and water counted respectively for 5.7%, 3.7%, 0.7%, and 0.5%. This study presents the most comprehensive analysis to date of the environmental impact associated with an Italian HEI. This methodology and its development for the specific case of HEIs contributes to gain a better understanding of the overall impact of a university campus, as well as to create thresholds for comparative analysis, decision-making tools, and policy-making to reduce the carbon footprint of the educational sector.

Keywords: Emission analysis, Higher education, Sustainability assessment, Decision making, Carbon footprint.

Enhancing the Accountability and Comparability of Different Campuses' Energy Profiles Through an Energy Clusters Approach

Sonetti, G.^{1*}, Chelleri, L.², Kikuta, K.³

^{1*}Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino and Università di Torino, Italy,
giulia.sonetti@polito.it

²ESARQ School of Architecture, Department of Architecture, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain,
lchelleri@uic.es

³Faculty of Engineering, Human Environmental Systems, Planning and Performances for Built Environment, Hokkaido University, Kita 13, Nishi 8, Kita-ku, Sapporo, 060-8628, Japan, k-kikuta@eng.hokudai.ac.jp

Abstract

Living lab facilities are increasingly supporting university campuses sustainability management by providing consumption patterns and performance indicators. Ranking systems set criteria to universities sustainability managers in order to motivate sustainability operationalization. However, current campuses' sustainability assessment tools do not provide specific consumption thresholds according to the different functions that could be hosted, or the building typologies or the geographic context. Because of this, the paper proposes the framing of different energy clusters, related to homogeneous consumption rates, enabling a meaningful comparison among campuses within the international rankings. Energy consumption profiles of two university campuses similar for climate, surface and population have been collected in a span of four years' time both at the Politecnico di Torino (Italy) and Hokkaido University (Japan). A partial regression analysis on these data revealed five different clusters of homogeneous consumption ranges: cluster 1 (around 1 GJ/m²/year) includes the Art departments, cluster 2 (around 2 GJ/m²/year) includes the Science faculties, cluster 3 (around 3 GJ/m²/year) includes the hospital and the medicine departments. Cluster 4 includes the Data Centre (around 9 GJ/m²/year), and cluster 5 includes special research facilities with consumption over 10 GJ/m²/year. The proposed energy clusters approach can significantly enhance the accountability and comparability of different and complex campuses' energy profiles, contributing to a better evaluation of universities' energy performances.

Keywords: Energy management, Assessment and reporting, Campus operation, Higher education, Sustainability.



INSTITUTE FOR
Sustainability Science
AND TECHNOLOGY

erscp 