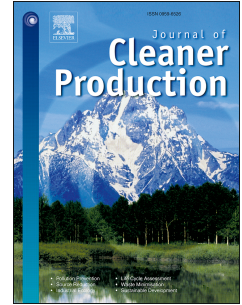


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Changes of CO₂ emissions embodied in China-Japan trade: drivers and implications

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Abstract

CO₂ emission embodied in trade is an important aspect to respond international carbon mitigation. Half of China's emission increase was due to production of exports. In order to analyze the reason of such a rapid emission increase, embodied CO₂ emission flows between China and Japan for the period of 2000-2009 were estimated in this study by using emission embodied in bilateral trade (EEBT) approach in order to raise policy implications for both countries from trade perspective. Decomposition analysis was further conducted in order to identify driving forces underlying changes during the study period. Moreover, the concept of dependence on traded CO₂ was proposed for analyzing mutual dependence of China and Japan's carbon emission and economy. The results show that China was a net exporter of embodied CO₂ emissions between China-Japan trade, but both China's exported emissions and net emission transfer to Japan began to decrease after 2007. More emissions were embodied in more advanced and less carbon intensive products, especially for China's exports. Driving force analysis shows that trade volume was the main driver for the increase of embodied emissions and technology effect contributed mainly to the decrease. The absolute value of technology effect was even larger than activity effect in some years. This study also reveals that Japan was relatively more dependent on China's CO₂ emissions and showed an increasing trend over the last decade, while China's economic development was more dependent on imports from Japan and such a situation reversed after 2006. This study suggests that China should further reduce its emission intensity for narrowing

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