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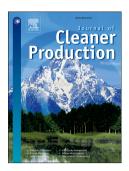
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Is biomass energy really clean? An environmental life-cycle

perspective on biomass-based electricity generation in China

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ABSTRACT

A bottom-up approach combined with national and provincial statistical data was used to evaluate the potential environmental effects of electricity generation scenarios based on five mature biomasses in China. Coal-based electricity generation technology was used as control. Uncertainty analysis was conducted to confirm and add credibility to this study. The electricity generation capacities of municipal solid waste, sewage sludge, and corn straw account for approximately 0.86%, 0.085%, and 8.18%, respectively, of electricity generated in China in 2012. The estimated national environmental burden caused by biomass-based electricity generation was mainly observed in eastern China, which can be attributed to the relatively high population density and economic levels of this region. For each biomass-based scenario, the key

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