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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF CHINA'S URBANIZATION AND LIFESTYLE CHANGE: ECOLOGICAL AND WATER FOOTPRINTS

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ABSTRACT

China has experienced tremendous economic and social transformations since the open door policy was implemented in 1978, making it one of the world's biggest economies and resource users. The stark disparities in wealth and lifestyles, particularly between urban and rural China, were also a factor in China's economic revival. This paper examines present and future urbanization and lifestyle changes, as well as other significant socioeconomic developments in China. The ramifications of these developments are examined in detail for Beijing, and then contrasted to China in the year 2020. Input—output analysis, as well as the Ecological Footprint and Water Footprint, are used to predict these changes by 2020.

KEYWORDS: China, Consumption, Ecological, Industrial, Sustainable.

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