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ASSESSING HUMAN AND CARBON FOOTPRINT OF RANCHI URBAN ENVIRONMENT USING REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY

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In the present study, the total carbon emission of rapidly growing Ranchi Urban Abstract: Agglomeration (RUA) was estimated in geospatial environment considering certain factors. The carbon emission estimation is based on the increase in human as well as vehicular population and loss of vegetation cover employing standardized conversion factors. The rapid built-up expansion (180%) and human population growth (223%) during 1975-2010 led to innumerable socio-economic and environmental impacts including deterioration of urban ecosystem. The built-up expansion as observed through satellite images reflects degradation in the natural ecosystem primarily apparent on forest ecosystem in RUA. The study reveals that after reorganization of Ranchi as state capital (post 2000), the carbon emission was more prevalent as compared to the earlier periods. The estimates of carbon stock (terrestrial carbon) represents that the vegetation cover, attributed as the major source of carbon sink, was lost and leads to emission of total 2.44 metric tonnes of carbon during 1975-2010. The vehicular based carbon emission estimation exhibits high level of carbon emission in RUA (198,038,728 metric tonnes) during the year 2010. The population distribution pattern in wards of Ranchi Municipal Corporation revealed that the wards located in the selected city core northern, north-eastern, eastern and south-western parts emitted than the mean city carbon emission (>38,500 metric tonnes) as compared to the wards located in central, northeastern, south-western and south-western parts (>60,000 metric tonnes). The study suggests towards urgent imposition of regulations for rapid land use transformation together with preservation and growth of carbon sink locations of RUA.

Keywords: Carbon footprint; Urban growth; Urban traffic; Geoinformatics

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INTRODUCTION

Cities are increasingly expanding their boundaries and populations thus defining the human history as the history of urbanization (Santamouris 2002). These cities are often considered to be major causes of climate change through being centers of carbon intensive production and consumption (Satterthwaite 2010) and account for more than 70% of global fossil-fuel CO₂ emissions (Romero-Lankao *et al.* 2015). Human beings around the world expand constructed surfaces for shelter, transportation, and commerce (Sutton *et al.* 2009). This is increasing enormous pressure over the human carrying capacity of the Earth due to resident's ever-increasing per capita demand for goods and services, particularly material needs and energy (Dhakal 2004).

The rapid urban expansion led to extensive changes in land use/ land cover substantially replaced vegetation cover and other production natural cover with impervious surfaces (Seto and Kaufmann 2009). The impervious surfaces (viz., buildings, roads) usually absorbs higher solar radiation and store heat during the day time, both from solar radiation (due to its greater thermal capacity and conductivity) and from human activities such as traffic exhaust and energy use. This heat is then released during the night resulting in higher night-time temperatures in urban areas (Kershaw et al. 2010). Therefore, it has long been recognized that urban areas have their own localized climate and are typically warmer than surrounding non-urban areas forming Urban Heat Island (UHI) (Howard 1833; Oke 1982; Arnfield 2003). Also building related technologies such as air conditioners, heating and cooling systems, insulation systems and other building energy management systems affect energy use significantly.

Urban carbon emission has sharply increased owing to the rapid urbanization and motorization. Urban traffic is the third major greenhouse gas emission sector following energy supply and industrial production, accounting for 13.1% of the global emission. The energy implications from transportation systems depends on availability of built-in infrastructure for rail and road networks, mass transportation systems, share of public and private travel demand, role of alternative fuel vehicles, share of small-occupancy-vehicles, such as two wheelers as in India, China, Thailand, Indonesia and others. Increasingly, cars are dominating other means of automobile transportation in rapidly industrializing cities due to rising income, attached social stigma for owning cars and inefficient public transportation systems. This is putting pressure on issues such as energy security as well as local air pollution and greenhouse gases from urban transportation. Carbon emissions from vehicles, traffic congestion and increasing particulate matter pose various challenges to urban ecosystem including widespread public health risks (Dhakal 2004; Mehrotra *et al.* 2009). The exposure of a large and concentrated urban population to worsening urban air pollution, water pollution, solid waste, deteriorated rainfall patterns and excessive temperature has increased vulnerabilities related to global climatic changes (Dhakal 2004).

Kumar et al. (2011a, 2011b) reported rapid urban expansion along with increasing population in recent decades. This led to innumerable socio-economic and environmental impacts. The increase in human and vehicular (4461.4% during 1997-2010) population resulted in deterioration of urban environment in Ranchi as substantiated by increasing and higher concentration of Suspended Particulate Matter (>300 µg/m³) and Respiratory Suspended Particulate Matter (>200 μ g/m³), high concentration of Aerosol Optical Depth (0.30% to 0.35% at 340nm), critical (65-75 dB(A)) and high (>75 dB(A)) levels of ambient noise at major parts (Kumar et al. 2013) together with depletion of groundwater quantity (Kumar and Pandey, 2016) and water quality (Pandey and Kumar, 2015). These changes affect the absorption of solar radiation, surface temperature, evaporation rates and resulted in alteration of local climate. The meteorological conditions indicate increase in mean temperature (0.4°C) and decrease in cumulative rainfall during 1960-2010 reflecting deteriorating trend of urban climatic conditions in Ranchi. The haphazard built-up growth largely at the expense of agricultural and other productive lands to fulfil the housing and non-housing requirement of ever increasing population led to increase in energy consumption, vehicular pollution as well as carbon emission.

Therefore, in the present study, the carbon footprint of Ranchi Urban Agglomeration (RUA) has been measured based on land use/ land cover (LULC) change, number of registered, population increase and ward level household population distribution. This may be helpful in preparation of city level climate change action plan and defining city level climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Although climate change is a multidimensional phenomenon, the present study considered only few factors of carbon emission and its implication of city climate change.

STUDY AREA

The study area (317.6 km2) comprising Ranchi Urban Agglomeration (RUA) is the capital of Jharkhand state. The RUA is located between 85° 13' to 85° 25' E longitude and 23° 13' to 23° 26' N latitude at 645 m above sea level and is a part of the Chotanagpur plateau (Fig. 1). The demarcation of study area was based on 2 km outer buffer of Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) boundary, which covers majority of continuous built-up land (as observed in satellite images in 2010) of Ranchi township.

Ranchi has a population of about 10,73,440 persons (Census of India, 2011) and having population density of 8656 persons/km2 with major proportion of the population being dominated by tribal communities. As per census of India 2011, 22.2% of population of Jharkhand is residing in urban area, and a major part of it resides in Ranchi City (17.7%). Administratively, the RUA comprises parts of Kanke, Namkum and Ratu Community Development Blocks in Ranchi district of Jharkhand State. Ranchi city is governed by municipal authority of the city (i.e., Ranchi Municipal Corporation). Physiographically, Ranchi city is located on Chotanagpur Plateau and characterized by undulating topography with elevation ranging from about 595 m to 754 m above sea level (asl). Swarnrekha river and its tributaries viz.,

Harmu, Potpoto, Kanchi, Saphi, Jumar, Radhu and Tajna are the major rivers draining the area.

Climate of the study area ranges from dry semi-humid to humid types. The city receives about 1400 mm of average annual rainfall. The cold weather commences early in November and comes to an end in the middle of March. The hot weather then sets in and lasts till the middle of June. Soon after, the monsoon season commences and continues till the end of September. The weather in the winter season is pleasant as the days are bright and warm with mean temperature of 19.6°C. The highest temperature is often registered in May, which is the hottest month of the year and maximum temperature rises up to 45 °C. Relative humidity ranges from 80% during winter, 65% during summer and 96% during monsoon season.

After its formation as state capital of Jharkhand state on 15th Nov. 2000, the Ranchi city has experienced rapid urbanization and resultant rapid land use transformation as well as high influx of population during the last decades. The majority of city core area is being transformed into high density built-up comprising multistoried buildings, commercial complexes and apartments, whereas at the rural-urban fringe the horizontal expansion was largely observed.



Fig. 1 Study área.

DATA USE AND METHODOLOGY

In the present study, the carbon emission was estimated in Ranchi Urban Agglomeration based on three factors: a) loss of vegetation cover, b) number of registered vehicles, and c) population increase and household distribution pattern in municipal wards of RMC. The LULC of RUA prepared using multi-temporal satellite observation viz. LANDSAT MSS 1975, LANDSAT TM 1991, LANDSAT ETM+2001 and 2010 employing visual interpretation technique. The change in built-up and vegetation cover was estimated over the periods. The carbon emission was estimated employing standard conversion factor with reference to total wood volume following Canada's Model Forest Program (CMFP, 2000). The total wood volume was calculated using loss in vegetation coverage, which later used in total dry matter biomass estimation and carbon stock/ terrestrial carbon estimation.

To determine annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per passenger vehicle, the number of registered vehicles was used as base data, which was collected from District Transport Office (DTO), Ranchi. The total gallons of gasoline consumed were estimated using average movement of passenger vehicle per year and their average mileage. Gallons of gasoline consumed were multiplied by carbon dioxide per gallon of gasoline to determine carbon dioxide emitted per vehicle per year. Carbon dioxide emissions were then divided by the ratio of carbon dioxide emissions to total vehicle GHG emissions to account for vehicle methane and nitrous oxide emissions (EPA, 2012).

Based on a cursory examination of the per capita carbon emissions in Ranchi city as observed by ICLEI-South Asia (2009), the carbon emission in RUA was estimated on the basis of population increase. Later, municipal ward-wise carbon emission was calculated using distribution of households and population in municipal wards in GIS environment. The population data during various periods were collected from UNPD, 2015 and Census of India; whereas ward level household and population distribution data collected from Ranchi Municipal Corporation, for the year 2011.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The urban centers in India are more vulnerable and riskprone regions in the world due to rapid population growth, high densities, poverty, and high differentials in access to housing, public services and infrastructure. This is expected to further degrade the resilience of poor, vulnerable communities, which make up between one quarter and one half of the population of most Indian cities. According to the Census 2011, India had a population of 1,210 million with approximately 27 per cent (or 377 million people) living in urban areas. This share of urban population is predicted to increase to about 40 per cent by 2021. Climate change is set to become an increasingly important strategic economic and political concern as it starts to eat into India's high economic growth rates and affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. In the present study, various factors of carbon emission have been taken into consideration in view of estimation of carbon from RUA.

Carbon emission due to degradation/ reduction in vegetation cover

The built-up area in Ranchi Urban Agglomeration increased rapidly from 44.5 sq. km to 124.64 sq. km during 1975 to 2010 with 180.09% as observed from the multi-temporal satellite images. During the same periods, the population increased from 342,000 persons to 1,107,000 persons with 223.68% increase (UNPD, 2014). This induced excessive pressure over the existing land and water resources and therefore generated demands for overexploitation of existing resources. This altogether leads to change in land use/ land cover and more often (Kumar et al. 2011), it implies in the form of large vertical and horizontal built-up spread at the expense of agricultural land and vegetation cover (Pandey et al. 2013). Later is considered as a major source of carbon sequestration. Thus degradation in farm lands and vegetation cover leads to increase carbon emission due to loss of sources of sequestration. Annez and Buckley (2009) had confirmed a strong link between rapid growth and a structural shift from agriculture to urban activities (manufacturing and services) in the sectoral composition of GDP growth across countries.

Satellite based observations exhibited that built-up land in RUA increased from 44.5 sq. km to 124.64 sq. km during 1975-2010 at the cost of arable land, vegetation land and water bodies. In these periods, 60.12 sq. km area under arable land and 19.75 sq. km area under vegetation cover irreversibly lost, while 2.83 sq. km area under water body was converted to non-water body in the process of haphazard and rapid urban expansion in and around Ranchi city (Table 1 and Figure 2). The estimates of carbon stock (terrestrial carbon) represents that the vegetation cover reduced from 22.59 sq. km to 2.84 sq. km during 1975-2005. The total loss of 19.75 sq. km of vegetation cover induced2.44 metric tons of total carbon emission (Table 2). The periodic observation exhibits that the loss of vegetation covers from 22.59 sq. km to 8.25 sq. km (by 14.24 sq. km) during 1975-1991 and induced 1.76 metric tons of carbon emission, which is the maximum emission during the observation periods. In 1991-2001 periods, the vegetation cover reduced from 8.35 sq. km to 5.88 sq. km (by 2.47 sq. km) and induced 0.31 metric tons of carbon emission. Whereas in 2001-2010 periods, the vegetation cover further reduced from 5.88 sq. km to 2.84 sq. km with a total loss of 3.04 sq. km, which induced 0.38 metric tons of carbon emission.

Table 1. Statistics of built-up land, vegetation cover and population increase in Ranchi UA (1927-2010)

Year	Built-up (sq. km)	Vegetated (sq. km)	Population
1975	44.50	22.59	342,000
1991	62.44	8.35	614,795
2001	88.45	5.88	847,093
2010	124.64	2.84	1,107,000
1975-2010 Change (sq. km)	80.14	-19.75	765000
% Changes	529.20	-67.90	2091.30



Fig. 2 Spatio-temporal changes in built-up land and vegetation cover during 1975-2010 (a.2, b.2, c.2, and d.2) as observed from (a.1) LANDSAT MSS (1975), (b.1) TM (1991), (c.1) ETM⁺ (2001) and (d.1) IRS LISS-IV (2005) and (e) its graphical representation with population increase

Table 2. Carbon emission estimation due to loss of vegetation cover in RUA during 1975-2

Periods	Total loss of vegetation cover (sq. km)	Total wood volume (m ³)	Total dry matter biomass (Metric tons)	Total carbon emission (Metric tons)	Per year Vegetation loss (sq. km)	Per year carbon emission (Metric tons)
1975-1991	14.24	8.20	3.53	1.76	0.89	0.11
1991-2001	2.47	1.42	0.61	0.31	0.25	0.03
2001-2010	3.04	1.75	0.75	0.38	0.34	0.04
Total	19.75	11.37	4.89	2.44	-	-

Conversion factor: 1. Total wood volume = loss of vegetation cover \times 1.454 \times 0.396 (in m³); 2. Total dry matter biomass = wood volume \times 0.43 (in *metric tons*); 3. Total carbon = dry matter biomass \times 0.5 (in *metric tons*). Source: Canada's Model Forest Program, 2000, Carbon Budget Accounting at the Forest Management Unit Level: An overview of issues and methods, Canadian Forest Service, Ottawa, pp.13.

The per year loss of vegetation cover based per year carbon emission statistics exhibits the increased loss of vegetation cover (0.89 sq. km/ year) and high emission (0.11 metric tons/ year) during 1975-1991. Whereas the later period i.e., 1991-2001, observed significant reduction in loss of vegetation cover (0.25 sq. km/ year) and low carbon emission (0.03 metric tons). The period 2001-2010 observed insignificant increase in loss of vegetation cover (0.34 sq. km) and slight increase in carbon emission (0.04 metric tons) (table 2). Various studies attributed rapid and haphazard urban expansion more specifically widening of road, new road construction and built-up development as one the contributing factor for the loss of vegetation cover. The episodic change in vegetation cover is mainly attributed to the established economic and climatic significance of the city in the initial period of 1975-1991 and later saturation in rapid built-up expansion during 1991-2001. The change in the administrative significance of city as the state capital in the year 2000 induced large human migration as well as influenced major built-up development activity, which increased the loss of vegetation cover in the vicinity.

Vehicular based Carbon emission

Motor vehicles have increased many folds in Jharkhand after getting its recognition as 28th state of India. District Transport Office (DTO), Ranchi registered the maximum number of vehicles in the State during 2001-2002, which includes highest number of buses, cars, taxis, jeeps, twowheelers and three wheelers. Transportation is the major source of pollution and responsible for a significant percentage of principles pollutants, such as Sulfur dioxide, Nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, particulate matters, CO2, CO and Lead. Pollutants from automobiles come as a byproduct of fuel combustion process (exhaust) and from evaporation of the fuel itself, for which there is no specific strategy and/ or policy to deal with. Generally, diesel operated old vehicles usually emit more pollutants as compared to petrol operated vehicles. Average emission of CO from the two wheelers varies from 0.04% to 0.10% whereas emissions from an individual car are generally low.

If we assume the functionality of all vehicles till date, there is very high level of carbon emission in Ranchi UA and its surroundings as represented with 19,80,38,728 metric tons (per year or per day?) based on cumulative number of registered vehicles in Ranchi during 1997-2010 (Table 3 and Figure 3). There is an episodic increase and decrease in the number of vehicles registered and thereby carbon emission. The vast increase in vehicles demand and registration in Ranchi region during 1999-2000 (40.67%) as compared to previous periods(1997-99) induced 63,33,103 metric tons of carbon emission. After a gradual increase during 2000-01 (8.43%), the tremendous increase in vehicle registration was observed during 2001-02 (30.06%) and 2002-03 (42.24%) induced 68,66,896 metric tons, 89,30,781 metric tons and 12,703,252 metric tons of carbon emission respectively. The later periods observed gradual increase in vehicle registration and carbon emissions with insignificant changes in percentage growth till 2006-07. The period 2007-08 evident minor decrease in vehicle registration (-0.96%) and carbon emission (23,306,134 metric tons). The later period viz., 2008-09 (12.84%) and 2009-10 (9.47%) observed significant increase in vehicle registration and carbon emission of 26,298,403 and 28,788,312 metric tons respectively. The change in road tax, excise duty and introduction of new models significantly influences the demand of the vehicles in the region.

Carbon emission from households

The average per capita carbon emission is 0.93 metric tons in India (Shridhar, 2010)which is higher in metropolitan cities (1.19 metric tons) as compared to the non-metropolitan cities (only 0.90 metric tons).This estimated based on a cursory examination of the per capita carbon emissions across metropolitan and nonmetropolitan cities of India (ICLEI-South Asia, 2009).



Fig. 3 Carbon emission estimates based on number of registered vehicles in Ranchi.

Table 3. Nu	nber of v	vehicles reg	gistration	during	1997-2	2010 a	nd vel	hicle	based	carbon	emission	in RUA
			2	0								

Years	Vehicle registered	Avg. movement (À)	Gasoline consumed (À/ Avg. mileage)	Carbon emission (metric tons)	% Change
1997-98	7,735	90,654,200	4,443,833	4,341,625	_
1998-99	8,021	94,006,120	4,608,143	4,502,156	3.70
1999-2000	11,283	132,236,760	6,482,194	6,333,103	40.67
2000-01	12,234	143,382,480	7,028,552	6,866,896	8.43
2001-02	15,911	186,476,920	9,141,025	8,930,781	30.06
2002-03	22,632	265,247,040	13,002,305	12,703,252	42.24
2003-04	26,856	314,752,320	15,429,034	15,074,166	18.66
2004-05	29,738	348,529,360	17,084,771	16,691,822	10.73
2005-06	36,827	431,612,440	21,157,471	20,670,849	23.84
2006-07	41,923	491,337,560	24,085,173	23,531,214	13.84
2007-08	41,522	486,637,840	23,854,794	23,306,134	-0.96
2008-09	46,853	549,117,160	26,917,506	26,298,403	12.84
2009-10	51,289	601,107,080	29,466,031	28,788,312	9.47
Total	3,52,824	4,13,50,97,280	20,27,00,847	19,80,38,728	_

Conversion factor: $8.92*10^{-3}$ metric tons CO₂/ gallon gasoline * 11720 VMT _{car/truck average} * 1/20.4 miles per gallon _{car/truck average} * 1 CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O/ 0.977 CO₂ = 5.1 metric tons CO₂E/ vehicle. Source: FHWA, 2008. Note: Due to rounding, performing of calculation given in the equations below may not return the exact results shown.

Based on the per capita carbon emission (1.97 metric tons per capita in Ranchi City) following ICLEI-South Asia (2009) and assuming similar (per capita) carbon emission intensity over the four decades, the total carbon emission of Ranchi UA was calculated over the different time period (1975-2010, Table 4). It exhibits that very high carbon emission in Ranchi city and its vicinity during 1975-2010, where the carbon emission was increased by almost three times (223.68%). The periodic observation exhibits that the total carbon emission was 6,73,740 metric tons in 1975 contributed by 342,000 persons, which increased to12,11,146 metric tons in 1991 made by 614,795 persons with a total 80% increase. In the later years, it increase to 16,68,773 metric tons (2001) contributed by 8,47,093 persons and to 21,80,790 metric tons (2010) contributed by 11,07,000 persons with comparatively less growth i.e., 38% and 31% respectively. The carbon emission statistics shows that after reorganization of Ranchi as state capital the carbon emission was more prevalent in RUA (Table 4). This can be attributed as the carbon emission is directly related with the population increase, their socio-cultural behavior and type of consumption patterns in an urban area. The consumption patterns of households during the periods may be one of the major contributory factors influencing the carbon emission pattern in the city.

Ward level carbon emission estimation

The ward level population in Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) was used to calculate the level of carbon emission in the different wards of the RMC. The result exhibits that the wards located in city core are comparatively small in area and having less number of households as compared to wards located at city periphery, which cover significant portion of RMC. The ward wise population distribution exhibits that five wards (ward no. 2, 4, 8, 29 and 31), which had more than 6000 households. The two wards (ward no. 26,31 and 46) have population >40000 persons (Figure 4 (a)).

The ward level population based carbon emission was computed using ICLEI, 2007, which reveals that the selected wards in the city core, northern, north-eastern, eastern and south-western parts emitted less carbon than the mean city carbon emission (>38,500 metric tons). On the other hand, wards located in western and southeastern parts recorded high carbon emission (38,500 to 60,000 metric tons). The significant carbon emission (>60,000 metric tons) registered in northern (ward no. 2, 4, and 8) and central parts (ward no. 29 and 31) emitted more carbon (Fig. 4(b)). The per household ward level carbon emission assessment exhibited significant carbon emission (>10.27 metric tons) in central, north-eastern, south-western and south-western parts (Fig. 4(c)).On the contrary, majority of wards located in northern, western, southern parts recorded less carbon per household i.e., <10.27 metric tons.

Mitigation and adaptation

The carbon emission in Ranchi Urban Agglomeration is lower as compared to Indian cities and cities around the globe. Ranchi UA is characterized by high and increasing concentration of population, housing stock, poor infrastructure and lack to coping capacity with highly varying meteorological conditions, which are make it more susceptible to carbon emission and changing climate. The recent events of reduced rainfall patterns with increased surface temperature, water crisis situations etc. in Ranchi UA are the effective examples. Looking into the situation, the study suggested some broad action plans to reduce carbon emissions in Ranchi

Year	Population (Persons)	Total carbon emission* (metric tonnes)	% change of carbon emission	Per capita per year carbon emission (metric tonnes)	
1927	50,517	99,518			
1975	3,42,000	6,73,740	577	14036	
1991	6,14,795	12,11,146	80	25232	
2001	8,47,093	16,68,773	38	34766	
2010	11,07,000	21,80,790	31	45433	
% Changes	2091.3	58,33,968	2,091.34	119468	

Table 4: Population increase and carbon emission statistics

*As per ICLEI south Asia estimation, Ranchi produces 1.97 metric tonnes of CO2 per capita and 0.06% at corporation City level emission



Fig. 4 (a) population density (census of India, 2011), (b) Household based total carbon emission, and (c) carbon emission per household in Ranchi Municipal Corporation.

UA. These includes a) regeneration of the carbon sinks sources viz., afforestation and reforestation strategies at central and north-eastern part of the city, b) control over rapid land use transformation through imposition of strict regulation inside as well as outside the municipal boundary in view of smart land use development, c) reduction in electricity consumption and using low power consuming electric appliances, d) use of alternate energy like adoption of solar energy for street lighting scheme at large, e) emphasizing over public transportation compared to the individual transportation mode, f) public awareness, and support 3R (REDUCE – REUSE – RECYCLE)concept.

Conclusion

Human population is increasing and highly relied on carbon intensive technology demanding more energy and resources ultimately, results in increased carbon footprint. The multi-temporal satellite data based loss of vegetation cover reflects emission of carbon within the city periphery at moderate level, while the vehicle based carbon emission and population increased have multifolded the severity over the total carbon emission in RUA. Although, the total carbon emission in Ranchi from various sources is low as compared to growing Indian cities and would be controlled through the adaptation of low carbon emission strategies. Ranchi UA is characterized by high and increasing concentration of population, housing stock, poor infrastructure and lack to coping capacity with highly varying meteorological conditions, which makes it more susceptible to changing climate. Therefore, the suitable measures to be adopted to control and reduce the carbon emission at city level.

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