

# Evaluating a high-resolution urban fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions inventory using eddy-covariance flux measurements and source partitioning

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## Abstract

We present the first quantitative comparison of source-partitioned CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements with a high-resolution urban fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions inventory. We use tower-based measurements of CO and 14C to partition net CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements into fossil and biogenic components in a suburban environment. A flux footprint model is used to quantify spatial patterns in fluxes. The partitioned fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are compared to a 200-m resolution emissions inventory (Hestia). The results indicate that Hestia and the partitioned flux data agree remarkably well on a seasonal average scale. The Hestia inventory is biased by 3.2% (cold season) and 9.1% (warm season). Their temporal-spatial patterns match closely. In addition, biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is 25% of local fossil emissions during afternoon in the cold season. This work demonstrates the effectiveness of using eddy-covariance flux measurements both for evaluating urban emissions inventories and for quantifying urban ecosystem fluxes.

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## Key Points:

- Urban CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements are partitioned into fossil and biogenic components using CO and <sup>14</sup>C measurements and a flux-gradient method.
- The partitioned fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions show remarkable consistency of the comparison with an emissions inventory in time and space.
- Biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes within the city are non-negligible in the cold season and need to be considered in urban CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring.

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## Abstract

We present the first quantitative comparison of source-partitioned CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements with a high-resolution urban fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions inventory. We use tower-based measurements of CO and <sup>14</sup>C to partition net CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements into fossil and biogenic components in a suburban environment. A flux footprint model is used to quantify spatial patterns in fluxes. The partitioned fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are compared to a 200-m resolution emissions inventory (Hestia). The results indicate that Hestia and the partitioned flux data agree remarkably well on a seasonal average scale. The Hestia inventory is biased by 3.2% (cold season) and 9.1% (warm season). Their temporal-spatial patterns match closely. In addition, biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is 25% of local fossil emissions during afternoon in the cold season. This work demonstrates the effectiveness of using eddy-covariance flux measurements both for evaluating urban emissions inventories and for quantifying urban ecosystem fluxes.

## Plain Language Summary

This work presents the first comparison of two innovative approaches for quantifying urban CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels. Both approaches can quantify emissions from neighborhoods with hourly time resolution. These methods show very similar results concerning the seasonal-mean fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as well as the emissions variation in time and space. We also find relatively large biological CO<sub>2</sub> exchange, even during winter when the biosphere is often assumed to be dormant. The results show great promise for these new methods of quantifying source, space and time resolved CO<sub>2</sub> exchanges, and emphasize the need to take biological CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes into account when attempting to quantify fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions using atmospheric measurements.

## 1 Introduction

Cities are becoming the focus for formulating and implementing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions mitigation efforts (Hutyra et al., 2014; Lee & Koski, 2014; Bulkeley, 2013). Evaluating the effectiveness of emissions reduction efforts requires accurate and independent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates (Lauvaux et al., 2020; Turnbull et al., 2018). Although cities cover only 3% of the global land area, urban areas are home to 55% of the world's population, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050 (Chaouad & Verzeoli, 2018). Overall, more than 70% of global fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> (CO<sub>2</sub>ff) emissions are from urban areas (Edenhofer et al., 2015). Efforts to assess and mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can provide benefits for urban sustainability and balanced economic growth (Hsu et al., 2019).

Urban areas are consistently reported as a net source of CO<sub>2</sub> (Velasco & Roth, 2010). The temporal variation of urban CO<sub>2</sub> is dependent on human activities and urban ecosystems (McKain et al., 2012; Pataki et al., 2006). The eddy-covariance technique has been applied to measure urban CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for about two decades. This method has been demonstrated in many cities (Björkegren & Grimmond, 2018; Ao et al., 2016; Lietzke et al., 2015; Järvi et al., 2012; Christen et al., 2011; Vogt et al., 2006; Nemitz et al., 2002; Grimmond et al., 2002). The attribution of urban CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements is challenging due to the spatial heterogeneity, mixed emission sources and sinks, and limited spatial coverage of flux measurements (Aubinet et al., 2012). Although most of urban flux studies focus on the total observed CO<sub>2</sub> flux, a few studies attempt to partition net flux measurements into fossil and biogenic components accounting for the temporal and spatial variability of the multiple sources and sinks. Menzer and McFadden (2017) modeled fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions based on winter data and extrapolated them to the growing season to estimate biogenic fluxes. Ishidoya et al. (2020) demonstrated partitioning of CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes into liquid and gaseous fossil fuel components using O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> measurements.

78 Sugawara et al. (2021) used a nearby tower to estimate the biogenic component of a total  
79 CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurement.

80 Quantification of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is challenging due to the difficulty  
81 of separating CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions from biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (CO<sub>2</sub>bio) fluxes (Miller et al., 2020;  
82 Basu et al., 2020; Menzer & McFadden, 2017; Pataki et al., 2007). Previous studies have  
83 demonstrated the feasibility of using <sup>14</sup>C isotope measurements to separate CO<sub>2</sub>ff from  
84 CO<sub>2</sub>bio fluxes (Basu et al., 2016; Turnbull et al., 2015; Miller et al., 2012), but flask mea-  
85 surements of <sup>14</sup>C are expensive and discontinuous. Continuous measurements of carbon  
86 monoxide (CO) provide another approach to track CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions (Silva et al., 2013;  
87 Levin & Karstens, 2007; Turnbull et al., 2006). Uncertainties in the CO to CO<sub>2</sub>ff ratio,  
88 which vary as a function of emission sectors, complicate the attribution of urban CO<sub>2</sub>  
89 fluxes. These methods have not yet been applied to eddy-covariance flux measurements.

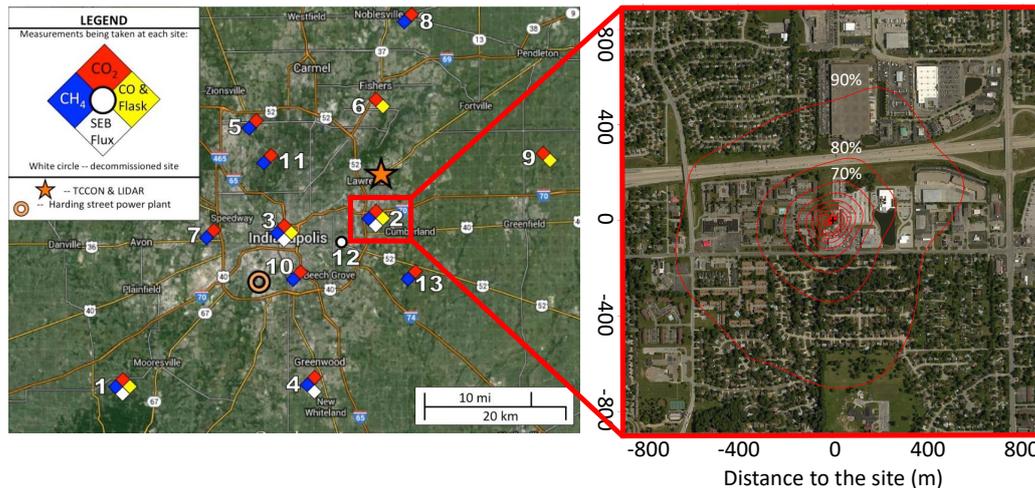
90 Emissions inventories use activity data to aggregate source-specific and total emis-  
91 sions (Boden et al., 2009; Gurney et al., 2009; Olivier & Janssens-Maenhout, 2012), but  
92 the differences among inventories are sizeable (Gately & Hutyra, 2017; Oda et al., 2019).  
93 Atmospheric inversions use inventories as prior estimates of emissions and optimize the  
94 emissions using atmospheric mole fraction observations (Bréon et al., 2015; Turner et al.,  
95 2016; Stauder et al., 2016; Lauvaux et al., 2016; Kunik et al., 2019; Lauvaux et al., 2020).  
96 Determination of the uncertainty in the inversion results hinges on estimates of errors  
97 in atmospheric transport models (Deng et al., 2017; Sarmiento et al., 2017) and emis-  
98 sions inventories (Wu et al., 2018). The Hestia emissions inventory (Gurney et al., 2012)  
99 was developed in part to support the Indianapolis Flux Experiment (INFLUX) and uses  
100 energy consumption, population density, and traffic data to quantify CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions for  
101 an entire urban landscape at an approximately 200-m and hourly resolution. The high-  
102 resolution performance of the Hestia inventory has not yet been evaluated using atmo-  
103 spheric observations.

104 This study compares seven months of source-partitioned CO<sub>2</sub> eddy-covariance flux  
105 measurements with a high-resolution emissions inventory (Hestia) in a suburban region  
106 of Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. We partition the total CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements into CO<sub>2</sub>ff  
107 and CO<sub>2</sub>bio components using a flux-gradient relationship (Stull, 2012; Ishidoya et al.,  
108 2020) and atmospheric CO measurements. <sup>14</sup>C isotope measurements are used to esti-  
109 mate the CO to CO<sub>2</sub>ff ratio and reduce the uncertainty in the flux decomposition. Our  
110 source decomposition methods are similar to those used by Ishidoya et al. (2020) and  
111 Sugawara et al. (2021). In addition, we use a flux footprint model (Kljun et al., 2015,  
112 2004) to match each flux measurement in space and time with the Hestia inventory to  
113 provide a direct comparison of independent estimates of fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at high spa-  
114 tial and temporal resolution. This is, to our knowledge, the first such comparison of these  
115 innovative and independent assessments of high-resolution urban CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and is  
116 timely given the growing interest in studies of urban systems.

## 117 2 Data and Methods

### 118 2.1 Site Descriptions and Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> Flux Measurements

119 The INFLUX observation network (Davis et al., 2017) measures atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
120 and CO mole fractions, and net CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in and around Indianapolis, IN (Figure 1).  
121 The locations, sampling heights and measurements at these sites are described by Miles  
122 et al. (2017) and instrument performance by Richardson et al. (2017). <sup>14</sup>C isotope mea-  
123 surements, which are related to CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions, are collected weekly using a flask sam-  
124 pling system (Turnbull et al., 2015). We focus on seven months (January to July, 2013)  
125 of eddy-covariance flux measurements at Tower 2 located in a heterogeneous suburban  
126 environment (Figures 1 and S1). There is a highway to the north, urban vegetation to  
127 the south, and neighborhoods with detached houses. The heterogeneous surroundings



**Figure 1.** The Indianapolis Flux Experiment (INFLUX) measurement network in Indianapolis, IN (left) and cumulative flux footprints from January to July in 2013 at Tower 2 (right). The contours in the right panel represent the percentage of the time-integrated flux that comes from within that boundary. The color of the marker in the left panel represents the measurements at each site: red for CO<sub>2</sub>, yellow for CO and <sup>14</sup>C, blue for CH<sub>4</sub>, and white for surface energy balance fluxes. The coordinates in the right panel are the distance (m) to the measurement site.

128 present a good test of our ability to partition net CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements into biogenic  
 129 and fossil fuel components.

130 The flux instrumentation, which includes a sonic anemometer (Campbell Scientific,  
 131 CSAT-3) and a high-frequency open-path infrared CO<sub>2</sub> sensor (LI-COR Environmen-  
 132 tal, LI-7500), is mounted at 30 m above ground level (AGL) on Tower 2. The eddy-covariance  
 133 technique measures the covariance between fluctuations in vertical wind velocity and CO<sub>2</sub>  
 134 density to detect the integrated exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> between land and atmosphere (Lee et  
 135 al., 2004; Foken & Napo, 2008; Aubinet et al., 2012). We use flux calculation and filter-  
 136 ing methods recommended by Vickers and Mahrt (1997). We filter out extreme values  
 137 outside 3.5  $\sigma$  range of the data (0.2% of data are filtered out) and nighttime fluxes dur-  
 138 ing weak turbulence conditions when the friction velocity is less than 0.2 m/s (3.6% of  
 139 data are filtered out) (Gu et al., 2005). Negative fluxes confirm the predominant role of  
 140 photosynthesis from the urban vegetation around this site (Figure S2). We define the  
 141 cold season as January to March (JFM) and the warm season as April to July (AMJJ)  
 142 based on the presence of negative total CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes during the daytime in the warm sea-  
 143 son (Figure S3).

## 144 2.2 Partitioning Fossil Fuel and Biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> Fluxes

145 To partition fossil fuel and biogenic components from the net CO<sub>2</sub> flux measure-  
 146 ments, we apply a flux-gradient method and atmospheric CO measurements. We mea-  
 147 sure CO<sub>2</sub> and CO mole fractions at 10 m and 40 m heights AGL at Tower 2 (Miles et  
 148 al., 2017). We use the eddy-covariance flux measurement and measured vertical gradi-  
 149 ent in CO<sub>2</sub> to solve for the eddy diffusivity, and use that eddy diffusivity and the CO  
 150 vertical gradient to solve for the CO flux, as shown in the supporting information. There  
 151 are three assumptions in this method: (1) Turbulent eddies are small enough that lo-  
 152 cal scalar gradients are proportional to turbulent fluxes; (2) CO and CO<sub>2</sub> are subject  
 153 to the same vertical mixing processes; (3) Within the turbulent flux footprint, CO is mainly

154 produced by fossil fuel combustion. We filter out counter-gradient fluxes, and limit the  
 155 eddy diffusivity and CO flux within  $3.5 \sigma$  range of their estimates to screen out extreme  
 156 values caused by tiny denominators.

157 The emission ratio of CO to CO<sub>2ff</sub> is estimated from flask measurements of <sup>14</sup>C  
 158 and CO measurements (Turnbull et al., 2015). The urban CO enhancements are esti-  
 159 mated by the differences between Tower 2 and upwind background sites (Tower 1 or 9  
 160 depending on the wind direction). The median and mean values of CO to CO<sub>2ff</sub> ratios  
 161 are 9.52 and 8.98 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> (cold season) and 9.13 and 9.02 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> (warm sea-  
 162 son) (Figure S4). We use 9 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> as an approximate value to infer CO<sub>2ff</sub> emissions.  
 163 To test the uncertainty of using different ratios on the flux decomposition, we vary the  
 164 emission ratio to 11 and 7 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> based on the range of values estimated by Turnbull  
 165 et al. (2015). Since traffic emissions are likely to have a higher ratio and residential emis-  
 166 sions have a smaller ratio. We add another scenario with a CO to CO<sub>2ff</sub> ratio of 15 ppb  
 167 ppm<sup>-1</sup> for northerly winds from the highway, and 7 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> for the other wind di-  
 168 rections.

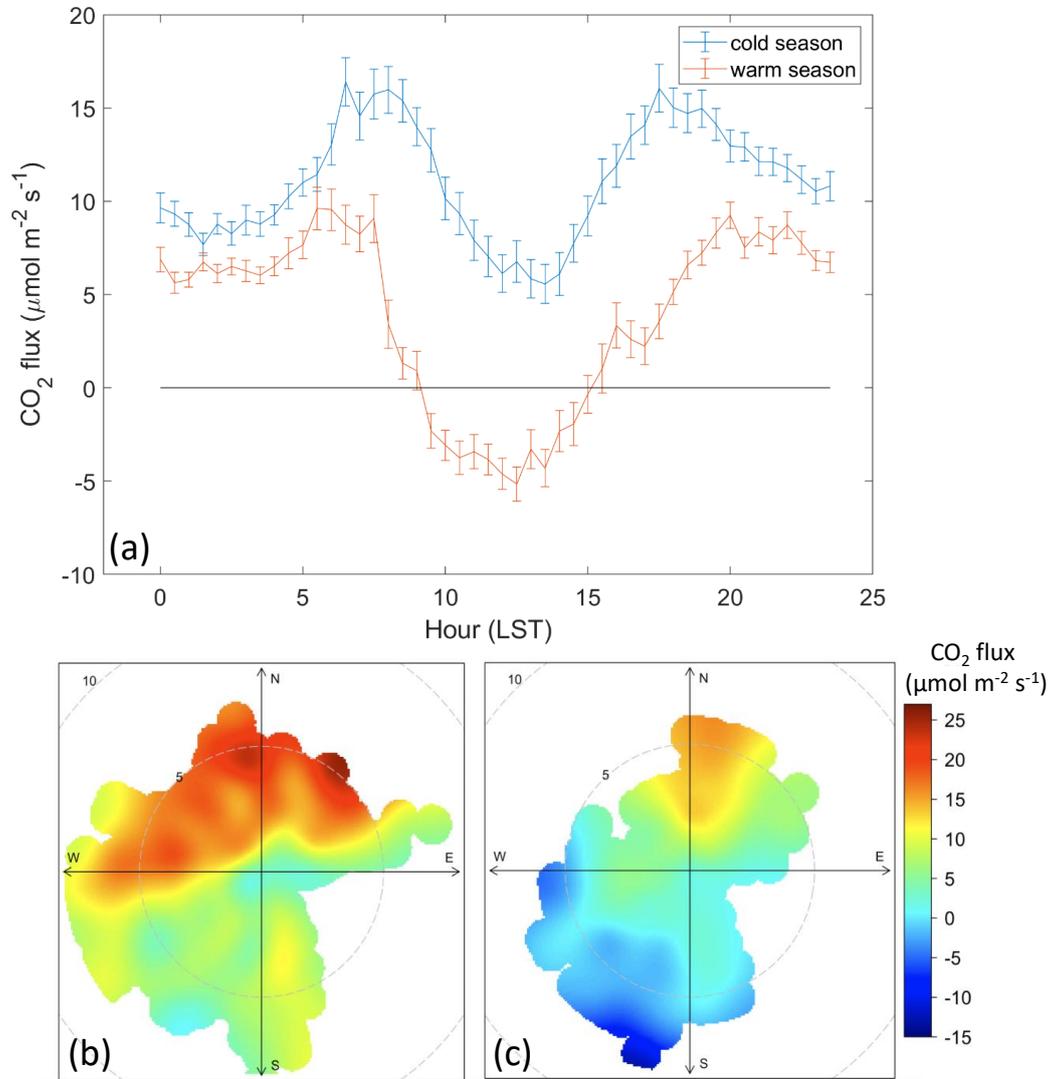
### 169 2.3 Flux Footprint and Emissions Inventory

170 A flux footprint, which is defined as the contributing area upwind from the mea-  
 171 surement site (Leclerc & Foken, 2014), is essential to account for the spatial heterogene-  
 172 ity of emission sources. We use a two-dimensional flux footprint model (Kljun et al., 2015,  
 173 2004) to match with the Hestia inventory. Tower-based measurements of wind field and  
 174 boundary layer characteristics are used to estimate the input parameters of the footprint  
 175 model (*i.e.* roughness length, Obukhov length, friction velocity, standard deviation of  
 176 lateral velocity fluctuations, etc.). The size of footprint depends on measurement height,  
 177 surface roughness, and atmospheric thermal stability. The footprint will increase with  
 178 an increase in measurement height, with a decrease in surface roughness, and with an  
 179 increase in atmospheric thermal stability (Burba & Anderson, 2010). The spatial res-  
 180 olution of the footprint model is approximately two meters. We match every flux foot-  
 181 print with Hestia via a convolution of the influence function with the Hestia emissions.

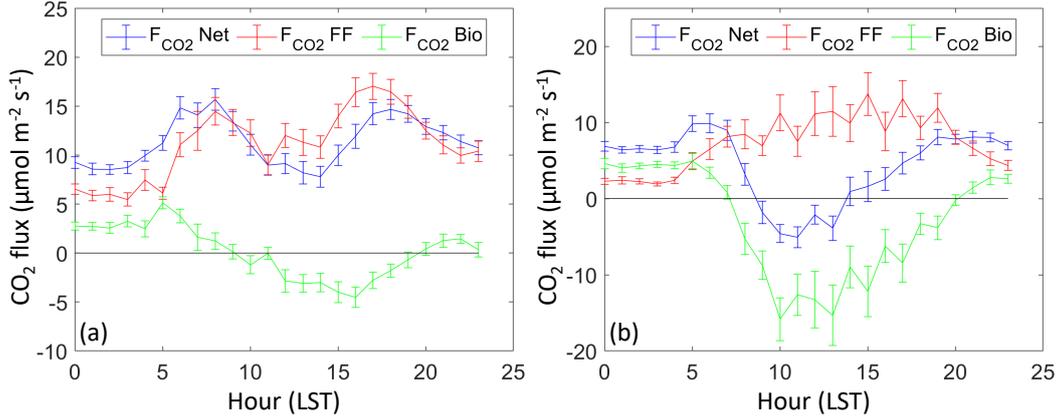
## 182 3 Results

183 Net CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements, decomposed as a function of time and space, behave  
 184 as expected given the environment surrounding the tower. Observed CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are  
 185 larger in the cold season than the warm season (Figure 2a), perhaps due to increased emis-  
 186 sions from building heating around the tower (Figures 1 and S1). In the cold season, there  
 187 are two prominent peaks in emissions likely corresponding to peaks in traffic volume dur-  
 188 ing rush hours. In the warm season, fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are mixed with photosyn-  
 189 thesis and respiration from urban vegetation within the flux footprints. The daytime pho-  
 190 tosynthetic uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> indicates the role of urban vegetation. The spatial patterns  
 191 of flux data show high emissions from the north, and lower emissions or net uptake from  
 192 the south (Figures 2b and 2c), consistent with the highway to the north and urban veg-  
 193 etation to the south of the tower (Figures 1 and S1).

194 Partitioning of the net observed CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes into fossil and biogenic components yields  
 195 broadly plausible temporal behavior of these flux components (Figure 3). While substan-  
 196 tially smaller than the estimated CO<sub>2ff</sub> emissions, the cold season CO<sub>2bio</sub> uptake is 25%  
 197 of urban CO<sub>2ff</sub> emissions during the afternoon (Figure 3a), which is non-negligible and  
 198 need to be considered to obtain accurate CO<sub>2ff</sub> emissions. A typical pattern of ecosys-  
 199 tem fluxes emerges in the warm season (Figure 3b). The warm season CO<sub>2bio</sub> fluxes are  
 200 equal in amplitude to the CO<sub>2ff</sub> emissions, emphasizing the importance of accounting  
 201 for CO<sub>2bio</sub> fluxes in attempts to quantify urban CO<sub>2ff</sub> emissions.



**Figure 2.** Diurnal variation of seasonally-averaged CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements during the cold (JFM) and warm (AMJJ) seasons in 2013 (a). Error bars indicate the standard errors of the seasonal means. Spatial variation of time-averaged CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in the cold (b) and warm (c) seasons. Color indicates flux magnitude. The radial coordinate corresponds to wind speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and the polar coordinate defines wind direction.



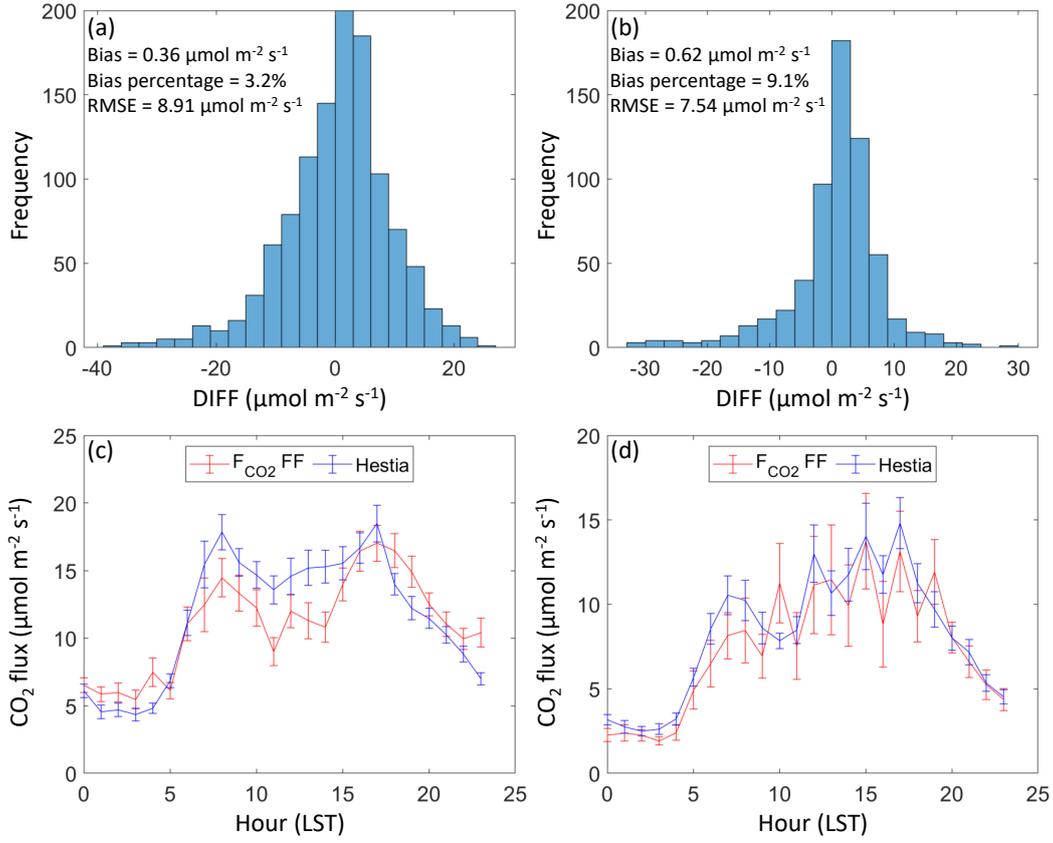
**Figure 3.** Diurnal variation of seasonally-averaged net CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements ( $F_{CO_2Net}$ ) and the partitioned fossil fuel ( $F_{CO_2FF}$ ) and biogenic ( $F_{CO_2Bio}$ ) fluxes in the cold (JFM) (a) and warm (AMJJ) (b) seasons in 2013. Error bars are the standard errors of the seasonal means.

202 The seasonally-averaged eddy-covariance CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions estimates show remark-  
 203 able similarity to the Hestia inventory when matched in space and time using flux foot-  
 204 prints. Seasonal-mean CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions differ (Hestia minus OBS) by  $0.36 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$   
 205 (3.2% of the mean partitioned CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions) in the cold season (Figure 4a) and  $0.62$   
 206  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  (9.1% of the mean partitioned CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions) in the warm season (Fig-  
 207 ure 4b). The corresponding root mean square errors (RMSEs) are  $8.91 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$   
 208 and  $7.54 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ , which include random measurement errors in the flux data.

209 The temporal patterns of seasonally-averaged Hestia and eddy-covariance CO<sub>2</sub>ff  
 210 emissions also agree remarkably well (Figures 4c and 4d). The correlation coefficients  
 211 of the seasonal-mean diurnal variations are 0.86 (cold season) and 0.93 (warm season).  
 212 The Hestia emissions are smaller during the night and higher during the day compared  
 213 to the partitioned observations in the cold season (Figures 4c and S5a), and consistently  
 214 slightly higher than the partitioned observations in the warm season (Figures 4d and S5b).

215 We also find consistency in the comparison of eddy-covariance and Hestia CO<sub>2</sub>ff  
 216 emissions as a function of wind direction (Figure S6 and Table 1). In the cold season,  
 217 the Hestia emissions are higher than the observed CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions for all wind directions  
 218 except the north, west and northwest wind (Table 1). A similar pattern exists in the warm  
 219 season. Since residential buildings lie upwind in the west and northwest wind directions  
 220 (Figures 1 and S1), we infer that residential emissions may be the source of this discrep-  
 221 ancy.

222 These results are somewhat sensitive to the choice of CO to CO<sub>2</sub>ff emission ratio  
 223 in the flux decomposition. Seasonal-mean flux bias and bias percentage change signif-  
 224 icantly when the emission ratio varies from 9 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> to 11 or 7 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> (Table  
 225 S1 and Figure S7a). The temporal variations are not highly sensitive to this choice (Fig-  
 226 ure S7b). The scenario with the space-varying emission ratio (15 & 7 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup>), which  
 227 may be more realistic than a constant ratio, does not significantly change compared to  
 228 the default scenario (9 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup>) either the comparison of the diurnal variation (Fig-  
 229 ure S7b) or the bias estimation (Table S1).



**Figure 4.** Histogram of flux differences between the Hestia inventory and the partitioned fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Hestia minus OBS) in the cold (JFM) (a) and warm (AMJJ) (b) seasons in 2013. Bias, bias percentage compared to the mean partitioned CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions, and root mean square error (RMSE) are listed. Diurnal variation of seasonally-averaged CO<sub>2</sub>ff emissions in the cold (c) and warm (d) seasons. Error bars are the standard errors of the seasonal means.

**Table 1.** Statistics of flux differences ( $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) between the Hestia inventory and the partitioned fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Hestia minus OBS) for different wind directions.

	DIFF	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
Cold Season (JFM)	Median	-2.00	3.32	2.88	3.45	4.14	3.15	-4.47	-2.14
	Mean	-1.93	5.88	4.88	3.58	3.84	1.89	-4.72	-1.87
	RMSE <sup>a</sup>	10.98	9.27	8.22	5.63	7.45	8.00	10.40	9.06
Warm Season (AMJJ)	Median	2.49	3.34	1.92	1.98	0.98	0.42	-2.71	-4.27
	Mean	5.31	3.61	0.92	1.37	0.52	-1.32	-4.17	-5.21
	RMSE	8.24	9.32	5.19	5.54	5.97	8.62	8.47	13.66

<sup>a</sup>root mean square error

## 4 Conclusions and Discussion

The remarkably close agreement between the Hestia inventory and the partitioned eddy-covariance flux measurements suggests that both methods have the ability to quantify urban fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Neither approach has yet been cross-validated at such a high spatial and temporal resolution. The flux measurement partitioning is sensitive to the CO to CO<sub>2</sub>ff emission ratio, but the consistency of Hestia and flux data suggests that flask measurements have accurately quantified that ratio. These results need to be tested at other locations and over different periods of time. The success of this test suggests that these eddy-covariance flux decomposition methods can be used to quantify source-specific CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of neighborhood-scale urban metabolic processes. Further the successful comparison to Hestia suggests that the algorithms and input data used in the inventory system are accurate and precise even down to the fine resolution of the eddy-covariance flux measurements.

This study also shows the promise of using this approach for studying urban ecosystem CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. Previous work has suggested that the edges found in urban ecosystems lead to fundamentally different behavior of these ecosystems (Reinmann et al., 2020), but these findings are largely based on chamber-scale flux measurements. It is not clear whether or not, when upscaled to spatial domains that integrate across many edges such as a suburban forest, existing ecosystem models and model parameters will suffice in describing urban CO<sub>2</sub>bio fluxes. Current ecosystem models used in urban studies are largely devoid of urban ecosystem flux measurements in either calibration or evaluation due to lack of data (Wu et al., 2021; Hardiman et al., 2017). We suggest that the decomposition methods can serve as a new approach for obtaining ecosystem flux data necessary to develop the next generation of urban ecosystem models.

Finally, this study emphasizes the importance of urban ecosystem fluxes, both in the growing/warm season and the dormant/cold season. The importance of these fluxes has been shown in multiple observational (Miller et al., 2020; Turnbull et al., 2015) and inversion (Lauvaux et al., 2020; Sargent et al., 2018; Wu et al., 2018) studies, but the impact of uncertain biological fluxes has been shown to be large (Lauvaux et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2018), and we have not had direct flux measurements available for evaluating the modeled ecosystem flux priors. Further, a number of studies (Lauvaux et al., 2016; Heimburger et al., 2017) have made the reasonable assumption of neglecting CO<sub>2</sub>bio fluxes in the dormant season. This work shows that urban ecosystems in Indianapolis are moderately active even in the cold season. More urban flux measurements are needed to study the range of urban ecosystem CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

### Data Availability Statement

The Hestia inventory is available online (<https://hestia.rc.nau.edu/>), and other data used in this analysis are available on the INFLUX website (<http://sites.psu.edu/influx/>).

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# Supporting Information for “Evaluating an emissions inventory using atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements and source partitioning in a suburban environment”

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Specific steps to partition anthropogenic and biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> flux components:

Step 1: Estimate the eddy diffusivity (K) by calculating the ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements ( $F_{CO_2}$ ) to the vertical gradients of CO<sub>2</sub> mole fractions ( $\nabla C_{CO_2}$ ):

$$K = -\frac{F_{CO_2}}{\nabla C_{CO_2}} \quad (1)$$

Step 2: Use the vertical gradients of CO mole fractions ( $\nabla C_{CO}$ ) and the estimated eddy diffusivity (K) to calculate the CO fluxes ( $F_{CO}$ ):

$$F_{CO} = -K\nabla C_{CO} \quad (2)$$

Step 3: Estimate the fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ( $F_{CO_2ff}$ ) by combining the CO fluxes with the emissions ratio (R) of CO to CO<sub>2</sub>ff:

$$F_{CO_2ff} = \frac{F_{CO}}{R} \quad (3)$$

Step 4: Attribute the differences between the net flux measurements and the partitioned fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to estimate the biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes ( $F_{CO_2bio}$ ):

$$F_{CO_2bio} = F_{CO_2} - F_{CO_2ff} \quad (4)$$

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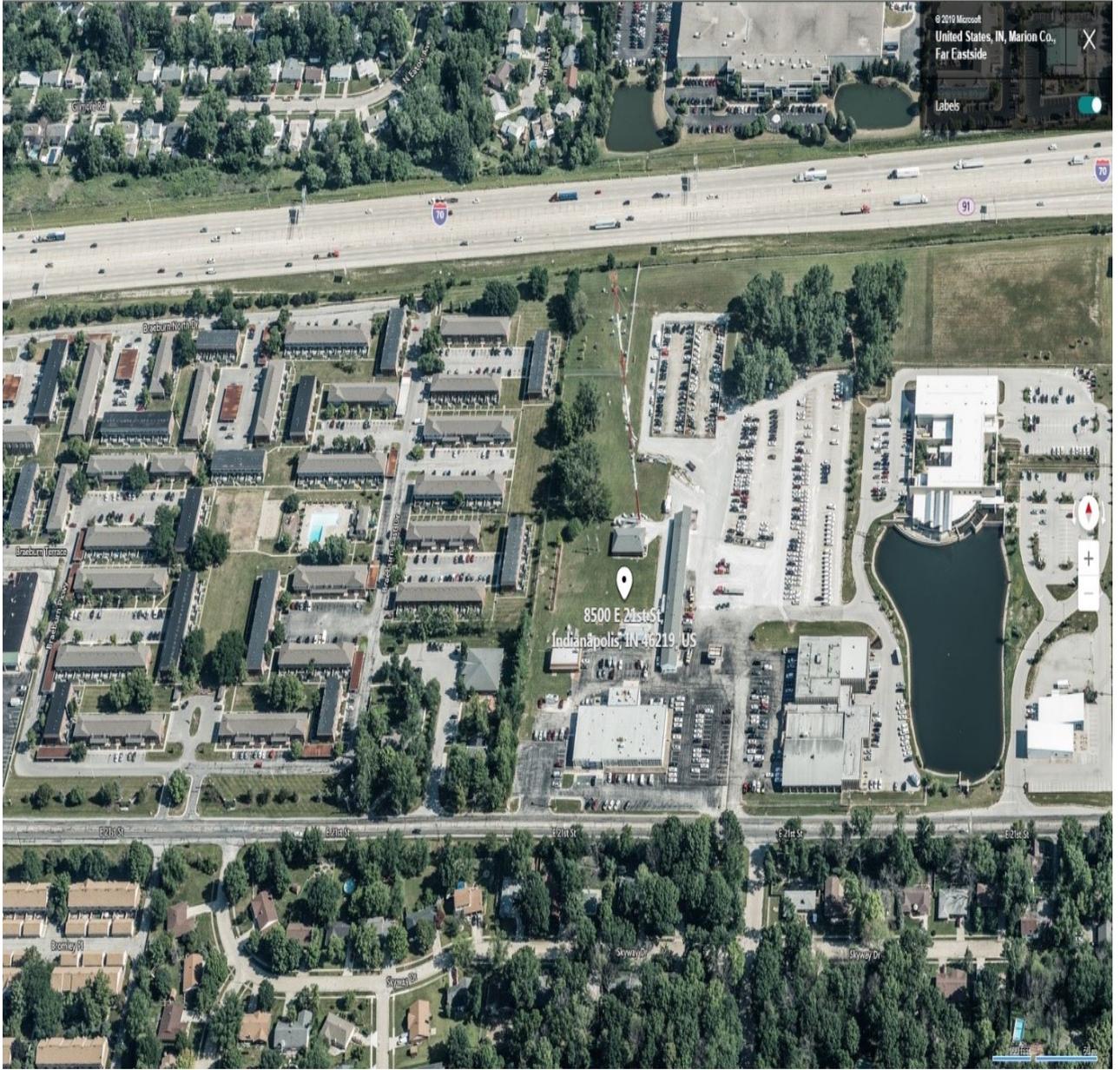
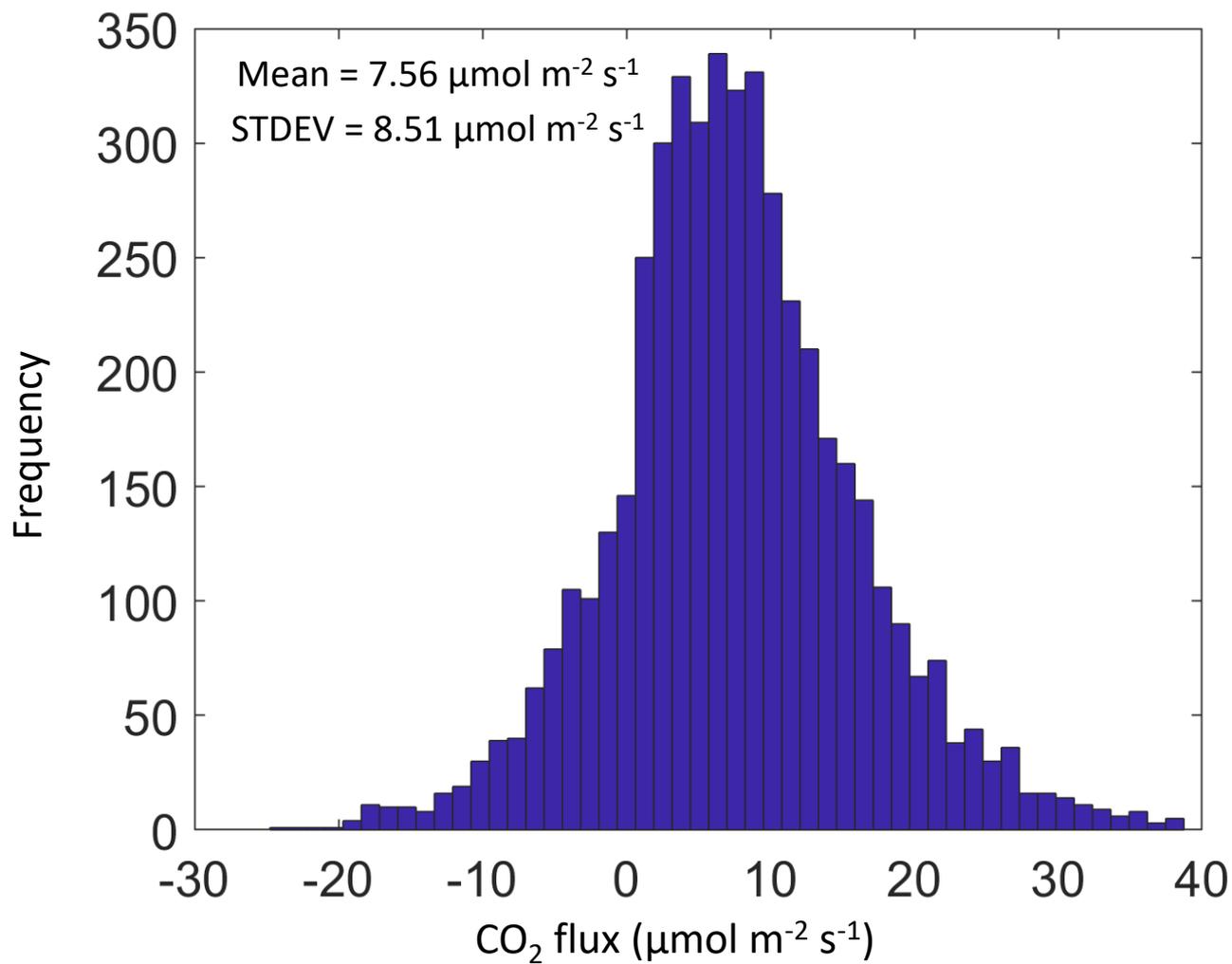
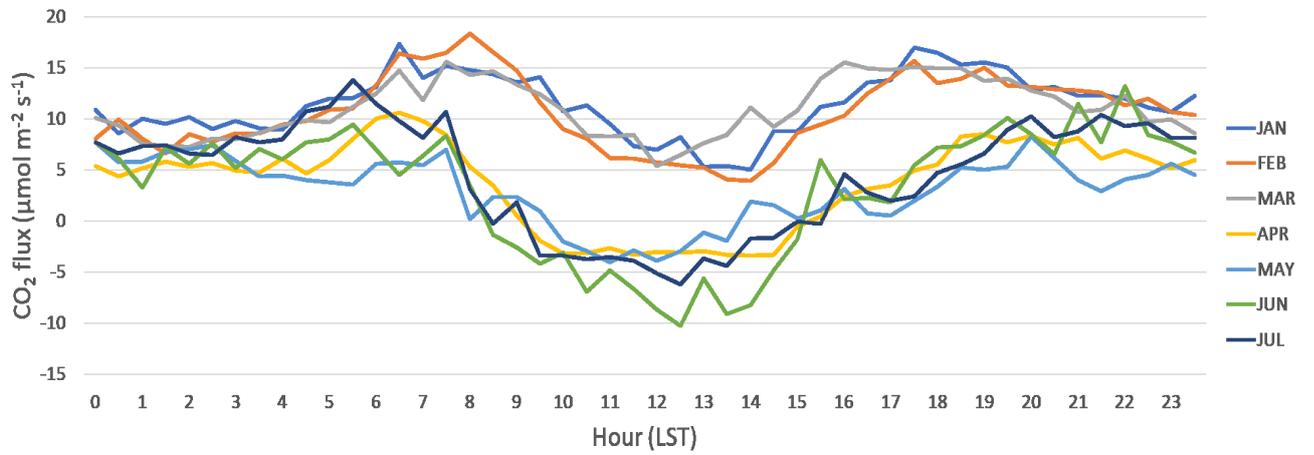


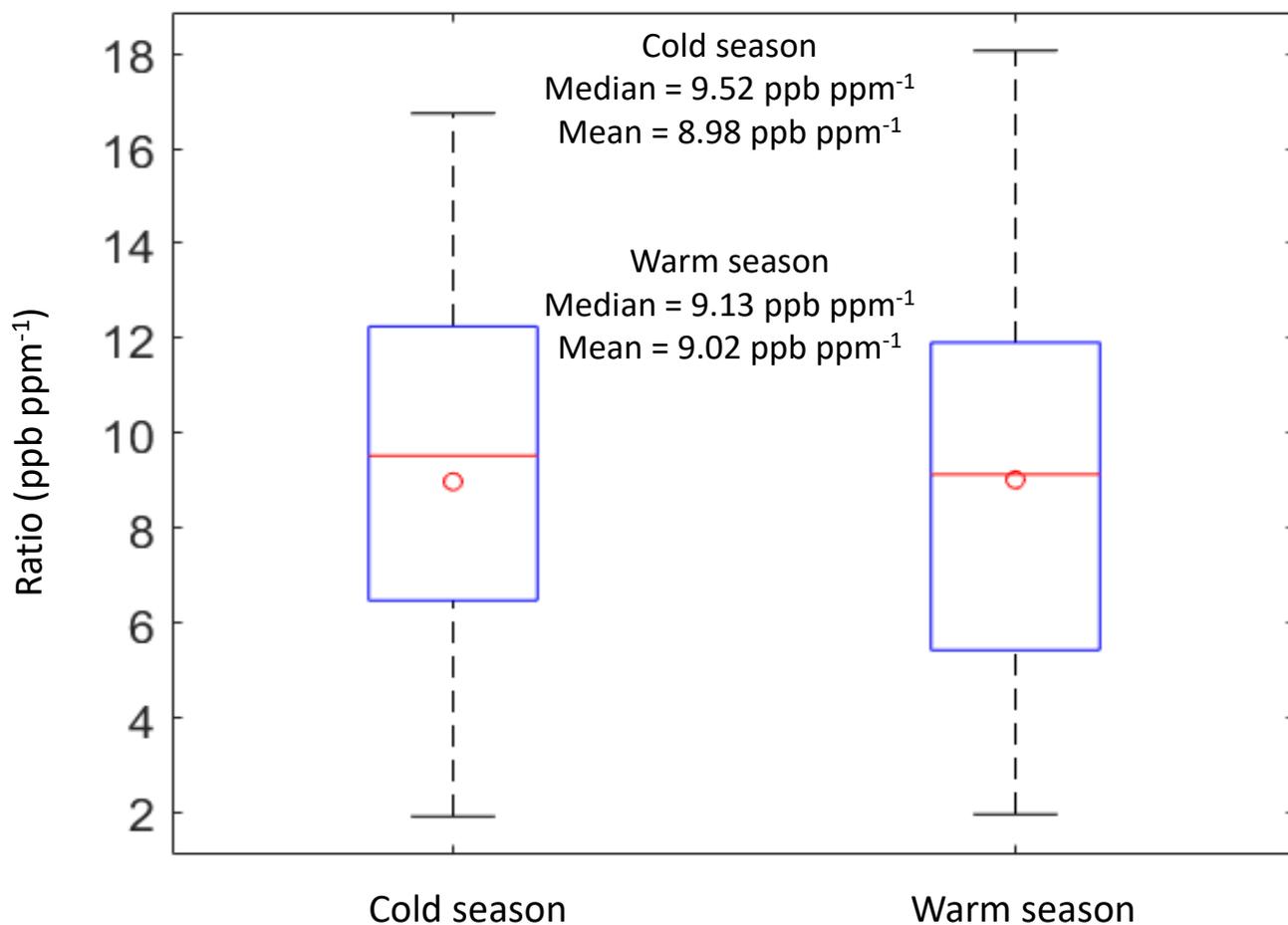
Figure S1. Surface environment around Tower 2 (39.7978°N, 86.0183°W) in Indianapolis, IN.



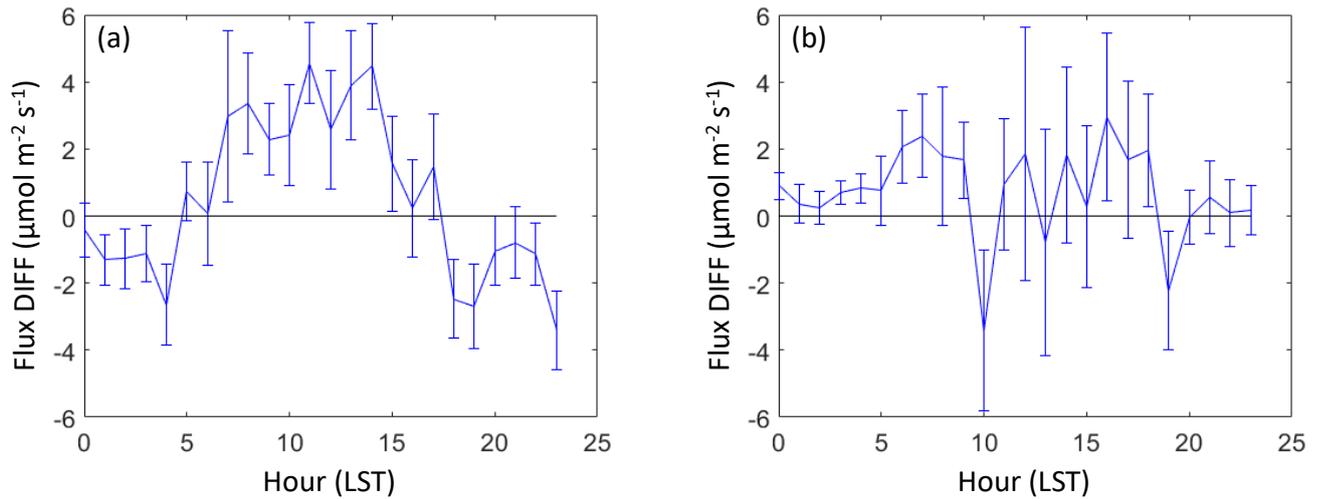
**Figure S2.** Histogram of eddy-covariance CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements at Tower 2 from January to July in 2013.



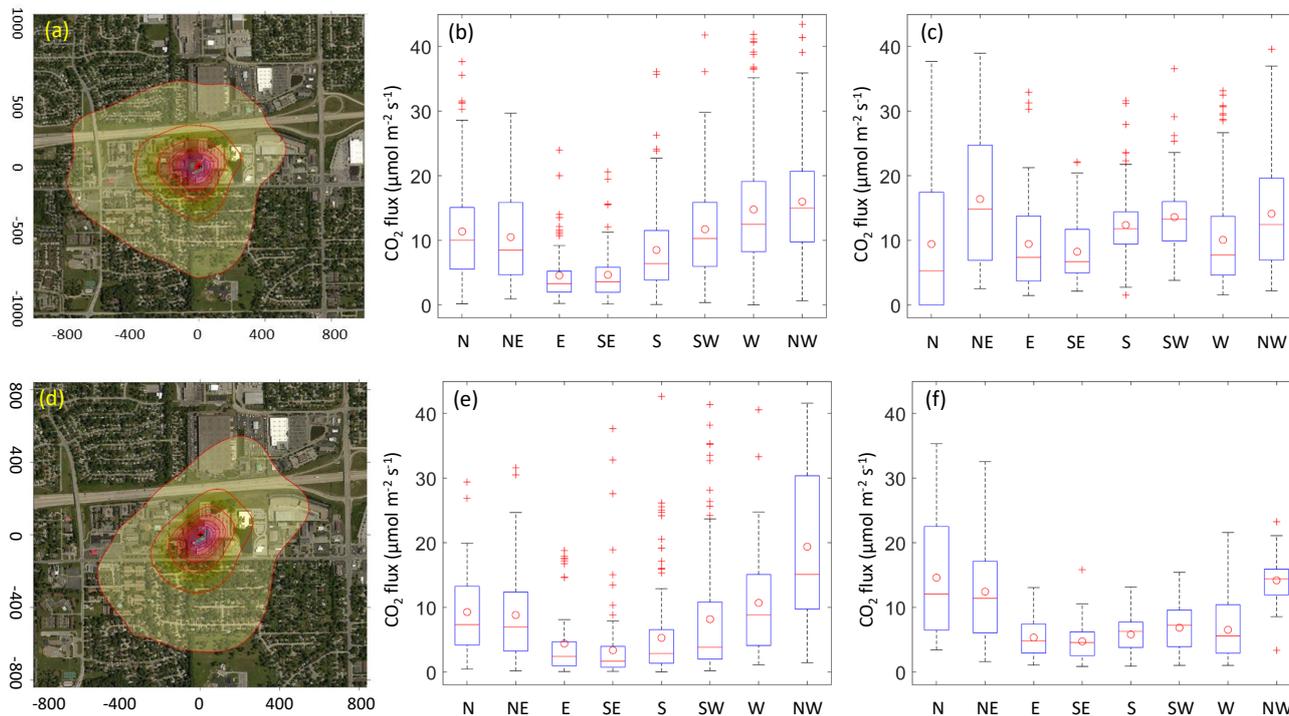
**Figure S3.** Diurnal variation of monthly-averaged eddy-covariance CO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements from January to July in 2013.



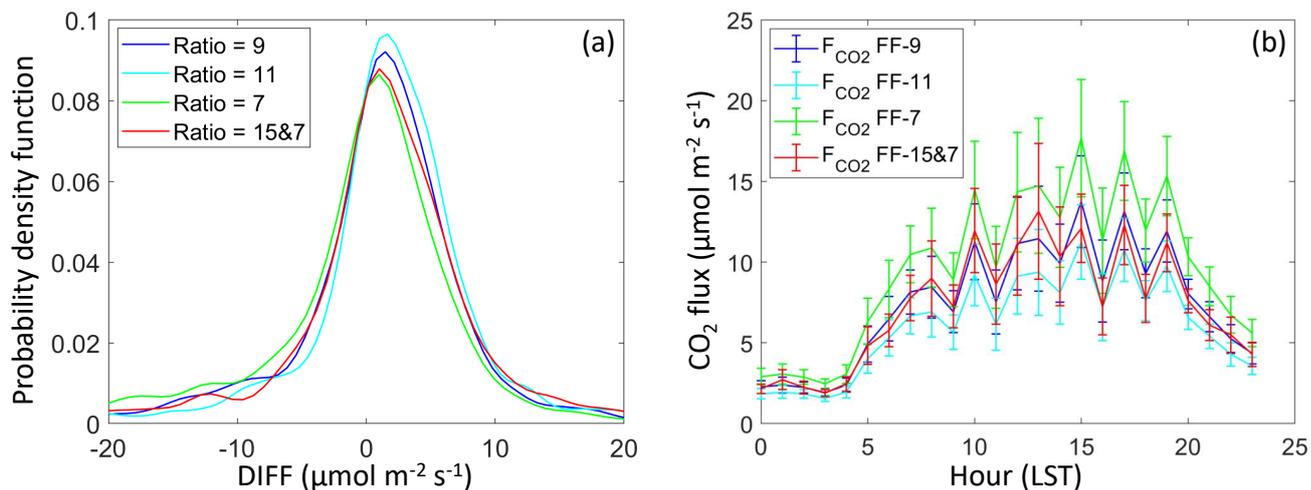
**Figure S4.** Ratios between the CO enhancements and the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -based  $\text{CO}_2\text{ff}$  during the cold (JFM) and warm (AMJJ) seasons in 2013. The red circle and line mark the mean and median, respectively. The bottom and top edges of the box indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles. The whiskers extend to the most extreme data points not considered outliers that are defined as more than 1.5 times the interquartile range away from the top or bottom of the box.



**Figure S5.** Diurnal variation of seasonally-averaged flux differences between the Hestia inventory and the partitioned fossil fuel  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions (Hestia minus OBS) in the cold (JFM) (a) and warm (AMJJ) (b) seasons in 2013. Error bars are the standard errors of the seasonal means.



**Figure S6.** Cumulative flux footprints (a and d), the partitioned fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (b and e) and the Hestia inventory (c and f) for different wind directions. Panels a to c are in the cold season (JFM) and panels d to f are in the warm season (AMJJ) in 2013. The coordinates in the left panel indicate the distance (m) to the measurement site. In the middle and right panels, the red circles, the lines and the plus marks represent the mean, the median and the outliers, respectively. The bottom and top edges of the box indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles. The whiskers extend to the most extreme data points not considered outliers that are defined as more than 1.5 times the interquartile range away from the top or bottom of the box.



**Figure S7.** Probability density function of flux differences between the Hestia inventory and the partitioned fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Hestia minus OBS) for different CO to CO<sub>2</sub>ff emission ratios (ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup>) in the warm (AMJJ) season in 2013 (a). Ratio = 15&7 represents the ratio is 15 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> (traffic emissions) for the north wind and 7 ppb ppm<sup>-1</sup> (building emissions) for other wind directions. Diurnal variation of seasonally-averaged CO<sub>2</sub>ff fluxes for different emission ratios in the warm season (b). Error bars indicate the standard errors of the seasonal means.

**Table S1.** Bias ( $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ), bias percentage compared to the mean partitioned  $\text{CO}_2\text{ff}$  emissions (%), and root mean square error ( $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) of the Hestia inventory for different CO to  $\text{CO}_2\text{ff}$  emissions ratios ( $\text{ppb ppm}^{-1}$ ) in the warm (AMJJ) season. Ratio = 15&7 represents the ratio is 15  $\text{ppb ppm}^{-1}$  (traffic emissions) for the north wind and 7  $\text{ppb ppm}^{-1}$  (building emissions) for other wind directions.

Ratio	9	11	7	15 & 7
Bias	0.62	1.86	-1.34	0.77
Bias PCT <sup>a</sup>	9.1	33.3	-15.2	11.5
RMSE <sup>b</sup>	7.54	6.76	9.44	8.86

<sup>a</sup>percentage

<sup>b</sup>root mean square error