

Environmental China

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WELCOME to *Environmental China*, PACE's electronic newsletter devoted to giving interested readers a comprehensive update of news concerning China's environment. Any comments, suggestions or questions can be directed to cc.huang2@gmail.com. PACE especially welcomes any input or suggestions for news articles and will give due credit to anyone who contributes to the newsletter. If you know anyone who would like to subscribe, please direct them [here](#).

OPINION

[Reversal of energy intensity trend elicits iron resolve](#) (Green Leap Forward, 6/2/2010) *State Council presses for accountability for urgent energy conservation measure; NDRC issues 12-point circular to deepen economic reform*

[Nice wind farm, but so what?](#) (The New Republic, 6/1/2010) Is there more to China's low-carbon efforts than renewable power? Well, yes, of course. A lot more. Yet that's all people here ever seem to want to talk about. Maybe that shouldn't come as a shock: The country gets a ton of warm, fuzzy press for its enormous new wind and solar farms, and it's true that the scale of construction out deserves an impressed whistle or two. Out in the Gobi Desert in northwest China, the government has blocked out 3,000 square kilometers for solar, and the local government has plans to install some ten gigawatts worth of photovoltaic panels by 2025 (to put that in perspective, there is about 15 gigawatts worth of solar capacity on the entire planet right now).

[China's Hobson's choice](#) (Newsweek, 5/24/2010) Dianchi Lake, in the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming, used to be one of the Middle Kingdom's worst environmental disaster zones. Years of industrialization and high-intensity farming, beginning in the 1980s, had turned what was formerly the "pearl" of Yunnan province into a stinking cesspool. Birds would land on the blackened water and die. Local residents wore masks to protect against the stench of the water. On a toxicity scale of zero to five, Dianchi Lake scored above five—its pollution level was off the charts.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[Chinese coal-mining city is world's most polluted](#) (CNN, 6/3/2010) At VBS.TV, we caught wind of another story that soon had our full attention. As Chinese officials were taking unprecedented and often controversial measures to sanitize the notoriously foul Beijing air, much of the rest of the country was still covered in a thick blanket of noxious smog.

[Chinese scientists to map "family tree" of endangered porpoise](#) (Xinhua, 6/2/2010) Chinese scientists are working to map the "family trees" of black finless porpoises, an endangered species unique to China, to help prevent their population declining from inbreeding.

[Electric vehicles will increase China's air pollution](#) (Energy Stocks, 6/2/2010) Last week the **American Chemical Society** published a white paper in **Environmental Science & Technology** from a team of researchers at Tsinghua University, Beijing, and the Argonne National Laboratory Center for Transportation Research titled "**Environmental Implication of Electric Vehicles in China.**"

[Tsinghua/Argonne Study Finds That Mass Use of EVs in China Could Result in Higher CO₂ and Criteria Pollutant Emissions Than Conventional and Hybrid Gasoline Vehicles Due to Coal-Fired Generation of electricity](#) (Green Car Congress, 5/25/2010) A new study by researchers from Tsinghua University (China) and Argonne National Laboratory (US) concludes that the mass use of electric vehicles in China could result in multiple environmental issues, including higher emissions of CO₂ and criteria pollutants than from conventional and hybrid gasoline vehicles, because electricity is generated primarily from coal in China. The study was published online 24 May in the ACS journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.

CORPORATIONS

[Is China finally getting to grips with capacity in the metal sector](#) (Metal Miner, 6/3/2010) After several years of talking about curtailing excess capacity, it would appear the Chinese authorities are finally getting serious about it. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on Thursday of last week.

[China, US tie as most attractive for green investment](#) (NASDAQ, 6/3/2010) China is now tied with the U.S. as the most attractive location for investing in renewable energy projects, Ernst & Young said in a report published Thursday.

[Air travel in China just got greener](#) (CNNgo.com, 6/3/2010) Ctrip.com, one of China's online largest online travel sites, recently announced their partnership with Emissions Zero -- the guys who helped make URBN and One Wellness carbon neutral as well as help Expo visitors offset their carbon footprint -- to help you offset the carbon emissions of your next flight. Pretty good timing considering Dragon Boat Festival is almost here. (That would be June 14-16 for those behind on their vacation plans.)

[Boeing, PetroChina sign biofuels agreement in efforts to "green" air travel](#) (Daily Tech, 6/2/2010) With so much talk about the auto industry's efforts to find alternative fuels, it's no wonder that aviation corporations are joining the search to reduce carbon emissions. Aerospace and defense giant [Boeing](#) and Chinese oil company [PetroChina](#) along with the global aviation industry and representatives of the Chinese energy sector have [signed an agreement](#) to assess the idea of establishing a sustainable aviation biofuels industry in China.

[China Recycling inks the Norway deal](#) (Financial Wire, 6/2/2010) China Recycling Energy Corp. (NASDAQ: CREG [PowerRating](#)), an industrial waste-to-energy solution provider in China, said that it has entered a strategic cooperation agreement with the Norwegian government in new energy technologies and environmental protection projects.

[Apollo Solar Energy to collaborate with China Energy Conservation](#) (Energy Solutions, 6/2/2010) **Apollo Solar Energy, Inc.** announced that the Company has entered into a non-binding collaboration agreement with China Energy Conservation Solar Energy Technologies, Inc. to build scaled thin-film solar energy power stations.

[US tidal power company to develop projects in China](#) (Sustainablebusiness.com, 6/1/2010) US tidal power company Verdant Power, Inc. has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop projects with China's state-owned renewable energy developer--the China Energy Conservation Environment Protection Group (CECEP).

[Daimler firms up plans for electric car in China](#) (The Detroit News, 5/28/2010) Daimler AG and China's BYD Co. firmed up their plans Thursday to develop and produce electric cars for the Chinese market.

GOVERNMENT

[China prepares plan to boost biotechnology industry](#) (Capital Vue, 6/3/2010) A draft plan to develop the biotechnology industry in China will be submitted to the State Council in June for review, reports China Securities Journal, citing Jiang Zehui, deputy director of the Population, Resources and Environment Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

[China solicits public opinion to protect polluted lake](#) (People's Daily, 6/3/2010) A draft regulation on the protection of water resources and ecological environment of the Taihu Lake, the third largest freshwater lake in China, was made public Wednesday to solicit opinions.

[China emission reductions outlook not good](#) (Xinhua, 6/3/2010) To reduce China's polluting emissions was a daunting task and the immediate outlook was not very good, said a senior environment official here Thursday.

[Brazil, SA, India and China need detailed renewable energy policies – study](#) (Creamer Media Reporter, 6/3/2010) Brazil, South Africa, India and China – known as the 'Basic' country bloc – required more detailed policy measures to give investors confidence in terms of energy efficiency and clean energy, research by the Renewable Energy and Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) has shown.

[World Bank to help Nanning, China improve urban environment](#) (People's Daily, 6/3/2010) The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a new loan of \$100 million to the People's Republic of China to support the Nanning Urban Environment Project on June 2, 2010.

[China's restrictions on resource export consistent with WTO rules](#) (Xinhua, 6/2/2010) China's curbing of exports of some raw materials to protect the environment and reduce its trade surplus is in line with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, experts say.

[China launches energy tax in Xinjiang](#) (Wall Street Journal, 6/2/2010) China is introducing a 5% tax that the country's energy companies must pay on oil and natural gas produced in Xinjiang, part of Beijing's efforts to improve the economic prospects in the poor western region, where local ethnic Muslims have rioted against Han Chinese and where the windfall from the development of rich resources has been scant.

[China says it will tighten controls on rare minerals](#) (New York Times, 6/2/2010) [China](#) is planning to tighten its control over its rare earth minerals by allowing just a handful of state companies to oversee the mining of the scarce elements.

[World Bank approves animal husbandry project in Henan, China](#) (People's Daily, 6/2/2010) The World Bank recently approved an 80 million U.S. dollars loan to the eco-animal husbandry project in Henan province of China.

[China, Japan to begin formal talks on sea gas](#) (China Daily, 6/1/2010) China and Japan on Monday agreed to start formal negotiations on joint development of disputed gas fields in the East China Sea.

[China will pay electric car subsidies to makers rather than buyers](#) (DriveOn, 6/1/2010) China, one of the most aggressive promoters of electric vehicles, is trying to defuse criticism that big EV subsidies favor rich folks who can afford cars over poorer Chinese who help the nation's severe air pollution problems by still getting around on bikes or public transit.

[China clean energy goal will require hydro projects: official](#) (Reuters, 5/31/2010) China will not achieve its clean energy development targets for 2020 unless it starts building big hydropower projects soon, China's top energy official said, supporting industry calls for fast project approvals.

['Urban mining' bases to reclaim resources in China](#) (People's Daily, 5/28/2010) Around 30 "urban mining" demonstration bases using advanced technologies will be built within the next five years, the Ministry of Finance and the National Development and Reform Commission recently announced.

[China pins food security hopes on humble potato](#) (The Washington Post, 5/31/2010) In the land of rice, [China](#) is looking at an unlikely tool for maintaining growth and social harmony: the potato.

[China lifts natural gas price in long-awaited reform](#) (Reuters, 5/31/2010) China announced a 24.9 percent rise in natural gas prices on Monday in a reform to spur supply of the cleaner-burning fuel, use of which is growing fast as the country gives more weight to the environment.

[China sets coal mine gas control as priority](#) (China Daily, 5/28/2010) China is hosting a world seminar here on May 28-31, in a bid to publicize its technical achievements surrounding "coal mine gas control and utilization" and effectively curb major gas accidents through enhanced cooperation with others.

[China to crack down on vegetable hoarding](#) (People's Daily, 5/27/2010) China will crack down on the hoarding of vegetables to curb speculation and maintain market order, the National Development and Reform Commission said Thursday.

[China, US to sign energy deals](#) (UPI, 5/27/2010) China and the United States signed eight green energy deals Wednesday in Beijing but financial details were not disclosed, Chinese media reported.

[China sweeps the board in Africa](#) (UPI, 5/26/2010) Consider this: China has agreed to spend \$19 billion to build oil refineries and petroleum industry infrastructure in Nigeria.

