



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

*A weekly update of China's environmental news and analysis from
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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

[Pollution? What is pollution?](#) (New York Times, 7/8/2010) Every day, the weather page of the popular New Beijing News gives lots of helpful advice, should readers wish to exercise early in the morning, climb a mountain or wash their car. But like other major newspapers in one of the most polluted cities in the world, it doesn't tell them something really important: how clean is the air?

[China's green washout](#) (China Dialogue, 7/7/2010) The launch of environmental disclosure rules was hailed as a turning point for eco-protection in China's business world. But two years on, they have all but been forgotten, says Huo Weiya.

[Will China's consumer wants worsen climate change](#) (USA Today, 7/5/2010) China, which is closing inefficient coal plants and making more fuel-efficient cars, is often seen as the world's superpower in developing wind and solar energy. But despite these eco-efforts, will its surging demand for consumer goods worsen climate change?

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[Algae outbreak in major China lake threatens drinking water for 300,000](#) (Xinhua, 7/9/2010) A green algae outbreak has been reported in China's fifth-largest freshwater lake, threatening the drinking water source for 300,000 residents in an eastern city. Three to four square km of green algae were found on the east part of Chaohu Lake, the water source for Chaohu city, Su Huimin, chief of Chaohu municipal environment protection bureau, said Thursday.

[China launches global search for panda keepers](#) (AFP, 7/9/2010) Yang Gangkun calls out to two pandas lying on their backs chewing bamboo. They push themselves up and slowly amble over for their morning workout in a breeding centre in southwest China.

[China's air travelers may double to 700 million by 2020](#) (Bloomberg, 7/8/2010) China's number of airline passengers may more than double to 700 million a year by 2020 as economic growth spurs travel, according to the nation's aviation regulator.

[Building a stronger foundation for China's clean energy future: An Update on the Drafting of China's Energy Law](#) (NRDC, 7/8/2010) According to [this recent article](#) in China's *Economy and Nation Weekly* (Chinese only), sources within the Chinese government who are currently drafting China's long-awaited comprehensive Energy Law have recently disclosed some interesting updates about the status of the law and a few of the controversial issues that have come up in the drafting process.

[Risky reservoir threatens city, Qinghai-Tibet railway in northwest China](#) (People's Daily, 7/7/2010) A reservoir on the verge of collapse in northwest China's Qinghai Province is threatening to flood a city and damage the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

[China's growth is making the carbon fat tail fatter](#) (Christian Science Monitor, 7/6/2010) [China's Carbon Footprint](#) keeps growing. This news will not surprise Auffhammer and Carson (see their [JEEM paper](#)). But, maybe it will surprise Tom Friedman? Rising CO2 levels means that some very low probability disastrous events become more likely.

[Beijing heats up, Talks about it](#) (Wall Street Journal, 7/6/2010) As the year's worst heat wave washes over China, media outlets vie to break the hot news. Many Chinese, though, remember a time when the high temperature was a well-kept secret. Beijing's meteorological center issued the summer's first code-orange heat alert Monday as the temperature hit a high of 40.6 C (105 F). China uses a four-color heat-warning system: red, orange, yellow and blue.

[Lead-poisoning cases stonewalled](#) (Caixin Online, 7/5/2010) Cao Xiaoying, a resident of Jiahe County in rural Hunan, has given birth to four children, all of whom have above-normal blood lead levels. Cao's second son, age six, has mild lead poisoning. Recently, he has been irritable, even wielding a kitchen knife, and his mother thinks it's related to lead.

[China's population set to reach 1.4b by 2015](#) (Asia News Network, 7/5/2010) China's population is projected to reach 1.4 billion by the end of 2015, when the urban population will become the majority for the first time, officials said.

CORPORATIONS

[China to remove tax rebates for some steel grades](#) (Bloomberg, 7/9/2010) The world's biggest steel producer, China, will remove export tax rebates on some products, the first move to reduce tariffs in almost three years, amid concern that rising shipments will prompt tariffs by other countries.

[Chesapeake energy seeks Asian investors for U.S. gas projects](#) (Wall Street Journal, 7/8/2010) Natural-gas company [Chesapeake Energy Corp.](#) is looking to partner with Asian oil companies to invest in its multibillion-dollar U.S. gas projects. Chesapeake, one of the pioneers in opening up vast new reserves of natural gas in the U.S., has been talking to Chinese oil firms about buying as much as 20% of its

Eagle Ford field in Texas, Chief Financial Officer Marcus Rowland said Thursday in Beijing. He estimates the total cost of the project could be \$4 billion.

[China pumps billions into Canada's oil sands](#) (AFP, 7/8/2010) Energy-hungry China, once stung in its efforts to secure access to resources in North America, is making a more subtle push into Canada's oil sands, and the new approach is paying off, experts say.

[Yingli's \\$5.3 billion loan may double global solar panel supply](#) (Bloomberg, 7/8/2010) China may double the world's capacity for making solar panels by loaning Yingli Green Energy Holding Co. 36 billion yuan (\$5.3 billion) to expand production, a Bloomberg New Energy Finance analyst said.

[Automaker ZAP \(Zero Air Pollution\) buys out Chinese partner](#) (CNET, 7/8/2010) Automaker ZAP (Zero Air Pollution) announced Thursday it has bought a majority stake in its China-based partner Zhejiang Jonway Automobile, and intends to buy out the rest of the company in the coming year.

[China signs major deal to build Nigeria refinery](#) (AFP, 7/7/2010) China has signed a deal to build an eight-billion- dollar refinery in Nigeria, a government official said on Tuesday, in a fresh example of Beijing's aggressive investment in Africa.

[China's corn imports may grow 10-fold, Marubeni says](#) (Bloomberg, 7/7/2010) China, the world's second-largest corn consumer, may give up efforts to be self-sufficient in the commodity and boost imports 10-fold by 2015 to feed livestock, said a researcher at Japan's biggest grain trader.

[China to recycle waste from Russia, DPRK](#) (People's Daily, 7/7/2010) China is to build a huge center to recycle wastes from Russia and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in a city that borders the two countries, local authorities said Wednesday.

[Closing an old polluter may not ease emissions](#) (New York Times, 7/4/2010) Workers at the vast Guangzhou Steel mill here poured molten metal for the Great Leap Forward in the late 1950s, fought street battles during the Cultural Revolution a decade later and made many of the steel reinforcing bars used to build China's export factories over the next 30 years. But as part of a national energy-efficiency mandate, the historic mill is to be closed, starting in stages later this year.

GOVERNMENT

China to speed up clearing nomads from grasslands (Reuters, 7/8/2010) China's Inner Mongolia region plans to speed up resettlement of nomads from their traditional grasslands to fixed homes in towns, as part of a conservation programme, a top official said on Thursday.

[Green norms for overseas investment soon](#) (People's Daily, 7/9/2010) The government will soon come out with environmental protection guidelines for domestic companies planning overseas investments, ministry officials said on Thursday.

[World Bank offers more loans to China for floods control, environment](#) (Xinhua, 7/8/2010) The World Bank has approved loans totaling \$260 million to China for flood control and environmental improvement projects, the bank's China office said Thursday.

[Fuel ethanol production threatens food security](#) (China Daily, 7/8/2010) Food supply concerns triggered by the lingering drought and floods that swept China this year have left the country in what appears to be a dilemma about developing clean energy produced with food and ensuring the country's food security.

[Chinese cities adopt low-carbon policies](#) (Xinhua, 7/8/2010) As the low-carbon campaign is carried out in full swing across the country, the one-and-half- day long forum featuring environment changes and city responsibilities, an activity of Shanghai Expo, concluded in Nanjing on July 4.

[China's western region development plan a dual strategy](#) (Xinhua, 7/8/2010) Ten years after it unveiled a strategy to promote growth in its western area, China announced a plan to continue the initiative, even as the world's third largest economy strives to shift to a more domestic-driven growth.

[UN unveils report on lessons acquired from earthquake response in China](#) (BNO News, 7/7/2010) The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) unveiled on Wednesday a report detailing the lessons learned during the recovery efforts and the environmental impact of the devastating earthquake that struck the Sichuan province in May 2008, the United Nations (UN) announced.

[China Energy Corp. anticipates no material impact from Chinese government's recent announcement on thermal coal contract price hikes](#) (PRNewswire, 7/7/2010) China Energy Corporation (OTC Bulletin Board: CHGY), ("China Energy" or "the Company"), a leading Inner Mongolia producer and processor of raw coal for domestic heating, electrical generation, and coking purposes for steel production in the People's Republic of China, with operations in coal trading and heat and power supply, today announced that it anticipates no material impact on the Company from the Chinese Government's recent announcement on thermal coal contract prices, and confirms its recently issued net income guidance of \$17 million to \$18 million for 2010.

[China launches armada to head off algae plume](#) (Guardian, 7/7/2010) Chinese authorities have dispatched a flotilla of more than 60 ships to head off a massive tide of algae that is approaching the coast of Qingdao. The outbreak is thought to be caused by high ocean temperatures and excess nitrogen runoff from agriculture and fish farms.

[China, New Zealand eye closer new energy cooperation](#) (Xinhua, 7/7/2010) Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting New Zealand Prime Minister John Key agreed here on Wednesday to further bilateral cooperation in diversified areas including new energy and food security.

[Pollution still hinders water diversion in east China](#) (Xinhua, 7/6/2010) Authorities are still struggling with concerns about the poor water quality of the eastern route of the South-to-North Water Diversion (SNWD) project eight years after the eastern route's construction began.

[China plans 13 solar power plants in Western region](#) (Bloomberg, 7/6/2010) China, the world's second-biggest energy user, plans to develop 13 solar power projects in the western region as part of a government aim to cut emissions and boost energy investment in the area.

[Geologist's sentence is questioned](#) (New York Times, 7/5/2010) American officials reacted with dismay and puzzlement on Monday to the eight-year prison sentence imposed on an American geologist because he bought a database on [China](#)'s oil industry.

[China to build new-energy demonstration city in Xinjiang](#) (People's Daily, 7/5/2010) China's central government has approved proposals to establish a national-level new-energy demonstration city in Turpan in Xinjiang Uighur

Autonomous Region, and the first low-carbon demonstration township in the Jujiapu Financial District of Tianjin, according to Zhang Baoguo, head of the National Energy Administration (NEA).

[China projects won't affect Brahmaputra water flow: Minister](#) (IANS, 7/5/2010)

China has told India it will only carry out 'run-of-the-river' projects on the Brahmaputra that will not affect the flow of water, says Water Resources Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal.

[China's Shandong province sets power-purchase price for solar-generation](#)

(Bloomberg, 7/5/2010) China's Shandong province has set an electricity purchase price of 1.7 yuan (25 cents) a kilowatt-hour for photovoltaic power plants for 2010.

[As US fights, China spends to gain Afghan foothold](#) (AP, 7/5/2010)

Gul Akbar's tiny store is crammed from floor to ceiling with rolls of electric cables, plugs of all sizes and piles of extension cords. Virtually everything comes from China, as do most of the appliances and electronics being sold in Kabul's busy Nader Pashtun Market.

[China keeps promise to curb carbon emission](#) (Xinhua, 7/4/2010) Although it is not an easy task, China strives to put into practice the promise made last November before the Copenhagen Conference -- to cut its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of gross domestic product by 40 to 45 percent by 2020 compared with the level from 2005.

[China mulls using "green indices" to evaluate officials](#) (CRIENGLISH, 7/4/2010)

China is mulling using environmental indices as a yardstick to evaluate the performances of local governments and officials as the country seeks to convert its development mode to a green one, experts said Sunday.