



# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



[www.pacechina.net](http://www.pacechina.net)

---

**Issue 85, November 12<sup>th</sup> to November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

By CC Huang and Chris Langer

*Now in cooperation with*  
**chinadialogue**



**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](mailto: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

[Ethnic groups key to biodiversity](#) ([China.org.cn](http://China.org.cn), 11/18/2010) Biodiversity is a concept drawn from natural science while the study of ethnic minority cultures belongs to the social sciences. At first sight there is little relationship between the two. But in fact there is a strong, practical relationship between biodiversity and the culture of ethnic minorities. And this especially holds true in China.

[Is sending Wyombing coal to China smart economics?](#) (Reuters, 11/18/2010) China has roared into clean technology markets to lead the global race to make green energy. Its

manufacturing dominance has distressed many in the U. S. government, but not enough to upend longstanding energy priorities that favor fossil fuels.

[Analysis: In coal lockdown, China creates diesel snafu](#) (Reuters, 11/17/2010) Almost every winter, China's energy market suffers a new variant of the same no-win situation as state controls exacerbate supply shortages that only urgent and pricey imports can relieve. This year it is diesel that is scarce.

[China's crumbling buildings: not built to last](#) (Telegraph, 11/16/2010) The towering inferno in Shanghai sends a shiver down my spine. As a recent and reluctant convert to high-rise living the thought of a fire taking hold in 30-storey the block where I live is one of my worst fears.

[China acknowledges patent piracy, pollution](#) (Baltimore Sun, 11/18/2010) Every country is defensive in response to outside critics. Authoritarian countries are often more defensive than most. When you ask about dissidents and democracy here in China, you get pushback among the elites in a nation that values stability above everything else. Officials claim U.S. media exaggerates China as an economic and strategic threat. China would like "more balanced, objective reports on the other side," was a typical comment, made by Xie Feng, chief of the North American section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[China wants to buy a stake in GM](#) (Forbes, 11/15/2010) China's largest automaker, SAIC Motor, is [planning to buy](#) a 1% stake in General Motors for \$500 million in this week's initial public offering. Foreign investors, like China, appear set to take a 4% interest in the carmaker when it goes ahead with its planned sale of \$10 billion of common stock and \$3 billion of preferred. Uncle Sam, after a controversial \$50 billion rescue, holds 61% of GM's shares.

#### PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[China's cold snap may strain energy supply, hit farms](#) (Bloomberg, 10/21/2010) A cold snap will hit China today and lower temperatures by as much as 16 degrees centigrade

through the weekend, potentially straining the country's energy supply and transportation and disrupting agricultural production.

[Student finds roots on the farm](#) (Xinhua 11/19/2010) Surrounded by neatly arranged greenhouses, Xia Xiukui's dormitory sits in the middle of an 80-hectare farm. The simple white cottage looks like a temporary shed. It is from here that Xia, a 22-year-old senior student from China Agricultural University, can see what's most enjoyable in life: A panoramic view of the orchards joined by a few vegetable gardens stretching out to the feet of tranquil mountains in the distance.

[Quarry sites a mountain of trouble for villagers](#) (Global Times, 11/19/2010) Residents around a mountain in Henan Province, popular for having a high number of quarry sites and being the home of legendary Chinese Yellow Emperor, are complaining that miners are endangering the officially protected site and hurting the environment, the China National Radio reported Thursday.

[Report says China is living beyond its environmental means](#) (NTDTV, 11/17/2010) A recent report says China is living beyond its ecological means. This report from the Worldwide Fund for Nature—or WWF—says China's ecological footprint grew 50% between 2003 and 2007. It says that both changing consumption patterns and more Chinese migrating to cities are adding pressure to China's already stretched environment.

[China's biomass use makes it top energy user, IEA says](#) (Bloomberg, 11/17/2010) China's biomass use, which the government excludes from its consumption estimates, placed the country ahead of the U.S. as the world's largest energy consumer in 2009, the International Energy Agency said.

[For China's environment, a climate suitable for change](#) (ABC News, 11/15/2010) When all eyes turned to Beijing during the 2008 Olympics, the headlines were just as much about the gray skies over the city as gold medals. The smog in Beijing and other Chinese cities is a visible manifestation of a larger pollution problem, one that costs the country between 8 and 12 percent of GDP and thousands of lives each year, analysts estimate. And it's not just affecting the air -- all of China's resources are threatened by pollution, leaving the nation in a state of environmental crisis, "one the world has

become aware of," Alex Wang, the director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Environmental Law Program in China, said.

## CORPORATIONS

[CBI China; CBI China to hold clean coal China conference in Beijing](#) (Energy Weekly News, 11/19/2010) Clean Coal China Conference 2010 will be convened in Beijing, China on December 9-10. This event will highlight the hot topics associated with China's clean coal industry, and explore business opportunities for relevant industries in the perspective of global warming and sustainable development. It will bring together over one hundred prominent guests such as leaders of public agencies as well as coal and power companies, clean coal technology and equipment suppliers, solutions experts and scientific researchers, among others.

[China's GCL enters US solar power-plant business](#) (Reuters, 11/18/2010) A subsidiary of China's GCL-Poly Energy Holdings Ltd ([3800.HK](#)) has formed a joint venture with SolarReserve, a California developer, to build photovoltaic power plants in the United States.

[Shanghai fire probe finds bogus deals, cut corners](#) (Business Week, 11/18/2010) Investigators probing a fire that ravaged a downtown Shanghai high-rise apartment and killed at least 58 people say an energy-saving project that used illegal contracts, unsafe materials and unqualified workers is mainly to blame.

[Coca-Cola opens three new bottling plants in China](#) (Food Magazine, 11/18/2010) Coca-Cola has opened three new bottling plants in China, saying the country is the "world's largest and fastest growing beverage market." The plants, located in Hohhot in Inner Mongolia, Luohe in Henan Province and Sanshui in Guangdong Province, will locally produce beverages such as Coca-Cola, Sprite, Fanta, and Minute Maid.

[Music meets environment in first carbon neutral concert](#) (Global Times, 11/19/2010) Without specialized lighting or stage effects, singer Leehom Wang held an unplugged concert last week in Beijing for 600 fans. The veteran singer and four-time Golden Melody Awardwinner went carbon neutral to make a stand for environmental protection.

[China diversifies sources of uranium as nuclear power industry grows](#) (Xinhua, 11/18/2010) China is diversifying its sources of uranium to meet the rising demand in developing the nuclear power industry. "Exploration and exploitation of domestic uranium will be prioritized for the country's mid- and long-term development of nuclear power," said Lu Xiaoming, director of the Nuclear Fuel Division of the China Atomic Energy Authority, at the China Mining Conference and Expo in north China's port city of Tianjin Thursday.

[Toyota sets up R&D center in China](#) (Gasgoo, 11/17/2010) Toyota Motor Corp announced today that it has set up a wholly-owned research and development (R&D) center in Changshu, east China's Jiangsu province, according to [sohu.com](#).

[Rare earth's surging price](#) (People's Daily, 11/17/2010) The environment pays a heavy toll amid boom in demand for China's precious metals in the global market. Gao Changxin reports from Inner Mongolia.

[China Center to build new "green" office in One World Trade Center](#) (PRNewswire, 11/16/2010) China Center announced today that it has committed to build a green space in its new high-profile home at One World Trade Center. China Center and its investor Vantone Holdings strongly believe in corporate responsibility to help maintain a sustainable environment. The project will be targeted to achieve a LEED for Commercial Interiors certification.

[Dow named to US-China Joint Energy Efficiency Consortium and to Chair Industrial Advisory Board](#) (Business Wire, 11/16/2010) The Dow Chemical Company (DOW 31.30, -0.06, -0.19%) has been selected by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories (LBNL) as a research partner for the new U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center (CERC) Consortium on Building Energy Efficiency. Additionally, Dow will chair the CERC Industrial Advisory Board. The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) formally approved and awarded the proposal submitted by LBNL, leader of the Consortium, to develop and implement energy efficiency technologies for residential and commercial buildings.

[China's nuclear plant leak poses no threat to environment, public, workers](#) (Bloomberg, 11/16/2010) Radiation that leaked from Daya Bay nuclear power station, China's first large-scale atomic generator, poses no danger to the environment, the public or plant workers, said China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group Co.

[China Energy Firms flock to Hong Kong](#) (Wall Street Journal, 11/15/2010) Two Chinese wind-power operators are preparing to raise a combined US\$2.5 billion from initial public offerings in Hong Kong, joining a list of renewable-energy firms flocking to the stock exchange.

## GOVERNMENT

[EU not ready to move on climate before US, China](#) (Reuters, 11/18/2010) The European Union will not harden its existing, carbon emissions pledge into a binding, U.N. decision unless the United States and China do likewise, an unlikely prospect, its chief negotiator said.

[Renewable energy becomes a new US-China dispute prior to COP16](#) (The Examiner, 11/18/2010) Clean and renewable energy production has become a new dispute between the US and China and centers around Chinese subsidies that unfairly give an advantage to local companies and price US producers out of the market.

[Government orders crack down on heavy metals pollution](#) (Xinhua, 11/18/2010) China's Ministry of Environmental Protection Wednesday urged local government agencies to step up checks on heavy metals industries and punish those companies illegally discharging pollutants. Tao Detian, a spokesperson with the ministry, made the remarks at a press conference in Beijing, while issuing a list of 19 companies penalized for causing heavy metals pollution.

[China mulls over price controls as vegetable prices soar 62%](#) (Daily News and Analysis, 11/17/2010) Fresh evidence of long-understated inflation in China emerged on Tuesday as a survey conducted by its ministry of commerce revealed that in just the first 10 days of November, vegetable prices soared 62.4% year on year.

[US tells China fairness needed in green energy industry](#) (VOA News, 11/17/2010) The top U.S. official on energy policy says China should allow American companies to qualify for subsidies Beijing offers for renewable energy projects. There are growing complaints that China violates world trade rules by subsidizing its green energy companies, such as solar panel and wind turbine manufacturers.

[China seen quietly opening sluice for mega hydro projects](#) (Reuters, 11/16/2010) China may have quietly opened the floodgates to build new massive hydropower projects after a near halt due to environmental, immigration and other concerns, as Beijing steps up efforts to achieve clean energy and emissions targets.

[China: need right climate for Japan gas-talks Kyoto](#) (Reuters, 11/14/2010) Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said an appropriate environment was needed to reopen talks over gas fields in the East China Sea with Japan, Kyodo news agency reported on Sunday.