



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.

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OPINION

[Is it time to ban fireworks again?](#) (People's Daily, 2/16/2011) As Chinese get together with their family and celebrate the Year of the Rabbit, fireworks play an essential role to help create a cracking atmosphere. However, every coin has two sides. Fireworks also cause problems for our environment, safety and health. In a recent online poll titled "Do you think it's time to ban fireworks in big cities?" by China Daily website, about two thirds of those surveyed believed it is time to ban fireworks again in big cities.

[Building China's future?](#) (China Dialogue, 2/17/2011) Following Singapore's example, Britain is trying to secure a role in China's eco-cities market. But what does that mean for the green agenda? Olivia Boyd spoke to one of the figures behind the campaign.

[The rough side of rubber](#) (China Dialogue, 2/16/2011) Rubber plantations in Yunnan are destroying China's richest biodiversity hotspot. But blaming small-hold farmers will not resolve the issue, writes Janet C Sturgeon.

[China's economy and the water crisis – A fresh take](#) (Council on Foreign Relations, 2/16/2011) While China's economy continues to grab headlines, a new report, "Choke Point: China," suggests that we ought to be spending a bit more time on an often-ignored economic fundamental: water. China's environment has been a long-standing passion of mine, both as a research focus and as an area to promote U.S.-China cooperation.

[Cascade effect: The Mekong River and China's Hydropower Ambitions](#) (Our Future Planet, 2/15/2011) By building dams on the upper Mekong, China has triggered a revival in hydropower ambitions downstream, writes Philip Hirsch.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[Lead-acid battery makers targeted in clean-up campaign](#) (Xinhua, 2/18/2011) China's environment authorities will launch a campaign this year to clean up lead-acid battery manufacturing, which has been blamed for a spate of child lead poisoning cases.

[Migrant workers setting their sights higher](#) (Xinhua, 2/18/2011) The labor shortage in coastal cities that was predicted before the Chinese New Year holidays has now arrived and is more severe than anyone expected, according to employers who say they are scrambling to find enough workers.

[Bear activists object to company's IPO plan](#) (China Daily, 2/16/2011) Animal protectionists are trying to prevent a pharmaceutical company in East China's Fujian province from getting publicly listed, arguing that any company that makes a profit from using bear bile is inhumane and is acting against the protection of black bears.

[Animal protection group urges boycott of rabbit fur products](#) (CNA, 2/15/2011) A local animal protection group called on consumers Tuesday to boycott rabbit fur products to help stop the bloody slaughter of the animals in China, which accounts for 90 percent of the world's rabbit fur production.

CORPORATIONS

[IEA: China's oil companies aren't puppets](#) (UPI, 2/18/2011) Chinese oil companies, contrary to popular belief, aren't puppets of the government, a report from the International Energy Agency states.

[China's grain demand should boost U.S. exports](#) (USA Today, 2/18/2011) Even as its economy cools, China's demand for imported grain is likely to surge this year, providing a boon to the U.S. and other exporting nations.

[China dependent on tobacco in more ways than one](#) (NPR, 2/18/2011) As if on a pilgrimage trail, visitors to the city of Yuxi in southwest China pose for photographs beside eight cigarette-like pillars and then in front of a hilltop red pagoda, instantly recognizable to most Chinese from the cigarette packets of the Hongta — or Red Pagoda — group.

[China versus India for imported coal](#) (MineWeb, 2/17/2011) In 2009, China and India accounted for 27% of the total global coal trade; analysts expect demand volumes to continue to grow but, there is a potential for a few supply-side issues.

[ABB secures \\$63 million power transformer order in China](#) (Energy Business Review, 2/17/2011) ABB has secured a \$63m order from China Southern Power Grid Co to design, supply, install and commission 800kV ultrahigh-voltage direct current (UHVDC) transformers in China.

[Hisense Becomes World's First Corporate Partner of UNEP's SEED Award](#) (PR Newswire, 2/16/2011) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and representatives from Hisense Group officially signed a cooperative agreement at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, on February 15. Under the agreement, Hisense becomes the world's first corporate partner of the UNEP's SEED Award over the next three years, representing the first time a Chinese company has committed to being a part of the UNEP's SEED Initiative.

[China enters race to develop nuclear energy from thorium](#) (Guardian, 2/16/2011) Scientists and private firms in China have embarked on a major new push to develop liquid-fluoride thorium reactor technology.

[China rice laced with heavy metals: report](#) (AFP, 2/16/2011) Up to 10 percent of rice grown in China is contaminated with harmful heavy metals but little has been done to highlight the possible public health risks, a report said.

[China profits from solar policy as Europe backpedals](#) (Bloomberg, 2/14/2011) China, the world's biggest electricity consumer, is figuring out how to capture a larger share of the solar-energy market without losing money.

[China bets big on gas technology](#) (Wall Street Journal, 2/14/2011) Chinese companies are paying a heavy price to participate in North America's natural-gas boom in a bet on gaining vital new technology and access to a bountiful new source of energy.

GOVERNMENT

[Longevity included in the five-year development plan of East China city](#) (Global Times, 2/18/2011) Increasing life expectancy has long been a goal the human race keeps seeking. Now it is written into the economic and social development plan of an East China city. The city government of

Xinyu in Jiangxi Province has worked out a decision to expand local people's average life expectancy to 78 years in 2015 from the 76.4 years in 2010.

[China announces a new subsidy for green energy generated last year](#) (Tendersinfo News, 2/18/2011) The Chinese government will now subsidize the amount difference between the selling price and the cost price for electricity derived from renewable energy. Electricity generated from renewable sources costs more than electricity generated by desulphurized coal-firing generating units. The subsidies will bear the costs of connecting to the power grid, maintenance costs of public renewable energy power generation system, and the grid access costs of renewable energy generation project.

[China announces plans to make 1 million electric cars per year by 2015](#) (Guardian, 2/18/2011) China is aiming to put more than a million electric vehicles onto the road each year by 2015, according to the state-run People's Daily. It claims that new plans for the auto industry are about to be published and will make "new energy" – electric and hybrid electric – vehicles a national priority.

[China unveils 5th batch of subsidized energy-efficient autos](#) (Xinhua, 2/17/2011) The fifth batch of energy-efficient autos to enjoy government subsidy was revealed on Wednesday in a catalogue on the website of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), jointly issued by the NDRC, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and the Ministry of Finance.

[China drought threatens wheat crops](#) (BBC, 2/17/2011) The Chinese government has said the country's worst drought in decades is likely to continue, putting the winter wheat harvest at risk.

[Cloud-seeding safe, experts explain](#) (Xinhua, 2/17/2011) With efforts to manipulate the weather and induce precipitation intensifying because of the drought that has hit much of China, atmospheric experts have been reassuring the public that the release of chemicals into the sky will not hurt the environment.

[China's new rule to make sustainable use of rare earth, iron](#) (People's Daily, 2/15/2011) China has centralized its rare earth and iron mining system by specifying the first 13 state-planned mining zones last month. The main purposes, according to the Ministry of Land and Resources, are to protect the environment and facilitate the sustainable development of the country's strategic natural resources, according to a report by People's Daily on Tuesday.

[Beijing ranks fifth most environmentally competitive region in China](#) (People's Daily, 2/12/2011) Last year, Beijing climbed to the top five on a national list that ranks China's provinces, municipalities and regions on environmental competitiveness.