



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



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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.

Environmental China is celebrating its 100th issue! If you have enjoyed Environmental China, please invite your friends and colleagues to subscribe [here](#).

OPINION

[Facts win over rhetoric on China and climate change](#) (Sydney Morning Herald, 4/1/2011) The problem for the opposition in creating myths about the Chinese is that it's very difficult to maintain the fabrication when the Chinese come to town.

[Green China Rising](#) (The Atlantic, 3/31/2011) What's hard to impress on people who haven't visited is the scale of the investment made in energy and infrastructure. Roughly 10 million people are moving from the country to cities every year in China -- in some cases, the provincial government will commission a city of 500,000 people and just build it from scratch. A new, large coal plant is built in China every week -- in some years, twice a week.

[China's Next Inflation Problem: Energy](#) (Forbes, 3/31/2011) China's inflation problem isn't going away, at least not yet. J.P.Morgan expects the country's consumer price index (CPI) to peak in the second-half of 2011. The investment bank says the pressures behind China's rising prices are shifting away from food and more towards energy, and the rising price of oil is currently the greatest source of concern.

[China's nascent environmentalism](#) (The Atlantic, 3/27/2011) Since 2007, I have been reporting in China (and elsewhere in Asia), looking at the efforts of China's environmentalists, scientists, lawyers, and others to rein in their country's enormous pollution toll and related problems. Usually I approach these larger questions by chronicling the particular ambitions and struggles of people on the ground trying to make a difference.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[Slight radiation rise in parts of China](#) (Xinhua, 4/1/2011) Radioactive iodine 131 has been found at slightly higher levels than normal in the air across some part of China. Officials say the slight increase poses no danger to health.

[Chinese turn to greener tomb-sweeping for paying tribute to ancestors](#) (Xinhua, 4/1/2011) As low-carbon and green concepts become more popular, more Chinese are opting for environment-friendly ways to pay tribute to their ancestors and deceased loved ones.

[Guangzhou Connects Bus Rapid Transit with Bike Share](#) (Policy Innovations, 3/31/2011) Guangzhou is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. The economic hub of China's southern coast, it has undergone three decades of rapid modernization, and until recently the city's streets were on a trajectory to get completely overrun by traffic congestion and pollution. But Guangzhou has started to change course. Last year the city made major strides to cut carbon emissions and reclaim space for people, opening new bus rapid transit and public bike-sharing systems.

[The battle for Nanjing's trees](#) (China Dialogue, 3/30/2011) The graceful plane trees that line Nanjing's streets are a symbol of the city's history. As a subway expansion threatens to uproot them, citizens are rising in protest, writes Meng Si.

[China's Construction Waste a Major Pollution Problem](#) (NTDTV, 3/30/2011) The construction boom in China is leaving behind a big problem—waste—and a lot of it. Millions of tons of construction waste is generated each year. Most is not properly disposed of and is threatening the environment.

[China's Drinking Water Crisis](#) (The Epoch Times, 3/27/2011) The quality of China's tap water was raised on World Water Day. Reports and statements by professionals all point to a drinking water crisis.

CORPORATIONS

[IEA courts China's national oil companies](#) (Financial Times, 4/1/2011) If you sit down to have tea with a Chinese oil executive in Beijing, you can guarantee that there is one thing they will be eager to talk about, even if you are a journalist: why China's state-owned oil companies are not puppets of the government, why they are not overpaying for oil assets, and why they are not pumping up oil overseas solely to ship it back home.

[Businesses target sustainable development](#) ([China.org.cn](#), 3/31/2011) Businesses will take more actions to achieve sustainable development over the next five years, leading Chinese entrepreneurs said at a conference Wednesday in Beijing.

[China completes first horizontal shale gas drilling in Sichuan](#) (Bloomberg, 3/31/2011) China completed its first horizontal shale gas well, after 11 months of drilling, as the world's biggest energy consumer seeks to tap its reserves of the cleaner-burning fuel.

[Tibet's largest solar power plant to become operational in May](#) (People's Daily, 3/31/2011) The largest solar power plant in Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region will become operational in May to help ease the plateau region's power shortages.

[Battery plant poisons more than 100 villagers in East China province](#) (Bernama, 3/25/2011) Lead emissions from a battery plant located in a residential area has poisoned more than 100 villagers in east China's Zhejiang province.

[China tops global clean energy table](#) (BBC, 3/29/2011) China remains the world's leading investor in low-carbon energy technology, a global study has shown. The table, published by the US Pew Environment Group, showed that the Chinese invested \$54.4bn (£34.1bn) in 2010, up from \$39.1bn in 2009.

[Chinese to drive energy M&A](#) (Financial Times, 3/28/2011) China's oil and gas companies are set to continue their global mergers and acquisitions drive this year after the country's top three groups reported strong profits for 2010 and outlined future acquisition plans.

GOVERNMENT

[China to raise renewable power tariffs within 2 years](#) (Reuters, 3/31/2011) China plans to raise the price of power generated from renewable sources over the next two years in order to stimulate clean energy investment, China's electricity regulator said on Thursday.

[US hopes to resolve China wind turbine rift](#) (AFP, 3/31/2011) The United States said Wednesday that it hoped to negotiate a solution with China over its booming wind power sector before the World Trade Organization takes up the rift

[Macao to have first environmental planning until 2020](#) (Xinhua, 4/1/2011) Chief Executive of Macao Special Administrative Region Chui Sai On said Thursday that the SAR government was preparing the first Environmental Planning of Macao until 2020 with the vision of "Building a low carbon Macao, creating green living together."

[China may double solar power capacity goal](#) (People's Daily, 4/1/2011) China, the world's largest solar panel exporter, is likely to boast 10 gigawatts (gW) of solar power capacity by 2015 from the current 1 gW, doubling its existing target amid rising doubts about the safety of nuclear power.

[Sen. Boxer: Halting CO2 regs. helps China](#) (UPI, 3/31/2011) Halting the first-ever nationwide greenhouse-gas emissions regulations will help China dominate clean-energy technology, a Democratic U.S. senator said.

[China announced new environmental target](#) (Global Times, 3/31/2011) The country announced its energy saving and environment protection targets for the year, the nation's top economic planning body said Tuesday.

[China's Cabinet approves Qinghai-Tibet Plateau environmental protection plan](#) (Xinhua, 3/30/2011) A meeting of the State Council, China's Cabinet, approved a plan on Wednesday for preserving and protecting west China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau over the next two decades.

[Pollution to get officials black mark](#) (China Daily, 3/30/2011) China's determination to ditch the model of unsustainable development - with its cost to the environment and intensive use of resources - got a push from the National Audit Office on Tuesday.

["Time to clean up Chinese rural area pollution": official](#) (Xinhua, 3/29/2011) The program to reduce pollution between 2011 and 2015 will include emission targets for rural areas, Li Ganjie, vice-minister of environmental protection, said on Monday.

[China targets lead battery contamination](#) (CRI, 3/29/2011) The Chinese government has put lead battery factories as the top priority in its campaign to rectify the country's heavy metal pollution.

[Most of Beijing's Olympic Pollution Cleanup Evaporated a Year Later](#) (Wall Street Journal, 3/29/2011) Developed-world proponents of the "China Model" often point to environmental degradation as an example of the intractable sort of problem authoritarian governments, free of the need for grinding public debate, are good at addressing. But in new study examining one of the country's highest profile environmental problems, a team of Chinese and U.S.-based economists casts some doubt on that thesis.