



# 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 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) or [timquijano@gmail.com](mailto:timquijano@gmail.com).

## OPINION

[China eyes competitive edge in renewable energy](#) (Melanie Hart, Center for American Progress, 8/24/2011) China's State Council (the national cabinet) is currently reviewing a set of massive funding proposals for seven key "strategic emerging industries": environmentally friendly and energy-efficient technologies, next-generation IT, biotechnology, high-end equipment manufacturing, alternative energy, alternative materials, and alternative-energy vehicles.

[Protecting China's wetlands](#) (Malcolm Tait, China Dialogue, 8/24/2011)

Increasingly, the wonders of the country's waterfowl -- and their green and blue habitats -- are being revealed. To help safeguard them, the UK conservation group WWT works with Chinese authorities, writes Malcolm Tait.

[Making China happy? Then you're a success](#) (Peter Foster, Telegraph, 8/24/2011) This was perhaps always a short-sighted strategy, but as China's 12th Five-Year Plan for the first time incorporates a chapter on enhancing "social governance", it is now clearer than ever that a "me first" approach to doing business in China is no longer enough.

[The new epicenter of China's discontent](#) (Christina Larson, Foreign Policy, 8/23/2011) In retrospect, the sense of existential peril was a bit exaggerated. A campaigner from Greenpeace East Asia, who was not involved in organizing the protest, noted the actual potential impacts, most likely skin or eye irritation, were somewhat less than those feared. Yet there was a real risk, and the people of this otherwise safe and comfortable city had no regular, trusted channel to press the issue. And so they marched.

## **RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY**

Alarm over tailings' effect on polluted rivers (China Daily, 7/29/2011) The drinking water crisis in Mianyang, in Southwest China's Sichuan province, caused by the pollution of the Fujiang River by a manganese plant, should be seen as a warning about the lax management of more than 10,000 toxic mine

[First geological boundary of dinosaur found in China](#) (People's Daily, 8/25/2011) The continental faces Cretaceous-Paleogene stratigraphic boundary with International comparison standard had been found in Jiayin County, Heilongjiang province, scientists from 15 countries announced on Aug. 24.

[Dangerous chemical found in sportswears](#) (China Daily, 8/25/2011) Tests reveal clothes by well-known sportswear brands contain a hazardous chemical that can inhibit male sexual development and cause early female development.

The non-governmental organization, Greenpeace, purchased 78 pieces of clothing and shoes manufactured by 15 brands from 18 countries, and tests revealed that two-thirds of them, including those manufactured by Adidas and Li Ning, a Chinese sportswear brand, contained the chemical nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE).

[The Way of the Panda: The curious history of China's political animal](#) (Randy Dotinga, Christian Science Monitor, 8/24/2011) Considering their famous resistance to mating in captivity, it may seem like pandas aren't much into adoring each other. Thankfully, we humans more than make up for their apparent lack of mutual regard: We love pandas to pieces.

[Villagers now warming to sustainable forestry](#) (Cang Wei, China Daily, 8/24/2011) Like many women in Sancha, a village in the mountainous Huairou district where temperatures can reach as low as -12 C, 53-year-old Liu Xiuying is looking forward to an easier winter this year thanks to a grant that helped improve the energy efficiency of her rural suburban home.

[UNH, China partner to study agricultural impacts on climate change](#) (Michael McCord, Sea Coast Online, 8/22/2011) It's more than 6,700 miles between the University of New Hampshire and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing, China. But the two institutions have become much closer through a recently announced joint project that could yield research valuable to understanding the environmental impact of large-scale agricultural production against the backdrop of global climate change.

[Worldwatch report focuses on China's green future](#) (Nourishing the Planet, 8/19/2011) China's environmental problems remain a cause for global concern as climate change continues to reduce agricultural production and create instability in world food prices, according to The Worldwatch Institute's report Green Economy and Green Jobs: Current Status and Potentials for 2020. The report was co-authored with a research team at the Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies led by Dr. Pan Jiahua.

## **CORPORATIONS**

[A123 secures battery deal for wind energy in China](#) (REVE, 7/29/2011) Lithium ion battery maker A123 Systems will supply an energy storage system to a wind power test that could lead to further grid business in China.

[ConocoPhillips warned that Chinese partner could hinder oil spill clean-up](#) (Guardian, 8/25/2011) ConocoPhillips, the US oil firm currently being blamed for

a spill the size of London in China's Bohai Sea, complained four years ago that its Chinese partner was hampering preparations for environmental emergencies.

[5 detained over toxic waste dumping](#) (China Daily, 8/24/2011) Five suspects have been detained over a Chinese chemical company's dumping of carcinogenic industrial chemicals that could threaten the water sources for tens of millions of people, police in the southwestern Yunnan Province said Tuesday.

[Suntech Power in the red despite surge in revenues](#) (Reuters, 8/23/2011) Suntech Power (STP) posted earnings results Monday that were in line with its competitors. Strong revenues and plummeting profits. Even when you take out the write off for the MEMC and CSG Solar investments, the company still lost .19/share despite strong revenues of \$830 million. Analysts had expected a profit from the company on revenues of \$800 million. The CEO acknowledged it remains a highly competitive market and that should remain so for some time.

[Hertz to begin renting electric cars in China](#) (Keith Bradsher, New York Times, 8/23/2011) In the West, electric cars appeal to a do-it-yourself environmentalist personality, one who believes in taking individual actions to help address the collective problems of air pollution and global warming.

[Georgia factory provides China with 2 million chopsticks a day](#) (Huffington Post, 8/23/2011) China's population of 1.3 billion has a lot of mouths to feed, and a lot of chopsticks to use (around 50 billion per year, actually). That's why the country recently looked to the city of Americus, Georgia (population: 17,000) to help produce the country's utensil of choice. The poplar tree and sweet gum trees that "grow like weeds" (via Eater) in Americus provide the right balance of hardness and softness for producing chopsticks.

## GOVERNMENT

[Incognito US diplomat probed China tiger farm: cable](#) (AFP, 8/26/2011) A US diplomat disguised himself as a Korean tourist to probe a tiger farm in China where he voiced alarm at conditions that included whippings of the endangered big cats, a leaked memo said.

[Government eyes safety of underground water](#) (China Daily, 8/25/2011) The State Council on Wednesday adopted a national plan to protect the safety of underground water resources and avoid pollution.

[Source of the Yellow River stops shrinking](#) (China Daily, 8/24/2011) A sprawling lake area on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau has expanded after the government took steps six years ago to prevent it from shrinking because of its deteriorating environment.

[China to revise ambient air quality standards](#) (People's Daily, 8/24/2011) China is considering revisions to the existing ambient air quality standards to cope with the changing condition of the ambient air pollution, according to the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

[Top court to toughen sea pollution penalties](#) (China Daily, 8/24/2011) The country's top court plans to improve rules and regulations to better handle rising disputes over marine pollution, a senior judge has said.