



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

## OPINION

[Water is the new weapon in Beijing's armoury](#) (Brahma Chellaney, Financial Times, 8/30/2011) China has aroused international alarm by using its virtual monopoly of rare earths as a trade instrument and by stalling multilateral efforts to resolve disputes in the South China Sea. Among its neighbours, there is deep concern at the way it is seeking to make water a political weapon.

[Hopes for a more humble Apple](#) (Guo Peiyuan, China Dialogue, 9/1/2011) Campaigners fighting for cleaner IT in China would do well to study Apple's own techniques—only when they get consumers on side, will they strike an effective blow, writes Guo Peiyuan.

[China needs to act fast on oil spills](#) (Lin Boqiang, China Daily, 9/1/2011) Two oil spills on June 4 and on June 17 in the Penglai oilfield operated by ConocoPhillips China leaked approximately 1,500 barrels into the adjacent waters. But the Penglai oil spill has in fact grown worse over the last two months, with new reports of more oil leaks.

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## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[China's Solutions To Its Many Environmental Problems](#) (Gina-Marie Cheeseman, Care2, 8/28/2011) China has major environmental problems, as a new [Worldwatch Institute report](#) details. The number one emitter of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, China deals with major pollution. Seven Chinese cities made the list of the top ten most polluted places on earth. Every year, China loses 10 million tons of grain production a year due to pollution.

[China's Pending Energy Crisis](#) (Travis Hoium, Daily Finance, 8/29/2011) As mature economies like the U.S. and Europe sputter postrecession, China has caught the world's attention as an economic power. The country's nearly double-digit growth is the envy -- and the concern -- of the traditional economic powers of the world.

[On Yunnan's chromium trail](#) (Meng Si, China Dialogue, 8/30/2011) The dumping of 5,000 tonnes of toxic metal tailings next to an important drinking source has brought to light years of illegal disposal of factory waste. Meng Si reports.

[Wikileaks reveals US hopes for environmental activism in China](#) (Jonathan Watts, The Guardian, 8/30/2011) Diplomats heartened by 'willingness of citizens to voice their complaints' during protest against PX chemical plant in Xiamen but noted government's later change of tack

[Climate change concern tumbles in US and China](#) (Damian Carrington, Guardian, 8/30/2011) A new survey shows 69% of global citizens are concerned about global warming, but opinion is sliding worryingly in the biggest polluting nations

[Apple criticized for China supply chain pollution](#) (Michael Martina, Reuters, 8/31/2011) Chinese environmental groups accused Apple Inc of turning a blind eye as its suppliers pollute the country, the latest criticism of the technology company's environmental record. Report available [here\(PDF\)](#).

[US Thumps China in Solar Panel Shipment](#) (Ariella Brown, EBN,8/31/2011) China has a huge trade surplus with the United States in many segments of the economy but not, surprisingly, in the sale of solar panels, according to GTM Research and the Solar Energy Industries Association.

[Solar power `major culprit behind lead pollution in developing countries'](#) (Truth Drive, 9/1/2011) A study by Chris Cherry, assistant professor in civil and environmental engineering in University of Tennessee, Knoxville, discovered that solar power, which depends particularly on lead batteries, releases more than 2.4 million tons of lead pollution in China and India.

## CORPORATIONS

[China set to challenge global wind industry](#) (Pilita Clark and Leslie Hook, Financial Times, 8/28/2011) Standing under the enormous swinging blades of the world's most powerful wind turbine near the German city of Magdeburg, it is hard to imagine that Europe's wind industry has much to worry about when it comes to foreign rivals.

[China's oil groups ready for more deals](#) (Leslie Hook, Financial Times, 8/29/2011) Solid first-half profits at China's state-owned oil companies have paved the way for further expansion overseas as the country's oil needs continue to rise.

["Apple has made no progress at all"](#) (Liu Jianqiang, China Dialogue, 8/31/2011) Today's revelations about supply-chain violations in China are no bolt from the blue. Ma Jun – one of the report's chief authors – tells Liu Jianqiang about the long-running investigation into the world's most valuable brand.

[Large number of petro plants threaten environment of bay](#) (Tan Zongyang, China Daily, 9/1/2011) Petrochemical projects near North China's Bohai Bay have been a boon to the local economy but pose a threat to the region's environment, experts warn.

[China Benefits as U.S. Solar Industry Withers](#) (Keith Bradsher, New York Times, 9/1/2011) The bankruptcies of three American solar power companies in the last month, including Solyndra of California on Wednesday, have left China's industry with a dominant sales position — almost three-fifths of the world's production capacity — and rapidly declining costs.

[China, U.S. Duking It Out Over Most Renewable Potential](#) (Morgan Clendaniel, Fast Company, 9/1/2011) The latest rankings on which countries are the most attractive to renewable energy investors finds China still in the lead, but the U.S. has a chance to make a move with solar power.

[Oil plants feel the heat](#) (Zhang Xiaomin and He Na, China Daily, 9/2/2011) It took 300 firefighters and 50 fire trucks three hours to conquer the blaze on Monday at the Dalian plant of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC).

## GOVERNMENT

[China–Gulf Energy Relations](#) (Erica S. Downs, Woodrow Wilson Center, 8/1/2011) Energy, especially oil, lies at the heart of China's relationships with Persian Gulf countries. As China's oil demand and imports have grown, so have China's trade and investment ties with the states of the Persian Gulf. However, the nature of China's energy relationships with major powers in the region varies dramatically

[Drought dries up reservoirs, rivers in SW China](#) (China Daily, 8/25/2011) A severe drought in southwest China has dried up hundreds of reservoirs and rivers, devastated farm fields and made drinking water scarce, local authorities said.

[China's biggest relocation project yet](#) (Kathleen McLaughlin, Global Post, 8/29/2011) A decade from now, the quiet mountains and farm villages across this vast ribbon of central China will be modern towns and cities. Farmers will be urbanites, and the region's main river will be cleaned up and channeled toward Beijing. That is, if all goes according to plan. There are many variables standing in the way — namely people, and China's largest-ever forced relocation project.

[General lets spy secrets slip](#) (Shi Jiangtao, South China Morning Post, 8/29/2011) A PLA general has made startling revelations about a flurry of scandalous espionage cases over the past decade, shedding rare light on a long list of senior cadres, diplomats and military officers allegedly spying for other countries.

[China meets pollution control targets for 2006-2010](#) (Xinhua, 8/29/2011) China met two major pollution control targets from 2006 to 2010, said the country's environment watchdog on Monday.

[Taiwan Considers Eco-Tourism to Assert Territorial Claims](#) (Ralph Jennings, Voice of America, 8/29/2011) Taiwan has been a relatively quiet player in the tense dispute about territorial claims in the South China Sea. That could change with an unusual initiative that Taipei says is a peaceful approach to asserting its sovereignty in a body of water where China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei also have claims. The plan involves tourists, rare turtles and a remote atoll.

[China revises up 2015 renewable energy goals: report](#) (Reuters, 8/29/2011) China will raise development targets for renewable energy such as wind power for the five-year period through 2015, state media reported on Tuesday, as the world's top energy user and carbon emitter aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.

[Beijing's coal use to be capped](#) (Li Jing, China Daily, 8/30/2011) The capital city will cap its annual coal consumption at 20 million tons by 2015, as part of its plan to release less carbon and further reduce air pollution, the municipal commission of development and reform said on Monday.

[Video: "Politically Difficult" to Measure China's Real Pollution](#) (NTD Television, 8/30/2011) On Friday Wikileaks published a 2006 cable from the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou. It details concerns about China's air pollution, and shows that levels of pollution are much higher than authorities have admitted.

[Coal Shortages Speed Up China's Clean Power Plans](#) (Susan Kraemer, Matter Network, 8/31/2011) The Chinese government continues to expand its clean energy production plans, to replace increasingly expensive coal power that is shutting down coal plants and causing power shortages of at least 16 GW. China's twelfth five-year plan unveiled this week plans for 70 GW for wind, and 5 GW of solar by 2015.

[Officials secretly complained to China about 'lack of ambition' in emissions target](#) (Lenore Taylor, Sydney Morning Herald, 9/1/2011) The Gillard government has always publicly insisted China is taking significant steps to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, but WikiLeaks cables

reveal senior Australian bureaucrats complained privately to China about the "lack of ambition" in that country's targets.

[China is "seriously dealing with" hazardous waste](#) (Xinhua, 9/1/2011) China is "seriously dealing with" hazardous waste threatening the environment after several incidents of illegal dumping and transferring of abandoned heavy metals, a senior environmental official said Thursday.

[90% of Urban Groundwater Polluted in China](#) (CRIEnglish, 9/1/2011) 90 per cent of the urban groundwater in China is contaminated with poisonous pollutants and the quality of 40 per cent of that is getting even worse, according to statistics from China's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Ministry of Land and Resources, the China Business Times reports.