



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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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 and/or timquijano@gmail.com.

OPINION

[Chinese Hydropower Scorecard Doesn't Fill the Accountability Gap](#) (Zachary Hurwitz, International Rivers, 9/23/2011) The International Hydropower Association launched its non-binding sustainability guidelines scorecard in Beijing today, hoping to attract Chinese dam builders to what is turning out to be the world's latest industry-led greenwash.

[Getting Strict With Rule Breakers](#) (Lan Xinzhen, Beijing Review, 9/29/2011) More supervision is needed over multinationals operating in China as controversy begins to surround these foreign companies.

RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[China population to become world's biggest polluters](#) (Peter Foster, Telegraph, 9/28/2011)

China's carbon emissions for each member of its population could overtake that of Britain as early as the end of next year, it has been revealed.

[A greener city, house by house](#) (Zhou Wei, China Dialogue, 9/26/2011) China's oldest environmental NGO is on a mission to bring low-carbon renovations to Beijing homes. Zhou Wei met the campaign's first wave: 21 families tasked with cutting their energy use by a third.

[Lone sharks](#) (Economist, 10/1/2011) Is the tide turning against shark's fin soup? Conservationists certainly hope so. On September 22nd in Shanghai WildAid, a charity, launched a campaign to persuade Chinese people to give up eating the delicacy. Celebrity support for the bid was provided by Yao Ming, a Chinese basketball star, and Sir Richard Branson, a British business star. In California, meanwhile, a ban on the sale, trade and possession of sharks' fins has been passed by the state senate, and awaits only the governor's signature to become law.

[Sustainability in China: More than Winning a Cleantech War](#) (Richard Brubaker, Policy Innovations, 9/29/2011) Rarely a day goes by without an article that focuses on the progress that China is making in sustainability. Such stories are often tied to how Beijing's policies are driving China's green investments forward past those of other countries. They frequently detail the explosion of China into an area of cleantech, an investment or partnership between a Chinese firm and a western investor, or the inability of foreign producers to compete.

[Oil & Gas - China investing to secure energy supply](#) (Lise Pretorius, Financial Mail, 9/29/2011) As countries seek to ensure their energy security, the focus is turning to the resources potential of Africa. Energy security is becoming a priority for economies around the world, not least the world's biggest energy consumer, China. It will be responsible for most of the 36% increase in global energy demand by 2035, says the International Energy Agency.

[China and Recent Military Showdowns in the South China Sea](#) (HOOMAN PEIMANI, Journal of Energy Security, 9/28/2011) For several decades, the countries sharing the coastlines of the South China Sea have been engaged in disputes over the ownership of a series of islands, the Spratly and Paracel Islands. The availability of offshore oil and gas resources in the islands' proximity has been the main reason for such territorial disputes. This reality in a region with growing energy consumption and limited indigenous resources has pitted China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam against each other. Their competition over the ownership of these islands is not therefore something new. However, China's recent disputes with some of the regional countries (e.g., Vietnam and the Philippines), taking a military/confrontational form, cannot be explained only as a simple manifestation of the same old story. Rather, they reflect a new reality geared to China's gaining self-confidence as a rising superpower in search of energy security in a multi-polar world beset with many uncertainties.

[Clean energy: A faded shade of green](#) (Peter Huck, New Zealand Herald, 9/23/2011) At the start of this century, clean energy was all the rage. The revolution may still be happening, but it's taking its time.

[Traffic Jams Prevail on Car-Free Day](#) (Tom McGregor, CRIEnglish, 9/23/2011) The concept of a car-free day sounds heartwarming, especially in China, which is faces worsening pollution problems. A car-free day should have spurred a significant reduction of vehicular traffic. It should have been a day to unite environmentalists and drivers, annoyed with traffic jams. Unfortunately, this intriguing idea and its implementation failed to go hand-in-hand as expected.

[Waiting game for villagers in shadow of chemical factories](#) (Shanghai Daily, 9/26/2011) The small village looks exactly as it did 20 years ago. Only then the sky was clearer and homes were not in the shadow of the towers of nearby chemical factories, residents said.

CORPORATIONS

[Chilly reception for a Chinese tycoon](#) (Andrew Ward, Jamil Anderlini, Leslie Hook, China Dialogue, 9/27/2011) The suspicious response to Huang Nubo's bid to buy a chunk of Iceland's wilderness reflects the dilemma Beijing's expansive growth strategy poses with indebted western nations.

[China's backlash grows against ConocoPhillips](#) (Brett Clanton, 9/27/2011) Though the leaks may be largely under control, ConocoPhillips is still trying to contain the public backlash in China over its handling of recent offshore spills in Bohai Bay.

[APEC Event Looks at Industry in China](#) (Dan O'Brien, Business Journal Daily, 9/28/2011) Specialists in Asian economic and environmental affairs examined challenges facing China's manufacturers and began a two-day symposium at Youngstown State University that will serve as a run-up to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit scheduled for November in Honolulu.

[Jinko Solar Dump Toxic Waste, Apologizes](#) (Sustainable Business, 9/26/2011) Chinese solar maker Jinko Solar promised to clean up its toxic waste only after protestors stormed its factory.

[Wind power in China: Turbine talent seeks overseas outlets](#) (Sarah Murray, Financial Times, 9/28/2011) With its voracious appetite for energy and a generous supply of wind, it is no surprise China has rapidly developed a market for wind power. Until recently the market was domestic, but now wind turbine companies are eyeing prospects in markets such as Europe and the US.

[Solyndra's China syndrome](#) (Andrew Leonard, Salon, 9/24/2011) While Republicans seize upon a solar power fiasco to attack green energy, the Chinese get even more ambitious.

[Clean Energy, China-Style: Sex, Cash and Stolen Technology](#) (Willam Pentland, Forbes, 9/23/2011) Sinovel, a leading Chinese wind turbine maker, seduced a troubled software engineer into selling [highly-sensitive software code](#) from his employer, Windtec, for subsidized sex and a heap of no-strings-attached cash.

GOVERNMENT

[China to reevaluate, revise environmental quality standards in next five years](#) (Xinhua, 9/23/2011) China will reevaluate and revise a series of environmental quality standards, including those for air, water, soil and noise, in the next five years, to improve the country's environmental quality.

[Nuclear to remain in energy mix](#) (Lan Lan, China Daily, 9/23/2011) Nuclear power will remain a component of China's energy mix to help the country reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with safety as a precondition, China's top climate change official said on Sept 22.

[China orders checks on chemical plants after protests](#) (Ben Blanchard, Reuters, 9/29/2011) China on Thursday ordered nationwide safety and environmental checks at plants that make dangerous chemicals, threatening to suspend those that cannot fix problems, in response to protests that broke out in the port city of Dalian in August following a toxic spill scare.

[Beijing best in balancing growth and environment, study says](#) (Bloomberg, 9/23/2011) Beijing retained top position in a Chinese state ranking of cities and provinces offering the best balance between economic growth and environmental protection.

[Built in a Dirty Boom, China's Biggest City Tries to Go Green](#) (Coco Liu, ClimateWire, 9/26/2011) Wandering around in downtown Chongqing, it is hard to imagine that this is a city that is going green.

[Solar-Panel Imports From China Said to Face U.S. Trade Complaint](#) (Mark Drajem and William McQuillen, Bloomberg, 9/29/2011) Solar manufacturers including a unit of SolarWorld AG (SWV) are preparing a U.S. trade complaint against China, as they seek to counter low-cost, subsidized imports, according to people familiar with the matter.

[China considers policy shift to boost shale gas](#) (Chen Aizhu and Coco Li, Reuters, 9/25/2011) China may treat shale gas as separate from conventional hydrocarbons to encourage companies outside of state-owned industry to invest, government officials said on Sunday.

[The "Race" for Clean Energy in a Dynamic Global Industry](#) (David Levy, Sustainable Business Forum, 9/28/2011) The American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC) released a new report, [Catalyzing American Ingenuity: The Role of Government in Energy Innovation](#), which makes the case that the US government should dramatically increase its investment in energy innovation in order to enhance US competitiveness, energy independence, and create affordable clean-energy alternatives. The AEIC doesn't represent the clean energy industry; rather, it's a small but highly influential group of CEOs (and a couple of former CEOs) from Lockheed Martin, Xerox, Kleiner Perkins, Microsoft, Dupont, GE, and Cummins. The AEIC report makes the historical observation that "From gas turbines to smart phones, medical imaging technologies to space flight, GPS to the internet, government funded innovation research has improved lives, created jobs, and supported more than a century of U.S. preeminence."

[China to North America: Send us your oil](#) (Claudia Cattaneo, Financial Post, 9/29/2011) As Americans quarrel over whether fossil fuels belong in their future, Asian countries are taking a powerful message to Washington Thursday: Ship your oil and gas to us.

[Premier Wen orders greater efforts in energy conservation, emissions reduction](#) (Xinhua, 9/27/2011) Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday urged local governments to step up efforts in energy conservation and emissions reduction as the situation remains serious.

[Chinese regions face severe winter power shortage](#) (Jim Bai and Chen Aizhu, Reuters, 9/29/2011) China's southern and central regions, which depend heavily on hydropower, will face a power supply squeeze this winter due to low water storage and strong demand growth, the country's top energy agency said on Thursday.