



# 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

[An inside look at a cleaner textile mill in China](#) (Peter Lehner, NRDC Switchboard, 10/20/2011)

I'm writing from China this week, where NRDC has been working for more than fifteen years on energy and other environmental issues, and where we just opened our newest office - NRDC Hong Kong. After the official launch of the new office, we traveled to Guangzhou, China's second largest city and a major manufacturing center. Here I witnessed firsthand the results of NRDC's Clean by Design initiative, which encourages U.S. retailers to work with their Chinese textile suppliers to reduce pollution and waste at their factories.

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[Clearing the haze](#) (Angel Hsu, China Dialogue, 10/19/2011) China's move to start measuring deadly air pollutant PM 2.5 for the first time signals a shift towards greater openness on the state of the environment, writes Angel Hsu.

[What I Learned about China and the environment from Cathay Pacific](#) (Jack Davis, Huffington Post, 10/14/2011) This summer I spent two weeks in China on a high school environmental trip sponsored by Cathay Pacific. I had the time of my life in one of the most amazing places in the world. But what we did in China is not what you might expect.

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[How Chinese babies pay the price for Chinese pollution](#) (Jeffrey Kluger, Time, 10/19/2011) It's a very good thing that neural tube defects are relatively rare in the U.S., because they are very cruel conditions for a newborn to suffer. The two most common types of such birth defects are spina bifida - in which the backbone and spinal canal do not close properly — and anencephaly, in which a large portion of the brain and skull are simply missing. There are about 3,000 babies born in the U.S. with neural tube defects each year, or about .75 for every thousand live births.

[Meet China's eco cops](#) (Nidhi Subbaraman, Fast Company, 10/17/2011) To enforce new rules from the government and U.S. companies, a new breed of worker is appearing in China: A consultant who helps factories adhere to standards, without causing outrageous costs.

[Metal poisoning scandal raise pollution concerns](#) (China Daily, 10/17/2011) Following a spate of metal pollution scandals around China, experts raised warning on land pollutions. China needs to strike a balance between economic growth and safety, said experts.

## CORPORATIONS

[Subsidy nation: Can US firms compete against China?](#) (John Bussey, Wall Street Journal, 10/21/2011) One of the consequences of the failure of Solyndra LLC is that, justifiably or not, it has set off alarms about subsidized Chinese companies threatening an array of U.S. industries.

[Chinese rail projects grind to a halt as funds dry up](#) (Norihiro Shirouzu, 10/20/2011) In the latest sign of trouble for China's multibillion-dollar rail ambitions, builders are being forced to suspend work on construction of more than 6,000 miles of railway as funds have dried up in a tight monetary environment and after a deadly July train crash, a senior railway company executive said.

[Alibaba's Jack Ma At AsiaD: 'If It Hurts The Environment, It's Not Good For Society'](#) (Huffington Post, 10/20/2011) Jack Ma may be no Bill Gates, but he says his views on philanthropy and the social responsibility of companies have been vastly misunderstood. "I probably spend a lot of money and efforts," Mr. Ma told interviewer Peter Kafka in Hong Kong on Thursday at AsiaD — a conference organized by AllThingsDigital, an online publishing partner of The Wall Street Journal. "I keep it private and do not tell the public."

[US solar manufacturers request duties on Chinese imports](#) (Mark Drajem and Eric Martin, Business Week, 10/20/2011) U.S. solar-equipment makers asked the government to slap duties on more than \$1 billion of Chinese imports, joining the wind-power industry in seeking compensation for alleged unfair state aid undercutting American competitors.

[Serbia, China sign deal for coal plant, mine](#) (Reuters, 10/20/2011) Serbia's power utility Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) said on Thursday it has signed a preliminary deal with a Chinese consortium to jointly build a 744 megawatt coal-fired unit at an estimated cost of more than 2 billion euros (\$2.7 billion).

[Solar installers are no fans of trade complaints against China](#) (Ucilia Wang, Forbes, 10/20/2011) A brewing battle that pits U.S. solar manufacturers against their Chinese rivals could end up taking away the low-cost solar panels that have helped to propel the solar market growth and provide consumers with more affordable solar electricity.

[Energy efficiency versus environmental protection](#) (Zhou Yan, China Daily, 10/19/2011) The Bohai Bay oil spill has resulted in calls for changes in the relationship between China and the foreign oil companies that enable the search for resources, as Zhou Yan reports in Beijing.

[Some China plants facing toughest times](#) (Steven Toloken, Plastics News, 10/19/2011) Sharply rising costs in China and weakness in major markets in North America and Europe are making it probably the most difficult time in at least 20 years for many export-oriented small and medium-sized manufacturers and plastics firms in China.

[Apple, HTC supplier closes pending environmental inspection in China, may affect sales](#) (Erica Thinsen, IT Pro Portal, 10/19/2011) A Taiwan-based Apple supplier, which provides metal cases for MacBook devices, has announced it will be shutting down some of its operations due to pollution complaints from residents.

[Hon Hai denies rumors of China complex shutting down](#) (Taiwan News, 10/19/2011) The Hon Hai Group, the world's largest contract electronics maker, on Wednesday denied market speculation that its production base in Taiyuan in China's Shanxi Province has been forced to shut down amid pollution concerns. In a statement filed with the Taiwan Stock Exchange, Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., the flagship of the group, said the group pays close attention to environmental protection and abides by the law to fulfill its social responsibility.

[Chevron drilling off South China coast by year-end](#) (Wall Street Journal, 10/18/2011) Chevron Corp. plans to start drilling its first gas exploration well off the southern coast of China before the end of the year, near an area where large gas reserves have been found, a senior regional executive said.

[More success blowing for China wind industry](#) (Tom McGregor, CRI English, 10/17/2011) As China endures grave pollution problems, the Chinese government is promoting more environmentally-friendly alternative sources of energy. The country has transformed into a pivotal global player of the solar and wind energy industries. China has already sold more than half of the world's solar panels since 2010. Chinese wind turbine companies seek to capture a major portion of the \$70 billion U.S. dollar wind turbine market.

## GOVERNMENT

[Half of the groundwater of 182 China cities not drinkable](#) (Bloomberg, 10/21/2011) More than half of the groundwater monitored in 182 Chinese cities by the Ministry of Land and Resources was classified as bad, meaning the health of individuals could be harmed, the China Daily reported, citing a report by the ministry.

[China's cabinet studies proposed environmental-protection tax](#) (Bloomberg, 10/20/2011) China's State Council is studying the introduction of an environmental protection tax, and the nation plans to increase environmental spending, including it in the annual budgets of all levels of government.

[China plans subsidies to tap shale gas reserves larger than US](#) (Bloomberg, 10/20/2011) China, estimated to hold more natural gas trapped in shale than the U.S., will offer subsidies and auction new exploration blocks this year to encourage domestic companies to tap the resource.

[Pakistan envisions \\$11 bln Chinese investment](#) (Associated Press of Pakistan, 10/20/2011) Ambassador to China Masood Khan has said that Pakistan envisions a Chinese investment of more than US \$ 11 billion in the energy sector during the next five years. The Ambassador expressed these views in his introductory remarks at a Road Shows held here for the management, operation, maintenance and rehabilitations of the nine public sector thermal power complexes through private sector Operation and Maintenance contractors by Pakistan's Private Infrastructure Board (PIIB).

[China to invest 12 trillion yuan in wind power over next 40 years](#) (Liu Weixun, Economic Observer Online) Wind power will account for 17% of China's total electricity production by 2050, according to predictions made in "China's Wind Power Development Roadmap 2050" (《中国风电发展路线图 2050》), " a report jointly produced by the National Development and Reform Commission's Energy Research Institute and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

[China to inspect coastal regions for oil spill risks](#) (Reuters, 10/19/2011) China plans inspections of coastal regions for potential pollution risks from oil spills, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

[How a smoggy Chinese city turned green](#) (Guardian, 10/17/2011) Shenyang - once a key in Mao Zedong's push to industrialize China - has begun to emerge from its smoggy past, cleaning up its factories and expanding its green spaces.

[Period of development poses threat to marine areas](#) (China Daily, 10/17/2011) China's aquatic fauna and its vast marine areas are under threat from intensive coastal exploration and land-based pollution, a senior official said.