



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.

NOTICE: Readers, please excuse a one week absence of our newsletter next week, from October 28 to November 4. The newsletter will return to normal service on November 11. Please accept our sincere apologies for the irregularity.

OPINION

[China Should Play by the Rules, and America Should Play to Win](#) (Carl Pope, Huffington Post, 10/24/2011) There's no doubt the U.S. is losing the clean-energy race. In 2010 our level of investment in clean energy fell behind both China and Germany, with a growth rate that is 11th among the industrial

nations. Last year, China gave \$30 billion to its largest solar manufacturers, 20 times the amount that the United States gave, according to Jonathan Silver, former executive director of the U.S. Energy Department's loan program. As a result, in 2010 China sold more than half of the world's solar panels, and is now gearing up a similar effort to dominate global wind markets.

[Why we Need a Stiff Tax on Chinese Solar Goods](#) (Brian Scoles, Earth Island Journal, 10/24/2011) A Clear Benefit Would be to Stem the Flow of Cheap Chinese Panels that Lead to Devastating Pollution.

RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[In Northwest Town, A Local Fight Against Global Coal](#) (Richard Harris, NPR, 10/26/2011) Plans are afoot to build giant new coal terminals on the West Coast to ship this lucrative commodity to China. But activists want to stop this, in part because coal produces huge amounts of carbon dioxide when it's burned. Federal climate policy is silent on this potentially large source of emissions, so the debate is happening at the local level.

[China Pours Money into Smart Grid Technology](#) (Melanie Hart, Center for American Progress, 10/24/2011) There is no way to get around this fact 棧 hina aims to modernize its energy infrastructure at home and dominate clean energy technology markets abroad. At the 2011 Smart Grid World Forum in Beijing late last month, China's State Grid Corporation announced plans to invest \$250 billion in electric power infrastructure upgrades over the next five years, of which \$45 billion is earmarked for smart grid technologies. According to its three-stage plan, China will invest another \$240 billion between 2016 and 2020 (including another \$45 billion toward smart grid technologies) to complete the build-out of a "stronger, smarter" Chinese power grid.

[Disposable Chopsticks Strip Asian Forests](#) (Rachel Nuwer, 10/24/2011) Each year, the equivalent of 3.8 million trees go into the manufacture of about 57 billion disposable pairs of chopsticks in China, according to statistics from that nation's national forest bureau. About 45 percent of disposable chopsticks are made from trees like cotton wood, birch, and spruce, while the remainder are made from bamboo.

[Tears for the 'river pig'](#) (Wang Ru, China Daily, 10/27/2011) Increasing pollution of the Yangtze River and the threat this poses to the finless

porpoise is also a warning for a third of the nation's population that depends on these waters. Wang Ru reports.

[China Has More Shale Gas Than We Do. Will They Embrace Environmental Safeguards on Fracking? Will We?](#) (Melanie Hart and Daniel J. Weiss, Think Progress, 10/24/2011) New and improved horizontal drilling, combined with hydraulic fracturing technologies, enable the United States to develop its abundant supply of natural gas from shale rock deep below the earth's surface. China holds huge shale reserves as well and plans to follow suit. It would like to import technologies from the United States to do so, but the United States and its oil companies should not supply China with hydraulic fracturing technology without combining that technology with safety standards and environmental best practices. This includes capturing fugitive greenhouse gas emissions, monitoring the chemicals used in fracking fluid, and treating the wastewater to avoid contaminating local waterways.

[China's glaciers in 'meltdown' mode](#) (Independent Online, 10/25/2011) Sharp increases in temperature driven by global warming are melting China's Himalayan glaciers, an impact that threatens habitats, tourism and economic development, says a study released on Tuesday.

[Environmental Devestation in Bohai Gulf, China's "Cradle of Fishing](#) (Chung Ang, Economic Observer) The innermost bay of the Yellow Sea on the northeastern coast of China, the semi-enclosed Bohai Gulf, used to be known as the country's "cradle of fishery," once accounting for 40% of China's fishing output. Now, in ecological terms, it is dying a rapid death that mirrors the region's breakneck economic development.

CORPORATIONS

[US gas find off Vietnam adds to China tension](#) (Ben Bland, Leslie Hook, Sheila McNulty, Financial Times, 10/26/2011) American oil major ExxonMobil has made a "potentially significant" gas discovery off the coast of Vietnam in an area that is also claimed by China.

[China Fires Back Over SolarWorld Issue](#) (Pete Danko, Earth Techling, 10/24/2011) China and U.S. solar manufacturers traded shots in the wake of the SolarWorld-led effort to slap big tariffs on Chinese imports of crystalline silicon solar panels. China denied breaking trade rules, saying its solar industry was good for the global economy and environment, and it urged the U.S. government to reject the SolarWorld claim and avoid a "lose-

lose" trade war. SolarWorld's Coalition for American Solar Manufacturing (CASM) fired back that China's statement was "absurd."

[Slideshow: Investment slows on China's high speed railways](#) (Simon Rabinovitch and Amie Tsang, Financial Times, 10/27/2011) Investment in [China's high-speed rail network](#) has slowed down since two bullet trains crashed in July and the railway minister was dismissed for corruption in February. Simon Rabinovitch visits Bazhou, a small town in north-east China counting on the arrival of high-speed rail to bring construction and growth to the area.

[China plant in pollution scandal defies government ban on production](#) (Xinhua, 10/21/2011) A chemical factory whose dumping of carcinogenic industrial chemicals is suspected of polluting local residents' water supplies has defied a government-issued ban on production.

[Analysis: Solar share buybacks fail to soothe investors](#) (Krishna Das, Reuters, 10/25/2011) Chinese solar companies are snapping up their own shares amid a brutal selloff in the stock market, spending crucial resources on the effort rather than conserving cash or spending on new strategic projects.

[Tree planting gets under way in green drive](#) (Huang Ying, China Daily, 10/24/2011) The Swiss Pharmaceutical maker Novartis International AG has planted the first batch of 12,000 trees in Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, in Southwest China's Sichuan province.

[CNOOC: Oil leaks in Bohai Bay sealed](#) ([China.org.cn](#), 10/25/2011) China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), the country's largest offshore oil producer, said Monday that the oil leaks have been sealed by reservoir pressure reduction and a series of technological measures in northern China's Bohai Bay.

[China Qinhuangdao Coal Price Rises to Highest in Three Years](#) (Chua Baizhen, Jing Yang, Bloomberg, 10/24/2011) China's power-station coal price rose to the highest level in three years as power stations and central heating plants built up stocks to meet winter demand.

GOVERNMENT

[Taxing times ahead](#) (Economist, 10/29/2011) GIVEN that China is the world's biggest carbon emitter, it is fair to be sceptical of its claims to

greenery. Yet the emerging giant is already the world's biggest manufacturer of such green technologies as compact-fluorescent bulbs and solar panels. And it aspires to become an environmental-policy leader too.

[China to cap non-renewable energy consumption](#) (Xinhua, 10/24/2011) China will strictly control the consumption of non-renewable energy in the next five years by setting mandatory ceilings for local governments, a senior energy official said here Sunday.

[China's tidal power development speeds up](#) (China Economic Net, 10/25/2011) "Tidal power generation has the same working theory as hydropower. You have to build dams aside lochs or river mouths where the tide emerges and place hydroelectric generating sets in the dams so that they can generate power due to the difference of tides level. From the angle of energy, hydroelectric generating sets translate tide static energy and kinetic energy into electric energy," said Yu Rongkai, official director of the Rushan Blue Economic Zone.

[China 'won't follow US' on carbon emissions](#) (Richard Black, BBC, 10/25/2011) China will not allow its carbon dioxide emissions per person to reach levels seen in the US, according to the minister in charge of climate policy.

[China Takes a Loss to Get Ahead in the Business of Fresh Water](#) (Michael Wines, New York Times, 10/25/2011) Towering over the Bohai Sea shoreline on this city's outskirts, the Beijiang Power and Desalination Plant is a 26-billion-renminbi technical marvel: an ultrahigh-temperature, coal-fired generator with state-of-the-art pollution controls, mated to advanced Israeli equipment that uses its leftover heat to distill seawater into fresh water.

[China environment minister says nuclear safety risks climbing](#) (Reuters, 10/26/2011) China is facing increasing safety risks from its nuclear power plants as existing facilities age and a large number of new reactors go into operation, the country's environmental minister said in comments published on Wednesday.

[Environmental bureau hews to task](#) (Cang Wei, China Daily, 10/22/2011) Cracked clay walls, broken window glass, a big hole in half of the ceiling, letting sunshine directly through. Such is the condition of the building that Dongxiang county has for its environmental protection bureau. The bureau's nine offices are crumbling. On the inside of one, a wooden stick props up a wall to prevent it from falling in. Yet, despite those disadvantages and the fact that the bureau is in one China's most poverty-stricken areas, it is doing its best to protect the local environment.

[China closes 7,000 enterprises for pollution violations in five years: white paper](#) (Xinhua, 10/27/2011) Chinese authorities have investigated over 80,000 cases of violation of environmental protection laws, and closed 7,293 offending enterprises over the past five years, says a white paper issued on Thursday.

[Beijing heating goes solar](#) (Zheng Jinran and Cao Yin, China Daily, 10/21/2011) Beijing authorities plan to promote a solar water-heating system and a more energy-efficient charging method for central heating for the coming winter to save energy and cut emissions.

[Polluting plant hasn't resumed: officials](#) (10/22/2011) Officials denied on Friday that a plant that had been ordered to close after killing dozens of farm animals with pollution has resumed operations. The statement came in response to suspicions that the operation had reopened in late September.

[China mulls allowing public interest litigation](#) (Xinhua, 10/24/2011) Legislators are to discuss a change in the law that would make it easier for court cases to be brought against those involved in environmental and food safety scandals.

[China could become world wind energy giant](#) (UPI, 10/21/2011) With the right investments, wind power could increase from 1 percent of the energy mix in China to 17 percent by 2050, a joint report from Beijing concluded.