



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

*A weekly update of China's environmental news and analysis from
PACE*



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chinadialogue



Issue 136, December 2nd, 2011 to December 9th, 2011

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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

[Remember Kyoto? Most Nations Don't](#) (Robert B. Semple Jr., New York Times, 12/3/2011)

Delegates from 194 countries will meet this week in Durban, South Africa, to see whether the world can do a better job of controlling the man-made greenhouse gases that scientists believe will lead to sea-level rise, floods, drought and famine. Over the years, there has been far more talk than action.

RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Chinese panda census offers hope as Sunshine and Sweetie fly in](#) (Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 12/2/2011) While Edinburgh zoo takes delivery of two of the endangered species, a survey is expected to confirm a recovery in numbers

[Struggle over "super" greenhouse gas](#) (China Dialogue, 12/2/2011) Headlines last month that China was threatening to release large quantities of potent HFCs provoked anger amongst green groups. But is it as straightforward as it sounds? Meng Si reports.

[Smog spawns environmental awareness in China](#) (Xinhua, 12/2/2011) As the press has been spilling gallons of ink over the country's air quality issues, a cartoon entitled "I gauge air quality for my motherland" is spreading widely via the Internet.

[Beijing's hazardous blue sky](#) (Steven Q Andrews, China Dialogue, 12/5/2011) In the first analysis of US embassy "Twitter" data on pollution, Steven Q Andrews finds major failures in Chinese air quality assessments. Tighter standards are on their way, but will continue to fudge the health risks.

[China may open up oil to U.S. companies, report says](#) (Houston Business Journal, 12/5/2011) The study released Dec. 2 by the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Houston's Rice University notes that, despite China's efforts to centralize energy policy to stimulate domestic production, the country is increasing its state investment in North American oil and gas plays.

[Smog Closes Beijing Airport](#) (Edward Wong, New York Times, 12/5/2011) Capital International Airport in Beijing was forced to cancel hundreds of flights on Monday because of heavy smog and weather conditions. The cancellations were the latest sign that pollution in China's largest cities, among the worst in the world, is leading to significant economic losses.

[Outrage Grows Over Air Pollution and China's Response](#) (Edward Wong, New York Times, 12/6/2011) The statement posted online along with a photograph of central Beijing muffled in a miasma of brown haze did not mince words: "The end of the world is imminent."

[Blogging battle over Beijing smog](#) (Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 12/7/2011) Tweets from the US embassy's air quality monitoring station raise questions over truth of official pollution statistics.

[China's pollution, a toxic issue](#) (Damien Grammaticas, BBC, 12/7/2011) Thankfully the foul smog that has hung over Beijing for several days has cleared.

[Rise of the Chinese NIMBY](#) (New Century Weekly, 12/8/2011) Locals fighting infrastructure projects in their neighbourhoods signal new conflict in China's urbanisation process, writes Cui Zheng. Could they help push for greater openness?

[Report: China to Dominate Private Investment in Clean Power Over Next Decade](#) (Phyllis Cuttino, Pew Charitable Trusts, 12/8/2011) China will remain the top destination for clean power project investment over the next decade, according to a report released today by The Pew Charitable Trusts. With its enhanced clean energy policies, China could attract as much as \$620

billion by 2020, far and away the most of any G-20 member. China's surging clean energy sector will help shift the center of gravity for renewable energy investment from the West to the East over the next 10 years.

[Carbon dioxide emissions break growth records](#) (CBC, 12/5/2011) Global carbon dioxide emissions hit a record 9.1 billion tonnes in 2010, after a year of the highest growth ever, a new study has found.

[A Consumption Conundrum](#) (Michelle Price, Wall Street Journal, 12/6/2011) When China surpassed the U.S. to become the world's biggest energy consumer last year, the data confirmed what many Chinese living with frequent power cuts had already guessed: China's hunger for energy is simply unsustainable.

CORPORATE SECTOR

[China Fuels Energy Innovation](#) (Brian Spegele, Wall Street Journal, 12/6/2011) Will Latta, the founder of clean-energy company LP Amina Inc., says he tried last year to interest U.S. power utilities in testing a new technology that reduces pollution from burning coal.

[PetroChina finds shale gas reserves](#) (Leslie Hook, Financial Times, 12/7/2011) PetroChina has discovered shale gas in China's Sichuan province, confirming that the energy-hungry country is sitting on vast reserves of this unconventional fuel source.

[In red China, Walmart leading a green revolution](#) (Public Radio International, 12/7/2011) About a decade ago, as Walmart suffered under increasingly negative publicity, the company set out on an effort to green its reputation — and make money in the process. Now, Walmart is leading a green revolution in China.

[China shale gas discoveries major boost to supply](#) (Elaine Kurtenbach, AP, 12/9/2011) China is reporting discoveries of major shale gas reserves in its western Sichuan region, a development that could drastically boost its domestic supplies of natural gas and temper demand for imports.

[Shell's discovery of shale gas in Shenzhen, China, could shift energy focus](#) (Global Trader) The energy balance of power could be on the verge of another dramatic shift following the positive drilling for shale gas in China.

[Renewable energy: US probe 'protectionism,' China says](#) (AP, 12/3/2011) Renewable energy flap with China escalates as US panel agrees to investigate complaints that Chinese solar panels are unfairly priced. Renewable energy is flash point in US-China trade relations.

[China Says Foreign Trade Still Unbalanced, Energy Intensive](#) (Bloomberg, 12/6/2011) China's foreign trade is still unbalanced and has "unsustainable" elements, according to a white paper released by the government in Beijing today.

[Clean tech IPOs will be no easy sell in Hong Kong](#) (Leonora Walet, Reuters, 12/7/2011)

Cornerstone investors and a government keen on cutting pollution may not be enough to ensure a smooth ride for two Chinese clean-tech firms looking to raise nearly \$1 billion in total through IPOs in Hong Kong, given the underperformance of listed peers.

[China's rising solar target unlikely to stem consolidation](#) (Environmental Finance, 12/8/2011)

China's recently-revealed plan to increase its 2015 solar energy capacity target to 150GW from 10GW is only likely to benefit the top tier of Chinese photovoltaic (PV) manufacturers, analysts believe, leaving smaller players prey to industry consolidation also occurring in the US and Europe.

[HK science park plans \\$643 mln green tech hub](#) (Leonora Walet, Reuters, 12/6/2011)

Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks, which caters mostly to local technology start-ups and global companies, expects to attract an increasing number of companies from mainland China with global ambitions with its HK\$5 billion green technology hub expansion.

[Local participation essential to Canadian mining investment](#) (Xinhua, 12/6/2011)

Chinese companies looking to invest in Canadian mining operations must embrace the participation of First Nations, Chinese and Canadian mining executives said Monday.

[As Coal Use Declines in U.S., Coal Companies Focus on China](#) (Jonathan Thompson,

Environment 360, 12/8/2011) With aging coal-fired U.S. power plants shutting down, major American coal companies are exporting ever-larger amounts of coal to China. Now, plans to build two new coal-shipping terminals on the West Coast have set up a battle with environmentalists who want to steer the world away from fossil fuels.

[Bill Gates to Build Nuclear Reactors in China?](#) (John Daly, Oil Price, 12/8/2011)

Since the 11 March disaster at Japan's Fukushima Daichi nuclear power complex, when an earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale was followed by a tsunami that destroyed the facility, the nuclear industry worldwide has been fighting back, arguing that new, improved reactor designs mean that nuclear power is still a valid option.

GOVERNMENT

[UN climate talks look to China for deal options](#) (Richard Black, BBC, 12/5/2011) China is emerging as the key deal-maker or deal-breaker as the UN climate talks head into ministerial discussions.

[Power Plants with Environmental Protection Devices will Benefit from the Denitration](#)

[Electricity Tariff](#) (ACN Newswire, 12/06/2011) On Nov. 30th, as per China National Development and Reform Commission online information, the government will offer a subsidy of RMB 0.8/kw to coal fired power plants equipped with denitration devices that are under operation, to make up for the cost of denitration and incentivize the installation of denitration devices in coal fired power plants.

[At Climate Talks, a Familiar Standoff Between U.S. and China](#) (John M. Broder, New York Times, 12/7/2011) China, the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter, has once again emerged as the biggest puzzle at international climate change talks, sending ambiguous signals about the role it intends to play in future negotiations. This week, the nation's top climate envoy said that China would be open to signing a formal treaty limiting emissions after 2020 — but laid down conditions for doing so that are unlikely ever to be met.

[China to Boost New Energy Development](#) (CRIEnglish, 12/7/2011) China intends for renewable energy to become its main source of power generation over the course of the next decade as the nation attempts to resolve the global crisis of climate change, a senior official said on Tuesday.

[At Climate Talks, a Familiar Standoff Between U.S. and China](#) (John M. Broder, New York Times, 12/7/2011) China, the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter, has once again emerged as the biggest puzzle at international climate change talks, sending ambiguous signals about the role it intends to play in future negotiations. This week, the nation's top climate envoy said that China would be open to signing a formal treaty limiting emissions after 2020 — but laid down conditions for doing so that are unlikely ever to be met.

[Beijing under pressure to change pollution measuring](#) (AFP, 12/9/2011) More than 1,500 people have contacted China's environment ministry to urge rapid changes in the way it monitors pollution, amid accusations authorities are underplaying the problem.

[China's energy mix healthy, but not enough: IEA](#) (Liu Yiyu, China Daily, 12/8/2011) The chief economist of the International Energy Agency said China will be the leader in manufacturing clean-tech products by 2030 but it simply won't be enough to cut down on its carbon emissions.

[Use of green power may outstrip 5-year plan](#) (Zhou Yan, China Daily, 12/6/2011) The proportion of China's energy that comes from non-fossil fuels in the next four years and beyond will exceed the figure set in the country's 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) and other plans, industry experts said.

[Five Truths About Our Energy Future](#) (Bryan Walsh, Time, 12/6/2011) The IEA's warning on climate change has gotten more attention than most — in part because it came just before the U.N. launched its annual climate summit, still underway in the South African city of Durban. But the report also contained a number of other surprising facts about the future of energy — and I sat down with Birol after his talk to go over them.

[China puts more money in renewable energy resources than other countries: official](#) (Xinhua, 12/4/2011) China has become the world's biggest investor in renewable energy sources, said a senior environmental official on Saturday during a forum held in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

[China strives to standardize rare earth market](#) (Zuo Ya, People's Daily, 12/5/2011) China has made great strides since a campaign that targets illegal rare earth exploitation, rare earth smuggling and excessive exploitation was launched by three central government departments on Nov. 10

[6 Chinese charged for turtle catch in Philippines](#) (Teresa Cerojano, Associated Press, 12/6/2011)

A court in the Philippines charged six Chinese fisherman with poaching endangered sea turtles in proceedings Monday aimed at protecting threatened wildlife along the country's coastline.

[China's Creeping Foreign-Oil Addiction](#) (Liam Denning, Wall Street Journal, 12/3/2011) South Sudan, independent since July, is underlining a growing problem for China: its increasing dependence on energy imports. Sudan threatened to blockade South Sudan's oil exports this week amid a dispute over pipeline fees. Sudan backtracked a couple of days later due to, according to Eurasia Group's Philippe de Pontet, diplomatic pressure from Beijing.

[Nuclear power to become 'foundation' of country's electrical system](#) (Du Juan, China Daily 12/7/2011) China will make nuclear energy the foundation of its power-generation system in the next 10 to 20 years, said a senior official on Tuesday.

[At Climate Talks, Resistance From India, China, U.S.](#) (Richard Harris, NPR, 12/7/2011) The climate treaty talks in Durban, South Africa, are confronting some fundamental disagreements among the 190-plus nations represented at the meeting. In addition to the usual divides between rich and poor, and north and south, there is no consensus about the best way to move forward with an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

[China may adopt emission limit](#) (Li Jing & Lan Lan, China Daily, 12/2/ 2011) China is likely to agree to a quantified target to limit its greenhouse gas emissions after 2020, said a senior expert with a government think tank.

[Emission reduction efforts in China recognized](#) (Xinhua, 12/9/2011) Experts have said China has made great efforts in reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and implementing clean energy, but as a large emitter and a fast growing economy, the country still faces challenges in climate change mitigation.

[China Signals Coming Shift in Measuring CO₂ Limits](#) (Arthur Max, AP, 12/2/2011) An influential Chinese analyst says his country may adjust how it measures carbon emission targets as early as 2020, bringing it more in line with Western governments and signaling a possible opening in international climate negotiations.