



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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WELCOME to Environmental China, PACE's electronic newsletter devoted to giving interested readers a comprehensive update of news concerning China's environment. Environmental China is also available online in [blog format](#). Invite your friends and colleagues to subscribe to the e-mail newsletter [here](#). Any comments, suggestions or questions can be directed to cc.huang2@gmail.com or timquijano@gmail.com.

RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Police in China fire tear-gas, beat protesters: witnesses](#) (AFP, 12/20/2011) Police fired tear gas and beat demonstrators who stormed government buildings in southern China Tuesday to protest against a power plant, witnesses said, in the country's latest violent unrest.

[Graphics: Rising Asian demand drives global coal consumption growth](#) (EIA, 12/20/2011) Global coal demand has almost doubled since 1980, driven by increases in Asia, where demand is up over 400% from 1980-2010. In turn, Asian demand is dominated by China; demand in China increased almost five-fold between 1980-2010 and accounted for 73% of Asia's consumption and almost half of coal consumption globally in 2010.

[Towards a China Environmental Performance Index](#) (ChinaFAQs, 12/20/2011) ChinaFAQs expert Angel Hsu and her colleagues from the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy

team up with Columbia University, Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning and City University of Hong Kong for [this report](#) to help guide effective pollution control and natural resource management.

[Birth rate blues](#) (Wang Ling, China Business News, 12/21/2011) The global population may have hit seven billion, but three decades of family-planning measures have curbed Chinese fertility – and demographers are beginning to worry.

[Inside Stories on Climate Compatible Development: China](#) (Ailun Yang, WRI, 12/2011) The story of the Chinese wind power industry is remarkable. From a small number of demonstration projects at the beginning of the century, the Chinese wind power market has grown to become the world's largest. At the end of 2010, it overtook the United States to become the leader in terms of cumulative installed capacity. Even though China used to import 80% of its wind energy equipment, domestic manufacturing has exploded since 2006 and now supplies more than 70% of the domestic market. In 2010, China's wind power market attracted investments of RMB 89 billion (US\$14 billion) and employed over 150,000 people.

[Greenpeace on China](#) (Diplomat, 12/20/2011) The Diplomat speaks with Li Yan, head of Greenpeace East Asia's Climate and Energy Campaign, to discuss China's climate change policy.

Slideshow: The impact of China's air pollution (Globe and Mail, 12/21/2011)

CORPORATIONS

[China to make smart investment](#) (Electrical Efficiency, 12/15/2011) China is set to lead the world in smart grid infrastructure after recently setting out plans for massive investment in the sector.

[Yanzhou Coal in talks to buy Australian miner](#) (Sarah Mishkin and Henny Sender, Financial Times, 12/20/2011) Yanzhou Coal is in talks to take over Gloucester Coal, which would create one of the largest coal groups in Australia and provide the Chinese group with a backdoor listing of its local subsidiary.

[Tibet's resource curse](#) (Gabriel Lafitte, China Dialogue, 12/19/2011) China plans to scale up lithium extraction to meet demand for electric cars and smart phones. But environmental damage to the fragile Tibetan plateau will be irreversible.

[U.S. solar companies urge SolarWorld drop China case](#) (Doug Palmer, Chicago Tribune, 12/20/2011) A coalition that says it represents 97 percent of the U.S. solar industry urged solar panel maker SolarWorld on Thursday to withdraw a petition asking President Barack Obama's administration to slap punitive duties on China for unfair trading practices.

[Video: The Chinese Town That Turns Your Old Christmas Tree Lights Into Slippers](#) (Adam Minter, Atlantic, 12/21/2011) A single strand of burnt-out Christmas lights weighs almost

nothing in the hand. But a bale of burnt-out Christmas tree lights the size of a love seat? That weighs around 2200 pounds, according to Raymond Li, the general manager of Yong Chang Processing, a scrap metal processor in the southern Chinese town of Shijiao. He would know: on a recent Saturday morning I stood between him and three such bales, or 6600 pounds of Christmas tree lights that Americans had tossed into recycling bins, dropped off at the Salvation Army, or sold to a roving junk man. He had bought that 6600 pounds for my benefit, to show me how his company's Christmas tree light recycling system works.

[Smoke On the South China Sea](#) (Wall Street Journal, 12/21/2011) Media photos of flames floating this week on the surface of the South China Sea appear to challenge a contention from China National Offshore Oil Corp. that an undersea gas leak it reported caused no environmental pollution.

[Video: China's Rare Earths Monopoly](#) (Energy Collective, 12/16/2011) Rare earth minerals may be the most important, let least understood factor in America's transition to a low-carbon, clean-tech future. They're essential to virtually every source of renewable energy and consumer technology we use today.

[Losing power: China's wind gear makers face lean returns](#) (Reuters, 12/22/2011) Huge overcapacity and weak demand mean Chinese wind turbine makers, among the world's largest, are set for lower revenue and profits for at least the next two years.

[China's growing share of solar market comes at a price](#) (Steven Mufson, Washington Post, 12/16/2011) China's growing solar industry has come at a price: Although its growth has lowered prices for acquiring the technology, China's solar panel manufacturing capacity is 32 times bigger than its domestic consumption, and Chinese solar companies are losing money and shelving capital expenditure plans.

[ConocoPhillips near to submitting report on impact of oil spill](#) (Zhou Yan and Wang Qian, China Daily, 12/22/2011) ConocoPhillips China, the operator of the Penglai 19-3 oilfield in the Bohai Bay, said on Wednesday that it is finalizing a revised environmental-impact assessment and will soon submit it to the maritime authorities.

GOVERNMENT

[China scales up power capacity plan by 50 percent](#) (Reuters, 12/15/2011) China has further revised up its solar power development target for 2015 by 50 percent from its previous plan, state media reported on Thursday.

[China orders nationwide emission cuts by 2015](#) (Telegraph, 12/20/2011) Authorities will also start to monitor the smallest and most dangerous airborne pollution, known as PM2.5, in densely populated areas such as Beijing and Tianjin, the government said in a statement on its environmental targets.

[China to unveil new energy consumption strategy](#) (Lan Lan, China Daily, 12/17/2011) China is set to unveil a plan to impose controls on total energy consumption, said Zhang Ping, director of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on Friday.

[China to debut green tax to spur environmental protection by 2015](#) (Wang Xiaoshu, Global Times, 12/20/2011) China will begin implementing its long-awaited new green tax by 2015, a senior Chinese official said over the weekend, indicating that the country will rely more on the market instruments to achieve its target of lowering carbon emission.

[China Seeks \\$536 Billion of Investments to Protect Environment](#) (Bloomberg, 12/20/2011) China needs about 3.4 trillion yuan (\$536 billion) of investments for environmental protection in the five years through 2015, the State Council said in a blueprint on pollution reduction.

[China assigns mandatory emission reduction tasks to local gov'ts, state-owned enterprises](#) (Xinhua, 12/20/2011) China's environment minister, entrusted by the State Council, or Cabinet, signed agreements on emission reduction targets with provincial-level governments and major state-owned enterprises.

[Lighting without polluting](#) (China Daily, 12/19/2011) China has decided to phase out and completely ban incandescent light bulbs before 2016.

[Vice-Premier pledges 'clean water, blue skies'](#) (Xinhua, 12/21/2011) Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang said on Tuesday that the government will strive to provide people with a more livable environment featuring clean water and blue skies.

[China vows to curb heavy metal pollution](#) (Reuters, 12/20/2011) China promised Tuesday to contain heavy metal pollution but admitted it faces a challenge with inadequate environment protection resources in a rapidly growing economy.

[China plans oil spill response facilities](#) (UPI, 12/21/2011) China plans to open 12 offshore oil spill response facilities before the end of the year, an official said.

[China: Beijing will drive global natural gas demand](#) (Leslie Hook, Financial Times, 12/20/2011) In China, energy policy is often determined by diktat. So traders of natural gas sat up and took notice when Beijing set a target for natural gas in its five-year plan for 2011-2015.

[China decides to accept PM2.5](#) (Guo Kai, Global Times, 12/23/2011) The Chinese government has released a four-step schedule to monitor the PM2.5 pollution indicator in the next five years, the minister of environmental protection announced Wednesday.