



# 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 interested 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) or [timquijano@gmail.com](mailto:timquijano@gmail.com).

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Hong Kong's Killer Pollution](#) (Wall Street Journal, 2/23/2012) With its iconic skyline, world-class infrastructure and China's giant economy at its doorstep, Hong Kong has long been an attractive choice to those looking for a perch in Asia. But there's a not-so-hidden catch: Its toxic air pollution is killing people at a rate worse than in mainland China.

[Program to champion rights of nonsmokers](#) (China Daily, 2/23/2012) The Red Cross Society of China launched a three-year Create a Smoke-Free Environment Program on Wednesday. The program, seed-funded with \$9 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is expected to urge the Chinese government to more energetically support tobacco-control and observe the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and change smokers' habits by educating nonsmokers on their health rights.

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[China energy consumption rises at fastest pace in four years](#) (Bloomberg, 2/22/2012) China's energy use rose at the fastest pace in four years in 2011 and efficiency improved, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Consumption climbed 7 percent to 3.48 billion metric tons of standard coal equivalent, a report on the bureau's website showed today. That's the fastest rate since 2007, when it was 7.8 percent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Consumption per unit of gross domestic product fell 2.01 percent from 2010, the bureau said, without elaborating.

[Measuring China's pollution from space](#) (Guardian, 2/20/2012) The Great Wall may not, after all, be visible from space – but Chinese air pollution is. My team of researchers at Yale and Columbia Universities, along with Battelle Memorial Institute, recently used satellite readings to produce data on fine particulate concentrations in Chinese provinces. While these satellite measurements are not perfect, they provide the first estimates of ground-level annual average concentrations of the pollutant PM 2.5 for all of China over the last decade.

[Penn researcher helps discover and characterize a 300-million year old forest, preserved like Pompeii](#) (University of Pennsylvania, 2/20/2012) Pompeii-like, a 300-million-year-old tropical forest was preserved in ash when a volcano erupted in what is today northern China. A new study by University of Pennsylvania paleobotanist Hermann Pfefferkorn and colleagues presents a reconstruction of this fossilized forest, lending insight into the ecology and climate of its time.

[An upside to Chinese pollution: More snow in the Sierra Nevada](#) (New York Times, 2/17/2012) A storm of yellow dust darkens the skies above Beijing, an increasingly familiar phenomenon blamed on the disappearance of Asian forests. A week later, in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range, where annual precipitation levels are expected to decline as the climate changes, a snowstorm delights skiers.

## CORPORATIONS

[Apple hit with 250,000 signatures protesting labor conditions in China](#) (Kate Freeman, Mashable, 2/9/2012) Fair-labor organizers delivered 250,000 signatures to Apple stores in six cities around the world on Thursday in protest of the company's working conditions in China.

[GE engine to power China's largest landfill gas-to-energy project](#) (Biomass Magazine, 2/23/2012) A landfill-gas-to-energy project under development in Shanghai, China, is poised to be the largest of its kind in the country, and GE Energy has announced it will provide to the endeavor seven of its GE Jenbacher gas engines to produce about 8 MW of electricity.

[Corn imports by China seen as gaining sevenfold to record as demand increases](#) (Bloomberg, 2/23/2012) Corn imports by China, the world's second-largest consumer, may surge sevenfold to a record 28 million metric tons by 2015-2016 as local production fails to keep pace with increased demand, according to INTL FCStone Inc. (INTL)

[Siemens blindsided by China wind boom plans 'massive' investment](#) (Bloomberg, 2/23/2012) Siemens AG (SIE), the world's largest maker of offshore wind turbines, said it underestimated the pace of growth in the Chinese wind market and will ramp up spending to catch up as local competitors increase their lead.

Trina Leads Solar Slump on German Tariff Cut: China Overnight (Business Week, 2/23/2012) Trina Solar Ltd. led declines in Chinese solar stocks traded in the U.S. as the company reported a larger-than-expected net loss and as Germany plans to cut subsidies for the industry, dimming the outlook for sales.

[Stalled bid to cut car fumes](#) (China Dialogue, 2/22/2012) Sub-standard fuel from major oil companies is blocking Beijing's efforts to introduce tighter pollution controls.

[Bluer skies for Shanghai?](#) (Wall Street Journal, 2/20/2012) A small Massachusetts start-up has signed a landmark agreement to do a big job in China—it will take already mined coal from the Gobi desert, convert it into natural gas, and transport the gas to the country's rapidly expanding urban centers. The effort can help China slake its insatiable thirst for energy without exacerbating air pollution.

[Apple planning environmental audits of Chinese supply chain](#) (CNET, 2/21/2012) Apple's Chinese supply chain has come under fire over the years for its allegedly poor environmental record. But according to a new report, Apple now plans to address that with independent audits.

[Sewage dumping disrupts water supply in China city](#) (Reuters, 2/19/2012) About 50,000 residents in a southern Chinese city had their water supplies disrupted after a fish farm discharged sewage into the local water source, state media said Sunday, in the country's latest pollution incident.

[IPO plan for China bear bile company raises ire](#) (Seattle Times, 2/17/2012) A storm of criticism in China over share listing plans by a company that sells tonics made with bear bile is highlighting the increasingly affluent country's changing attitudes toward the environment and wildlife.

## GOVERNMENT

[Wen seen paring China's 8% growth target on rise in inequality: economy](#) (Bloomberg, 2/23/2012) China's Premier Wen Jiabao is seen signaling next month that curbing pollution, inequality and the risk of financial instability eclipse the benefits of faster economic growth, a survey of analysts indicated.

[Lights on at China's first renewable-energy think tank](#) (China Daily, 2/24/2012) China has established its first national think tank on renewable energy to conduct research and develop programs and policies, as part of the country's effort to deal with climate change and carbon emissions.

[MIIT expects cumulative new energy vehicle production and sales numbers to exceed 500000 units by 2015](#) (Gasgoo.com, 2/24/2012) The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has announced new set of plan for the development of material industries during the Twelfth Five-Year Guideline, Caijing reported today. According to the plan, cumulative production and sales numbers of new energy vehicles in China will exceed 500,000 units by the end of the Guideline, which concludes in 2015. That amount will require 150 kilowatt hours of battery energy per year.

[China takes cue from Japan's hard lessons in nuclear power](#) (Nasdaq, 2/21/2012) In a bid to avert experiencing the same fate of its fellow Asian neighbor, China's National Energy Administration ( NEA ) on Monday announced it has started a series of 13 research and development projects aimed to improve emergency response mechanisms in cases of "extreme disasters" related to nuclear power plants failure, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

[New Canada-China energy deals may be good for US too](#) (CBC News, 2/16/2012) The U.S. ambassador to Canada says he's not worried about the impact of any energy agreements between Canada and China.