



# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



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By CC Huang, TimQuijano

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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).

## OPINION

[Beijing: Residents could share taxis](#) (China Daily, 3/26/2012) Beijing traffic authorities are encouraging residents to share taxis to overcome the shortage of cabs during rush hours.

[Is China Headed for Oil Addiction?](#) (Michael Dunne, Wall Street Journal, 3/29/2012) China raised gasoline prices 7% last week to \$4.42 a gallon — the largest single increase in nearly three years — in a move partly aimed at suppressing the country's expanding hunger for oil. A steady series of such adjustments, combined with massive investments in renewable energy, suggests China is serious about controlling its dependence on fossil fuels. But if the country is hoping to avoid the American experience with oil addiction, it might already be too late.

[China Shows U.S. How to Push for Carbon Capture](#) (Bloomberg, 3/27/2012) It's a tantalizing promise that one day "carbon capture" will remove greenhouse gases from the smoke made by coal-fired power plants. After all, these plants, which provide 45 percent of electricity in the U.S., account for more than a third of the country's carbon dioxide emissions.

## RESEARCH & CIVIL SOCIETY

[China's urbanization leaves rural land unattended: report](#) (Xinhua, 3/26/2012) A report on rural development from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has urged the country to make full use of unattended rural land and infrastructure abandoned by Chinese moving to cities for work.

[China world's wind power leader: new figures](#) (Xinhua, 3/23/2012) China consolidated its position as the world's wind power leader in both newly and cumulative installed capacities in 2011, according to official figures released by the China Wind Energy Association (CWEA) on Friday.

[China to Flood Nature Reserve with Latest Yangtze Dam](#) (Lucy Hornby and Jim Bai, Reuters, March 29, 2012) China's Three Gorges Corp. on Thursday marked the beginning of construction for a dam that will flood the last free-flowing portion of the middle reaches of the Yangtze, the country's longest river.

[A sign that China is headed for an ever-so-slightly tidier future](#) (Steve LeVine, Foreign Policy, 3/29/2012) China is becoming cleaner -- ever so slightly. This is because of fresh signs of a surge of Chinese natural gas demand over the next dozen years, which is likely to tamp down the burning of coal, according to Wood Mackenzie, the energy research and consulting firm.

## CORPORATE SECTOR

[Apple Supplier Agrees to Improve Conditions](#) (Poornima Gupta and Edwin Chan, Reuters, March 29, 2012) In a landmark development for the way Western companies do business in China, Apple Inc said on Thursday it had agreed to work with partner Foxconn to tackle wage and working condition violations at the factories that produce its popular products.

[China Faces Difficulty in Developing Shale Gas](#) (Leslie Hook, Financial Times, March 28, 2012) Standing in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing this month, Wen Jiabao, China's premier, faced thousands of delegates at the ruling Communist party's annual congress and three small syllables passed his lips: yeyanqi, or shale gas.

[China Shenhua says hopes to restart talks on Mongolia mine](#) (Charlie Zhu and Alison Lui, 3/26/2012) Shenhua Energy Co Ltd, China's largest coal producer, expects its negotiations to invest in

Mongolia's giant Tavan Tolgoi coal mining project to restart after the country's parliamentary elections in June, its CEO said on Monday.

[China beats US with power from coal-processing to trap carbon](#) (3/27/2012, Bloomberg) After studying chemistry at Shanghai's Fudan University, Jane Chuan and Wang Youqi pursued doctorates in the U.S. She got hers from what's now the University of Buffalo in 1988, the year they married. Wang graduated in 1994 from the California Institute of Technology.

[SolarWorld U.S. Head Says Final China Tariffs Will Be Higher](#) (Eric Martin, Bloomberg, 3/27/2012) Final U.S. tariffs for Chinese solar-energy equipment makers will be higher than the preliminary levies of as much as 4.73 percent imposed last week, said Gordon Brinser, president of SolarWorld AG (SWV)'s U.S. unit.

[China's Surprising U.S. Buying Spree](#) (Dexter Roberts, Businessweek, 3/27/2012) Guess which country this describes: U.S. exports to it are up 542 percent since 2000, compared with an 80 percent rise in U.S. sales to the rest of the world. Last year this country's purchases of U.S. goods grew 13.1 percent, breaking the \$100 billion mark (\$103.9 billion, to be exact) for the first time ever. Now this Asian nation is the third-largest buyer of U.S. exports, ranking behind only U.S. neighbors and free-trade partners Canada and Mexico.

[U.S. and China Joust for Influence in Myanmar](#) (Jane Perlez, New York Times, 3/30/2012) As Chinese workers in hard hats and red overalls bulldoze deep trenches into the orange soil across northern Myanmar for gas and oil pipelines to China, China's largest energy conglomerate is paying cash for land and trees in the pipelines' path, and building schools and health clinics for some of the poorest people on earth.

[Shenhua Energy Expects Coal Sales to Surpass Target This Year](#) (Guo Aibing, Bloomberg, 3/25/2012) China Shenhua Energy Co. (1088), the listed unit of the nation's biggest coal producer, said it expects 2012 sales volumes to surpass a target set at the end of last year because of rising demand.

[How To Grow The U.S.' Solar Manufacturing Base-Without Involving China](#) (Jessica Lillian, Solar Industry Magazine, 3/27/2012) How can the U.S. play a bigger role in the global solar manufacturing sector? Proponents of corrective trade action draw a link between U.S. solar manufacturers' recent struggles and China's dominance. The ongoing investigation by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) and International Trade Commission into whether Chinese solar modules have benefited from unfair government assistance and flooded the market has put a harsh spotlight on China.

[Time for solar firms to tap new markets](#) (3/26/2012, China Daily) In the face of rising trade frictions from the US and the EU, Chinese solar energy companies should explore new markets, especially the domestic market, said industry insiders at a conference in Beijing Friday.

[Blood lead level testing resumed amid outcry](#) (Xinhua, 3/29/2012) A Chinese city resumed blood lead level testing at a leading hospital Thursday amid public suspicions that its halt to the testing in July

2011 — which officials said was due to equipment failures — was aimed at blinding the public to harmful pollution.

[Solar power: the unexpected side effect](#) (Rebecca Pool, Energy & Technology Magazine, 3/26/2012)

The solar ambitions of developing nations look set to deliver more than just electricity. How real are lead poisoning fears?

## GOVERNMENT

[Beijing drafts nation's toughest tailpipe standards](#) (China Daily, 3/26/2012) Stricter auto emission standards are likely to be adopted this year in the capital city as pollution in Beijing continues to cause concern.

[New nuclear spring for China?](#) (China Dialogue, 3/29/2012) One year after Fukushima stalled its nuclear programme, the Chinese government is preparing to restart the engine. Feng Jie reports.

[Trina brings energy and life to Haiti](#) (Zhang Yuwei, China Daily, 3/23/2012) Three Chinese solar panel manufacturers recently joined former United States president Bill Clinton on an initiative to bring new energy to Haiti, donating solar panels to the country still recovering from a massive earthquake that struck more than two years ago.

[China Hikes Fuel Prices](#) (Michael Lelyveld, Radio Free Asia, 3/26/2012) China's government has pledged fast action on new energy reforms after complaints it has delayed enforcement of rules announced three years ago.

[Green road to Chongqing](#) (Meng Jing, China Daily, 3/30/2012) When US President Richard Nixon made his historic trip to China on a Boeing jet in 1972, little did the Seattle-based aircraft maker know that it would soon be a key player in trade ties. Over the years, aircraft, spacecraft and spare parts have been Seattle's largest exports to China. But if Mike McGinn, the mayor of Seattle, has his way, the pride of place would soon be taken by the city's green exports to China.

[China walks political tightrope in Sudan's oil fight](#) (Sudarsan Raghavan and Andrew Higgins, Washington Post, 3/23/2012) On the day South Sudan became independent last year, China opened an embassy here, eager to protect its oil interests. It quickly dispatched its foreign minister and began discussing a huge aid package for this destitute land.

[Norway and China acting for a greener future](#) (China Daily, 3/30/2012) Norwegian companies have led by example with its highly specialized industries that drive national innovations and revolutionize key industrial sectors. A high standard of living along with stable social and economic conditions characterize the nation, which ranked number one on the United Nations' Human Development Index from 2009 to 2011.

[China promotes peaceful use of nuclear energy](#) (China.org.cn, 3/28/2012) China has submitted to Seoul a nuclear security progress report, outlining the efforts it has made since the first summit in Washington two years ago. China currently has the largest nuclear projects under construction in the world. As such, safety and security challenges are likely to remain as China demands more nuclear energy in the future.

[Clean Up Effort for Hong Kong Port Hits Rocks](#) (Te-Ping Chen, Wall Street Journal, 3/26/2012) In 2010, Hong Kong's government—long criticized by activists for failing to clean up the city's iconic Victoria Harbor—was handed an extraordinary corporate gift. A group of 17 cruise and shipping lines volunteered to begin burning more environmentally friendly fuel when berthed in Hong Kong's waterways, at no small expense to their shareholders.

[Cities to receive river deadlines](#) (Xu Jingxi, China Daily, 3/24/2012) Guangdong province sounded a battle cry against water pollution on the World Water Day on Thursday. The provincial environmental protection bureau set the end of the year as a deadline for the city governments of Shenzhen, Dongguan and Huizhou to improve the water quality in the Danshui and Shima rivers to Grade V, the minimum standard of usable.

[Obama's Solar Policy: If You Can't Beat the Chinese, Tax Them](#) (Alex B. Berezhov and Hank Campbell, Forbes, 3/28/2012) Why is it right for Americans to provide low-cost loans to its solar panel manufacturers, but when China does it, it is an illegal subsidy and demands tariffs in response?