



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 or timquijano@gmail.com.

OPINION

[How Clean Are Your Clothes? Pollution from China's Textile Industry](#) (Susan Egan Keane, NRDC Switchboard, 4/11/2012) More than 6000 water pollution violations from apparel factories in China — that is just one revelation in a stunning new account of water pollution from the Chinese textile industry, courtesy of noted Chinese environmentalist Ma Jun and his Green Alliance of activist partners. The violations included serious threats such as illegally dumping untreated toxic wastewater into rivers and streams. And these are the just violations we know about! Given the general lack of enforcement of environmental laws in China, there are likely many more violators out there that simply did not make the official record books.

[What happens to America's coal if we don't burn it?](#) (Brad Plumer, Washington Post Wonk Blog, 4/9/2012) Coal is slowly receding as America's top power source. Thanks to a flurry of new air-pollution rules and cheap natural gas, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that U.S. coal consumption will fall this year to its lowest level since 1996.

[A needless US-China trade war](#) (Arthur Herman, New York Post, 4/10/2012) The Obama administration's obsession with "green energy" is pushing us toward a needless and costly trade war with China over solar panels — at a time when the US oil- and gas-boom offers a huge opportunity to vastly improve Sino-American relations.

RESEARCH & CIVIL SOCIETY

[Citizen journalism triumphs at China environmental press awards](#) (Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 4/11/2012) Winner highlights growing pressure for greater public awareness and information transparency as a way of dealing with environmental woes.

[China's Ma Jun on the Fight To Clean up Beijing's Dirty Air](#) (Christina Larson, Yale Environment 360, 4/10/2012) Chinese environmentalist Ma Jun played an important role in a recent successful effort to force the government to more strictly monitor air pollution in Beijing. In an interview with Yale Environment 360, he talks about the daunting challenges of China's anti-pollution battle and how social media is helping lead the fight to improve the nation's air.

[British taxpayers pay for trees in China](#) (Telegraph, 4/10/2012) British taxpayers are underwriting a multi-million-pound loan to China to help plant trees as part of a project to tackle climate change.

[To dump or not to dump?](#) That is the question (Zheng Xin, China Daily, 4/10/2012) How to dispose of used batteries has long been a concern of Feng Xiao. Despite being taught that used batteries should be disposed of separately to help prevent heavy metal pollution, Feng still finds it a headache to deal with them.

[China's cultural heritage faces urban growth challenge](#) (China Daily, 4/12/2012) Rapid large-scale urbanization and improper rural development are the main challenges to protecting China's cultural heritage, experts have warned.

[Chinese Tea Found Tainted With Pesticides](#) (NTD Television, 4/12/2012) Tea, a key aspect of Chinese culture and a common household commodity, has for centuries been touted for its health benefits. That is, until recently. Greenpeace, an environmental advocacy group, tested a few of China's most popular teas. The results were disturbing.

[Supporting sustainable urbanization](#) (Stephen Groff, China Daily, 4/9/2012) Urbanization is an essential element of economic development. Cities and towns constitute a country's economic, social and cultural backbone, provide economies of scale, and attract the skills and knowledge needed to push development to a higher level.

[High mercury levels in cosmetics](#) (China.org.cn, 4/11/2012) About 23 percent of the whitening and freckle-reducing cosmetic products consumers can easily find on the market contain excessive mercury, a survey by several environmental protection organizations showed on Tuesday, the Beijing News reported.

[Video: China's Fragile Forests](#) (Sean Gallagher, China Green – Asia Society, 4/12/ 2012) Natural forests cover about 10 percent of China's surface area, but few of the forests remain in a primary or pristine condition. These forests are threatened primarily by timber collection, mining, unregulated harvesting of flora for traditional Chinese medicine and excessive development related to increased tourism.

[Sweeping Pollution Under the Rug](#) (Zhang Fan, Caixin, 4/9/2012) Gleaming cities are emblematic of China's rise, but one expert says rural areas pay the environmental price

[Spokane Has Concerns Over Proposed Coal Terminals](#) (Steve Jackson, KBSX/NPR, 4/11/2012) The prospect of trains carrying a mile-long string of coal cars has some Spokane area residents concerned. Proposals to build coal shipping terminals on the Washington coast to ship coal to China could have an impact on the Spokane region. The coal would be shipped from Wyoming via train, and those trains would come right through the city of Spokane.

[As Climate Becomes Less Certain, So Does China's Ability to Grow Enough Food](#) (Coco Liu, ClimateWire, 4/2/2012) Crop losses from climate-related challenges are already affecting the nation's ability to feed more than 1.3 billion Chinese

[Pew Report: Global Clean Energy Investment a Record \\$263 Billion in 2011](#) (Pew Charitable Trusts, 4/11/2012) Global clean energy finance and investment grew to \$263 billion in 2011, a 6.5 percent increase over the previous year, according to new research released by The Pew Charitable Trusts. Among Group of Twenty (G-20) nations, the United States reclaimed the top spot from China, which led the global clean energy race since 2009. Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and India were also among the nations that most successfully attracted private investments last year.

[China Seen Bolstering Oil Reserves](#) (Carolyn Cui, Wall Street Journal, 4/11/2012) China's crude-oil imports jumped to near-record levels in March, bolstering the belief among some energy analysts that the country is again hoarding oil for its strategic reserves.

CORPORATIONS

[Chinese NGOs say big brands buy from polluting textile firms](#) (Xinhua, 4/11/2012) Chinese environmental campaigners have accused 46 Chinese and multinational clothing brands and retailers of purchasing from suppliers who illegally discharge polluted water in China.

[Insight: China's coalbeds spur unconventional gas supply boom](#) (David Stanway, 4/11/2012)

After more than a century ripping out its insides to supply coal to the rest of the country, the heavily mined and polluted province of Shanxi in northern China is in the midst of a gas boom.

[Fooling China's dam builders](#) (Kirk Herbertson, China Dialogue, 4/6/2012) Malaysia's government has hidden environmental and economic costs of dams to attract Chinese money, warns Kirk Herbertson. But the investors too must take responsibility – or face the consequences.

[Japanese firm to plant trees near Beijing](#) (Xinhua, 4/10/2012) A leading Japanese chemical maker will donate 280,000 yuan (44,444 U.S. dollars) to have trees planted near Beijing over the next five years to help improve the ecological environment, Chinese authorities said Monday.

[Zara, H&M, Adidas, Nike share blame for pollution](#) (Yao Chun, People's Daily, 4/10/2012) Zara, H&M, Adidas, Nike, Lining among other famous brands have violated the measures for the prevention of pollution to varying degrees, according to an investigation report on the pollution in the textile industry of China, which was launched by five environmental organizations including Friends of Nature, Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs. Adidas has made a positive response while Zara said they cannot respond to the report.

[NGOs say big brands buy from polluting firms](#) (China.org, 4/10/2012) Chinese environmental campaigners have accused 46 Chinese and multinational clothing brands and retailers of purchasing from suppliers who illegally discharge polluted water in China.

GOVERNMENT

[Applicants for Beijing's car registration lottery drop](#) (Xinhua, 4/10/2012) The number of accumulated applicants for Beijing's car registration lottery dropped for the first time in April as a new measure took effect requesting earlier applicants to renew their applications.

[China's environmental protection media tour kicks off](#) (Xinhua, 4/11/2012) China's annual media tour for supervising nationwide environmental protection, organized by the country's legislature, kicked off Tuesday, with an emphasis on drinking water safety and mineral resources preservation.

[The environmental cost of rare earths](#) (China Daily, 4/10/2012) China has been paying a hard price exploiting its rare earths resources. It's said that a year's gold is sold at the price of cabbage.

[U.S. Renewables Lead Over China Threatened by Policy](#) (Alex Morales, Bloomberg, 4/11/2012) U.S. government policies are creating a "boom-and-bust" in renewable energy investment, threaten a lead the nation regained over China for the technologies last year, the Pew Charitable Trusts said.

[China reaffirms position on oil, gas exploitation](#) (Cui Haipei, China Daily, 4/11/2012) China on Tuesday reiterated its position opposing any other country that exploits oil and gas resources in Chinese maritime areas without permission of the Chinese government.

[China regulates management of green power subsidy](#) (China Daily, 4/6/2012) China has made a detailed plan for subsidy management of on-grid power generated from renewable energy sources, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said.

[Supporting sustainable urbanization](#) (China Daily, 4/9/2012) In China, the trend toward urbanization has been both remarkable and challenging. Remarkable, for the sheer speed at which it has occurred, and challenging for the many problems that are accompanying it: environmental degradation, inadequacy of municipal and social services, and increasing inequality, to name just a few.

[China stands firm on rare earth policy](#) (Lin Huocan, China Economic Net, 4/9/2012) China possesses about 36 percent of the world's rare earth reserve, but it has been accounting for more than 90 percent of the world's rare earth supply for a very long time. This kind of unbalanced trade pattern is extremely irrational, and has to be changed.

[National standard for PM2.5 monitoring underway](#) (CRIEnglish.com, 4/10/2012) The Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau announced on Monday that PM2.5 monitoring standards are being implemented around the Chinese capital, and purchases of this type of equipment will be put up for public bidding, Beijing Business Today reports.

[China's pollution crackdown will help rare earths market](#) (Kevin Allison, Globe and Mail, 4/12/2012) China's grip on the rare earths market is more fragile than it first appears. The minerals' high prices are vulnerable too.

[More Chinese cities release air pollution data](#) (Michael Evans, Asian Correspondant, 4/11/2012) Six Chinese cities launched new air pollution monitoring systems in the past two weeks, as one of the country's leading physicians warned that dirty skies could become China's most serious health threat.

[China 'set to remain' global clean energy hub](#) (Lan Lan, China Daily, 4/13/2012) China invested \$45.5 billion in clean energy in 2011, causing the country to cede its top ranking in such expenditures to the United States for the first time since 2009.

[China Sets Waste-to-Power Price Double That of Coal-Fired Plants](#) (Feifei Shen, Bloomberg, 4/10/2012) China, the biggest carbon emitter, set a price for electricity generated from waste-to-energy plants that's double that paid to coal-fired projects to encourage renewable-energy development.