



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 or timquijano@gmail.com.

OPINION

[In China, a Growing Call to Environmental Action](#) (Mark Tercek, Huffington Post, 4/18/2012) I recently spoke at a Wall Street Journal ECO:nomics session titled "China: Friend or Foe of Green Capitalism"? No doubt it's a complicated question. Home to a staggering one-fifth of the world's population, China has been growing rapidly for the past three decades. This growth has come at the expense of the country's environment.

[China's Price Gouging of Rare Earth Minerals: A Wake-up Call to the World](#) (Gary Shapiro, Forbes, 4/18/2012) American manufacturers are fighting to compete in a global environment that grows more competitive by the day. They can succeed, but only if the game is not rigged against them. China

is playing hardball by first monopolizing, then price-gouging on resources manufacturers need to make many tech products.

RESEARCH & CIVIL SOCIETY

[Greening China's press corps](#) (Zhang Yang, China Dialogue, 4/18/2012) Academics, officials, media figures and NGO representatives gathered in Beijing last week to discuss the past and future of Chinese environmental journalism. Zhang Yang listened in.

[Potential energy savings and CO2 emissions reduction of China's cement industry](#) (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 4/16/2012) This study models output and efficiency improvements in Chinese cement industry from 2011–2030. Energy savings and CO2 emission reductions estimated for 3 scenarios relative to frozen scenario. Results reveal cumulative final energy savings potential of 27.1–37.5 EJ and 3.2–4.4 Gt CO2 reductions. Increasing efficiency is the most important policy for reducing cement energy and emissions intensity.

[Slideshow: Life on the roof of the world](#) (China Dialogue Latest Articles, 4/16/2012) Yang Xiaohong and Fang Qianhua, winners of the "best science report" category at the 2012 China Environmental Press awards, spent a month with scientists tracking species in the Everest Nature Reserve. Chinadialogue features a slideshow of their photos.

[Ms Fang's parched patch](#) (Economist, 4/14/2012) Fang Haixin, a subsistence farmer near the village of Huopu in western Guizhou province, never used to fret about not having enough water. True, there was the odd dry year. But rainfall was usually abundant, and harvests adequate. Yet like many in south-west China over the past three years, Ms Fang has learnt to grapple with the sort of drought conditions that, until now, were more commonly a feature of China's dry northern plains.

[Renegade glaciers gain ice](#) (Sid Perkins, Nature, 4/15/2012) While most of the world's glaciers are shedding ice at a brisk clip, many in one mountain range along the rim of the Tibetan plateau have been posting measurable gains in recent years, a new study confirms¹. The finding comes just as researchers get set to launch a long-term international effort to study in detail 25 Tibetan glaciers — a small sample of the 46,000 ice masses that supply water to some 1.4 billion people in central and southern Asia.

[Environmental activist Ma Jun wins Goldman Prize](#) (San Francisco Chronicle, Andrew S. Ross, 4/16/2012) Ma Jun has been a regular visitor to the Bay Area since his book, "China's Water Crisis," came out 13 years ago, speaking to students, environmentalists and business leaders here about his country's severe environmental problems.

[China 'river pig' deaths raise extinction fears](#) (AFP, 4/19/2012) China says 16 endangered finless porpoises have been found dead since the beginning of the year and experts blame water pollution and climate change for pushing the species toward extinction.

[Ma Jun helps Chinese find out who's polluting and shame corporations into cleaning up](#)

(Peter Ford, Christian Science Monitor, 4/16/2012) 2012 Goldman Environmental Prize winner Ma Jun enlists ordinary Chinese to help clean up China's pollution.

[China study finds mine workers at higher risk of cancer, heart disease](#)

(Tan Ee Lyn, Reuters, 4/18/2012) Chinese workers who are exposed to silica dust in mines, and pottery and gemstone factories suffer not only from respiratory illnesses, but are at higher risk of contracting heart and infectious diseases and cancer, researchers in China have found.

CORPORATIONS

[Apple's China Supplier List Aids Environment, Group Says](#)

(Adam Lee, BusinessWeek, 4/16/2012) A Chinese environmental group that criticized Apple Inc. (AAPL) (AAPL) for not co-operating on efforts to rein in pollution at suppliers said the company has become more transparent, after the group won a role to audit operations at a supplier to the iPhone maker.

[China to fuel world copper demand](#)

(Economic Times, 4/19/2012) China will continue to lead global demand for copper while Latin America will remain the world's biggest supplier, economic analysts said this week.

[China Transportation Briefing: Kingdom of Electric Vehicles?](#)

(Heshuang Zeng, TheCityFix, 4/13/2012) In 2009, China overtook the United States as the world's largest auto market after selling more than 13 million vehicles. Given that motorization is an irreversible trend in China, electric cars are seen as a solution to challenges like energy security and air pollution, and they have been highlighted in China's 12th Five Year Plan.

[Bunge Seeks CO2 Credits for California, China After Drop](#)

(Mathew Carr, Bloomberg, 4/18/2012) Bunge Ltd. is seeking to buy carbon credits for new markets from California to China after prices plunged to a record and it bought London-based Climate Change Capital Ltd.

[China Lowers Producer Subsidies on Ethanol From Grain](#)

(William Bi, Bloomberg, 4/17/2012) China, the second-biggest corn consumer, lowered subsidies for producers of grain-based ethanol by more than half in the latest move to curb industrial use and ensure livestock-feed supply.

[China Wind Energy Developer Taps GE Turbines for 100-MW Ontario Wind Farm](#)

(4/19/2012) With renewable energy trade tensions and disputes on the rise, China's wind and solar power companies are investing more overseas, focusing on markets where government subsidies and incentives improve renewable energy project finance economics.

[Carbon capture 'viable with long-term support'](#)

(Richard Black, BBC, 4/18/2012) Capturing and burying the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from power stations is viable – but long-term government support will be needed, a report says.

[U.S. coal exports to China may double in 2012: Xcoal](#) (Fayen Wong, Reuters, 4/19/2012) U.S. coal exports to China could more than double to over 12 million tonnes in 2012 thanks to depressed freight rates and a fall in domestic demand in the United States, the chief of top U.S. coal exporter Xcoal Energy & Resources said.

[Yingli Gets \\$324 Million From China Development Bank](#) (Bloomberg, 4/18/2012) Yingli Green Energy Holding Co. (YGE), a Chinese solar-module maker, has a "framework agreement" for \$324 million of China Development Bank funding for a so-called trade platform in Hong Kong used to import raw materials.

[Nevada woos Chinese energy firm partners?](#) (Dan Piller, Des Moines Register, 4/18/2012) Folks here were happy enough when HZ Windpower of Chongqing, China, dedicated two 2-megawatt wind turbines Wednesday, but the locals have their eye on a much bigger prize.

GOVERNMENT

[Dam set to displace 100,000](#) (Shanghai Daily, 4/18/2012) About 100,000 people living in the Three Gorges Dam area could be relocated over the next three to five years with massive landslides and bank collapses expected to hit the area, a government official said yesterday.

A heavy-metal burden (Tan Siying, China Dialogue, 4/18/2012) Global efforts to cut mercury pollution pose particular challenges for China – responsible for a quarter of the world's emissions. Tan Siying reports.

[China looks to Indian success story in fight to save its mangroves](#) (Ananth Krishnan, The Hindu, 4/13/2012) Chinese environmentalists want to learn from India's experience in protecting mangrove forests even as they face an uphill struggle to save their country's wetlands from increasing developmental pressures.

[Environment 'should not be sole focus'](#) (Cui Haipei, China Daily, 4/19/2012) The environment should not be the sole focus of sustainable development, a senior consultant of the UN secretary-general said on Wednesday in Beijing.

[China to spur development of new-energy cars](#) (Xinhua, 4/18/12) China's State Council, or the cabinet, said on Wednesday that the country will move faster to develop its energy-saving and new-energy vehicle industry to ease pressure on resources and the environment.

[Britain merely 'outsourcing' carbon emissions to China, say MPs](#) (Fiona Harvey, Guardian, 4/18/2012) The fall in the UK's greenhouse-gas emissions is more than offset by the rising consumption of electronics made in China

[Climate change targets should include emissions from goods manufactured abroad -](#)

[MPs](#) (Telegraph, 4/18/2012) Carbon emissions from goods imported and consumed in the UK are rising more quickly than greenhouse gases are being cut domestically, MPs have warned.

[EU climate boss: studying China's airline CO2 plan](#) (Barbara Lewis, Reuters, 4/19/2012)

European Union officials are studying a Chinese plan to cut its airline emissions but do not have enough information to declare it an "equivalent measure" that could exempt Beijing from an EU carbon law, the bloc's climate chief said on Thursday.

[China to begin delivering supertankers to Iran in May](#) (Chen Aizhu, Reuters, 4/13/2012)

Chinese shipyards are expected to deliver the first of 12 supertankers to Iranian oil shipping operator NITC in May, two months ahead of a European ban that would make it difficult for most of the world's fleet to carry the OPEC member's oil.

[Beijing preparing for carbon trading system](#) (Lan Lan, China Daily, 4/20/2012)

Beijing, which aims to launch its carbon-trading system next year, is carefully calculating the city's greenhouse gas emissions inventory, said a local government official.

[China's Problematic Coal Plan](#) (Kevin Jianjun Tu, Diplomat, 4/18/2012)

Last month, China's National Development and Reform Commission released the long-awaited 12th Five Year Plan for its coal industry, which aims to curb China's national coal production and consumption at around 3.9 billion tons by 2015. But how an increasingly market-oriented Chinese economy can meet those targets remains unclear, and the plan itself offers no road map. In addition, an increasingly noticeable discrepancy in coal consumption between national and provincial sources may eventually undermine the credibility of any government issued coal industry targets.

[China invested \\$45.5 billion in wind power and solar energy in 2011](#) (REVE, 4/14/2012)

Because of the falling prices of solar power and wind energy technologies, the same amount of investment was able to support the use of even more renewable power in 2011.