



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

[If China Has a John Stossel, Be Afraid, Very Afraid](#) (Adam Moser, Huffington Post, 5/7/11) I'm sure almost every country has someone like John Stossel — a self-righteous media personality who depicts the world in black and white, and whose appeal, to a section of the population, lies precisely in his oversimplified take on what are very complex matters. I'm usually able to keep such media at bay, but the title to Stossel's recent editorial, "Keeping Nature Exactly As Is... Forever" in Reason Magazine was too hard to pass up.

[Dumping Solar: Downstream U.S. Solar PV Businesses Join CASM, Case Against China's Unfair Trade Practices](#) (Clean Technica, 5/10/12) More than 200 US solar industry participants

employing some 17,000 workers have joined CASM— the Coalition for American Solar Manufacturing, the industry/trade association announced yesterday. As it turns out, just 20 CASM members are manufacturers of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems; 85% are involved not in solar energy manufacturing, but in downstream businesses, such as solar PV design and solar energy systems sales, marketing and installation, project development, consumer finance, solar energy systems integration and legal services.

[China Key to Green Tech Innovation'](#) (Carey L. Biron, AlterNet, 5/9/12) With U.S. federal funding sources for renewable energy sources already drying up, coupled with a newfound antipathy towards "green" issues here in Washington, some are suggesting that China could offer an important opportunity for the future of renewables in the United States and around the world.

RESEARCH & CIVIL SOCIETY

[Step by step, making a difference](#) (Meng Jing, China Daily, 5/11/12) Eco-warrior says China making good progress on several environmental issues, despite challenges. In the last five years Ma Jun has often come out with maps on water, air and solid waste pollution in China, along with the continuous campaigns for blue skies in Beijing.

[Biodiversity could be casualty of Myanmar openness](#) (Denis Gray, Associated Press, 5/7/12) As many as 40,000 gorgeously plumed birds known as the Gurney's pitta thrive in the lowland rainforests of economically backward Myanmar. Across the border, Thailand's last five pairs are guarded around the clock against snakes and human predators.

[Pig poo power the answer to China's porky poser?](#) (Pauline Askin, Reuters, 5/2/12) Seven hundred million pigs produce a lot of poo. China's love of pork presents a mountain of a problem for the environment, 1.4 million metric tons (1.5 million tons) of pig poo a year to be precise, but an Australian company believes it has part of the answer. Why not turn the pig poo into power?

[Red tide threatens fisheries off east China](#) (Xinhua, 5/9/12) A red tide measuring more than 100 square kilometers drifting toward east China's coastline is threatening local fish and aquaculture industries, as it can suffocate marine life, local authorities said.

[304 Chinese die from indoor air pollution a day](#) (China Daily, 5/10/12) Indoor air pollution causes an average of 304 deaths per day in China, China Youth Daily reported Thursday, quoting a survey. The survey, released by the China National Interior Decoration Association, shows 111,000 Chinese people are dying from indoor air pollution every year.

CORPORATIONS

[Vehicle fumes pump up Shanghai pollution](#) (Shi Yingying, China Daily, 5/8/12) Shanghai's vehicle exhaust contributed to at least 25 percent of PM2.5 – the fine particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter – in the city's atmosphere. Bad driving habits such as rapid acceleration and deceleration, especially by diesel vehicle drivers, leads to worse air pollution, a senior environmental official said on Tuesday.

[Living with Foxconn](#) (Meng Si, China Dialogue, 5/10/12) Residents near the manufacturer's plant in Taiyuan city are up in arms over a toxic stench. Meng Si went to meet the community that doesn't much care for Apple's gadgets.

[Cnooc Deploys Oil Rig as Weapon to Assert China Sea Claims](#) (Daniel Ten Kate, Bloomberg, 5/10/12) China's first deep-water drilling rig began operations near islands in the South China Sea in a move to assert Beijing's territorial claims as travel agencies suspended tours to the Philippines amid safety concerns.

[Analysis - China gas reforms spark investment boom](#) (Charlie Zhu, Reuters, 5/9/12) China's big state companies, confident on the outlook for domestic natural gas reforms, are buying up local distributors and raising fresh capital – and making gas the hottest prospect for energy investment in the world's top energy consumer.

[Industry quiet as public concern grows over China's energy influence in Canada](#) (Jameson Berkow, Financial Post, 5/10/12) China's growing influence in oil sands development might be the most important issue facing Canada's energy sector that nobody is talking about.

[Air conditioner sales cool down](#) (China Daily, 5/8/12) End of supportive subsidies blamed as profits hit by rises in raw material, labor costs. When 35-year-old Yuan Bao stepped into a Dazhong Electronics store in the Changping district of Beijing, he found he was the only customer in the three-floor home appliance outlet.

[Chinese solar energy firm enters Japan](#) (Xinhua, 5/9/12) China's solar energy company, Yingli Green Energy Holding Co Ltd said on Wednesday that it has established a regional headquarters in Japan.

[River pollution 'under control' in NW China](#) (Xin Dingding and Lu Hongyan, China Daily, 5/7/12) Environmental protection officials said on Sunday that the pollution caused by cinnamene that leaked into the Hanjiang River after a traffic accident early on Saturday is under control.

[Businesses' Biggest Hong Kong Complaints: Pollution, Schools](#) (Te-Ping Chen, Wall Street Journal, 5/8/12) Hong Kong's government likes to boast of its "stable, business-friendly" environment. But a rising number of companies say there's plenty of room for improvement.

GOVERNMENT

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[The Great Overhaul of China](#) (Simon Zadek, Huffington Post, 5/4/12) On February 24, the China Banking Regulatory Commission released its Green Credit Guidelines, securing China's global leadership in advancing environmental principles and rules across its banking sector.

[Half of China's tap water fails to meet national standards](#) (Economic Times, 5/9/12) Half of China's tap water does not meet national drinking water standards, but the problem is not so severe as to cause an immediate threat to human health, an official survey said.

[China to construct more energy-efficient buildings-Xinhua](#) (Melanie Lee, Reuters, 5/6/12) China wants energy-efficient buildings to account for 30 percent of all new construction projects by 2020 to bring its building energy consumption ratio closer to that of developed countries, the official Xinhua News Agency reported on Sunday.

[Yingli Dodges Solar Squeeze as Yuan Costs Tumble](#) (Bloomberg, 5/6/12) Yingli Green Energy Holding Co., China's third-biggest solar-energy equipment maker, looks like a survivor in an industry that's losing investor support, the bond market shows.

[China debates renewables quotas to cut wind curtailment](#) (Dominique Patterson, Recharge News, 5/7/12) China is drawing up plans for a renewable energy quota system that could require grid companies to transmit up to 15% of their power from renewable sources.

[Colombia, China discuss coal mining ventures, possible rail project](#) (Platts, 5/10/12) China is interested in helping Colombia develop its mostly unexploited deposits of metallurgical or coking coal, the Colombian government said Thursday.

[Six regions warned for energy overuse](#) (Lan Lan, China Daily, 5/5/12) Six regions in China received "red-light warnings" for their failure in the first quarter of 2012 to do enough to conserve energy, according to a progress report the country released on Friday.

[Is Canada taking China for granted when it comes to energy?](#) (Claudia Cattaneo, Financial Post, 5/4/12) In the debate about whether Canada should welcome China's growing investment in our energy, a couple of crucial points have been getting little air time: Canada's energy isn't as indispensable to China as some assume, and China is at least as motivated by learning how to operate in a Western market economy as it is by securing energy to fuel its future.

[China tightening pollution control in key rivers, lakes](#) (Wang Qian, China Daily, 5/4/12) As the country witnesses a soaring number of water pollution accidents, China is strengthening pollution controls in key rivers and lakes this year, Zhou Shengxian, minister of environmental protection, said on May 4.

[Japan, China to exchange info on nuclear safety regulations](#) (Jiji Press, 5/5/12) Environment Minister Goshi Hosono and his Chinese counterpart, Zhou Shengxian, have confirmed that the two nations will exchange information and opinions on nuclear safety regulations.

[Global climate treaty may demand more carbon cuts from 'poor' countries](#) (Fiona Harvey, Guardian, 5/9/12) Old divisions between developed and developing countries in who should lead the fight against climate change should be laid aside, according to ministers from some of the world's poorest countries and European representatives meeting on Tuesday.

[River pollution 'under control' in Shaanxi](#) (China Daily, 5/7/12) Environmental protection officials said on Sunday that the pollution caused by cinnamene that leaked into the Hanjiang River after a traffic accident early on Saturday is under control.

[Development plan for China's Xisha Islands](#) (Guo Kai, Global Times, 5/10/12) Fishing families that live and fish around the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea are likely to be direct beneficiaries of a planned tourism development in the archipelago, the Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday.

[China's smart green energy investment](#) (Linden Ellis, Jennifer Turner & Devin Kleinfeld-Hayes, China Dialogue, 5/9/12) The seven bilateral clean-energy agreements signed by Hu Jintao and Barack Obama in the autumn of 2009 focused on renewable energy, advanced coal technology, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and other technologies to promote lower-carbon growth.

[Water usage to be monitored better](#) (China Daily, 5/8/12) A nationwide information management system for water resources will be set up within the next three years to improve the country's monitoring abilities of its fast-growing water consumption and deteriorating water quality, officials said.