



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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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.

OPINION

[Global Scarcity: Scramble for Dwindling Natural Resources](#) (Diane Toomy, Yale Environment 360, 5/23/12) National security expert Michael Klare believes the struggle for the world's resources will be one of the defining political and environmental realities of the 21st century. In an interview with Yale Environment 360, he discusses the threat this scramble poses to the natural world and what can be done to sustainably meet the resource challenge.

[Guest post: Blinded by the \(solar\) light](#) (Kelly Sims Gallagher & Kevin P. Gallagher, Financial Times, 5/22/12) The Obama Administration's preliminary decision to impose a 31 per cent tariff on solar panels imported from China is short sighted. The move could cause a trade war, hurt the US economy, jeopardize US security interests, and put the world further off course in terms of meeting its global climate change goals.

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[Anti-dumping policies can have environmental consequences](#) (Matthew Kahn, Christian Science Monitor, 5/19/12) Anti-dumping laws don't protect the environment in every industry. In some cases, such restrictions can actually do harm.

RESEARCH & CIVIL SOCIETY

[A Level Playing Field Cuts Both Ways: Why We Should Encourage More Chinese Investment In U.S. Clean Energy](#) (Melanie Hart, Climate Progress, 5/23/12) Chinese capital is finally flowing into the U.S. clean energy market. Chinese direct investment in the U.S. clean energy economy has grown from just \$4 million annually in 2006 to over \$260 million in 2011. That increase is attracting attention, and not all of it is positive.

[How to Clean Up China's Environment](#) (Christina Larson, Fast Company) "Beijing was such a different city," says Ma Jun, China's preeminent environmental watchdog, remembering the capital as it was during his childhood. "There were so few cars, I could walk in the middle of the road. In the summer, the streetlamps attracted swirling bugs. I loved those bugs: crickets, praying mantis, all kinds of beetles." The 44-year-old pauses. "I also have a vivid memory of dazzling sunlight coming out of the sky. Today, the sky is different."

[China's carbon market challenge](#) (Wang Tao, China Dialogue, 5/21/12) The decision to set up seven emissions-trading pilots sent media into a tizzy about Chinese climate policy. But Wang Tao has other concerns: from accurate data to a stable carbon price, there are tests ahead.

[Talks begin in landmark NGO environment case](#) (China Daily, 5/24/12) Pretrial discussions began on Wednesday in a rare public interest lawsuit whose plaintiffs include non-governmental environmental organizations.

[Raising awareness of water use](#) (China Daily, 5/15/12) "About 95 percent of the water we use everyday is not the water we use at home," said Mina Guli, founder and chief executive of Thirst, a nongovernmental organization run by the Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum to raise awareness among young people of water conservation.

[Good, bad and the ugly: Chinese cities ranked by air quality](#) (Monica Tan, Shanghaiist, 5/24/12) It's no news that China's air pollution is bad. In fact if this NASA map of PM2.5 levels is anything to go by, Eastern China has it the worst in the entire world. But why is the air pollution in some Chinese cities is simply bad (like Guangzhou) while others are super bad (like Beijing?) And which provinces are actually doing anything about it?

[A Story of Invisible Water](#) (Shirley Han Ying, Asia Society China Green, 5/16/12) Produced by Lynn Zhang and Shirley Han. You may also see [the 16-min full length](#). China draws heavily on groundwater. However, in North China Plain, this limited resource is widely polluted and getting depleted fast.

Through the stories of three farmers in Hebei province, this documentary takes an intimate look into one of the world's worst environmental crisis that are shaping the lives of millions.

[China's killing fields](#) (Adrian Brown, Australian, 7/23/12) Wu Shuliang says it was hard work digging the grave for his 15-year-old son. The soil in this remote part of southwest Yunnan province is parched and possibly contaminated too.

[China: 3 million people in Ningxia to benefit from desertification control](#) (Tony Zhu, Morning Whistle, 5/18/12) The World Bank Board of Executive Directors on Thursday approved a loan of US \$80million to the People's Republic of China to help control desertification and land degradation and protect farmland and infrastructure for the benefit of around three million people in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

[China's transparency laws: a death sentence for the Yangtze sturgeon](#) (Sam Geall, Guardian, 5/13/12) In March, as the Chinese city of Chongqing reeled from the ousting of its charismatic party secretary Bo Xilai, the Three Gorges Corporation began preliminary construction work on the Xiaonanzhai dam – a project upriver of the city that Bo had strongly advocated in the face of environmental opposition, and the last in a series of 12 new dams along the Yangtze river.

CORPORATIONS

[Europeans Look To China For Renewable Energy Expansion](#) (Jeffrey Cavanagh, Climate Progress, 5/11/12) Even in the midst of an economic crisis, most European countries are staying committed to deploying renewable energy. But with demand starting to lag due to fiscal constraints, the region's leaders are looking to large developing countries as growth markets for European companies.

[Consumer power for China?](#) (Meng Si & Xu Nan, China Dialogue, 5/11/12) Partial victories in the campaign to clean up Apple highlight civil society's potential to constrain the worst polluters.

[Unplugging from China](#) (Chen Nan, Southern Weekend, 5/22/12) Rising coal prices and unfavourable policies have forced foreign power companies – once eager investors – to leave the country.

[70% of annual global e-waste dumped in China](#) (China Radio International, 5/24/12) The final destination of around 70 percent of the world's annual 500 million tons of electronic waste, or e-waste, is China, according to a report by China Business News.

[Energy brings wealth to west China](#) (Xinhua, 5/20/12) While on a break from his university studies, Li Boyuan visited his hometown in Qerchen County, located in the Tarim Desert in China's far west, and was surprised to see that the streets once left dark due to power shortages are now bathed in light.

GOVERNMENT

[Gov't to fight water pollution with more funding](#) (Xinhua, 5/17/12) The Chinese government plans to allocate 500 billion yuan (79 billion U.S. dollars) for the prevention and control of water pollution in major drainage areas from 2011 to 2015, up from 300 billion yuan for the previous five-year period.

[Lingering drought dries rivers, reservoirs in S China](#) (Xinhua, 5/15/12) A lingering drought has resulted in below-average water levels in 549 small and mid-size rivers and has left 673 small reservoirs dry in south China's Yunnan province, provincial drought relief authorities said Tuesday.

[Stricter Water Standards to Be Applied Nationwide](#) (Shanghai Daily, 5/14/12) China is adopting a new drinking water standard throughout the country in July with stricter requirements on water supplies, according to the Ministry of Health.

[Your Heart on Air Pollution: An Olympic Case Study](#) (Nadja Popovich, Atlantic, 5/16/12) China's radical blue-sky measures during the 2008 Olympics actually improved Beijingers' cardiovascular health -- if only for a few weeks.

[US data clouds Shanghai air readings](#) (Agence-France Presse, 5/16/12) The United States consulate in Shanghai has begun issuing its own pollution data, giving a much darker assessment of air quality than government statistics.

[Soaring to Sinking: How Building Up Is Bringing Shanghai Down](#) (Kate Springer, Time, 5/21/12) As land-subsidence concerns sweep across more than 50 cities in China, the country's most populous metropolis remains among the most vulnerable.

[China Transportation Briefing: Filling the Finance Gap](#) (TheCityFix, Heshuang Zeng, 5/18/12) China's Ministry of Transport (MOT) recently made an announcement that it will encourage more private investment in the transportation sector. Given the funding gap in transportation projects in China, this regulation appears to be a wise move, but more aggressive actions are required.

[China May Approve Nuclear Plan Next Month, Official Says](#) (Bloomberg, 5/17/12) China's state council, or Cabinet, will probably hold a meeting before the end of June to approve safety and development plans for the nuclear industry, according to Xu Yuming, the vice secretary general of the China Nuclear Energy Association.

[China rejects US ruling in solar dumping case](#) (Joe MacDonald, Associated Press, 5/18/12) China's government on Friday rejected a U.S. antidumping ruling against its makers of solar power equipment and Chinese manufacturers warned possible higher tariffs might hurt efforts to promote clean energy.

[China to spend \\$27 billion on emission cuts, renewables](#) (Wan Xu and Don Durfee, Reuters, 5/24/12) China's central government plans to spend 170 billion yuan (\$27 billion) this year to promote energy conservation, emission reductions and renewable energy, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement on its website on Thursday.

[New fuel standards to cut pollution in city](#) (Zheng Xin, China Daily, 5/18/12) Beijing will introduce new fuel standards on May 31 that municipal officials say are nearly on a par with the European Union's Euro V, the first Chinese city to do so.

[China injects vigour into carbon debate](#) (Pilita Clark and Leslie Hook, Financial Times, 5/16/12) The world's second-largest economy is home to some notable examples of environmental delinquency and produces more of the carbon dioxide emissions linked to climate change than any other country. But its fledgling plans to start seven pilot carbon emissions trading schemes have injected vigour into the global environment debate.

[China to exclude foreign firms in shale gas tender](#) (Jim Bai and Ken Wills, Reuters, 5/18/12) China will exclude foreign firms from bidding in its second tender for shale gas blocks, despite a need for overseas technology to help exploit massive reserves of gas trapped within shale rock formations in the world's top energy user.

[China rules US support for group of solar, wind energy projects violates trade rules](#) (Associated Press, 5/24/12) China's Commerce Ministry issued a ruling Thursday that U.S. government support for six renewable energy projects violated free-trade rules, the latest volley in a widening conflict over clean power.

[China grants more quotas for rare earth exports](#) (AFP, 5/17/12) China, which is locked in a dispute with major trading partners over its control of rare earth minerals, on Thursday announced additional export quotas for this year.

[More gauges of water pollution](#) (Xinhua, 5/18/12) More gauges, such as levels of heavy metal and persistent organic pollutants, will be used to evaluate the quality of major rivers and lakes, an official said on Thursday.

[New testing of safer water challenged](#) (Wu Wencong and Zheng Jinran, China Daily, 5/24/12) New standards for drinking water will come into force in China on July 1, with the number of quality indicators rising to 106 from 35. While that's almost on par with standards used in the European Union, some experts have raised concerns about the feasibility of the new system.