



# 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](mailto:cc.huang2@gmail.com) or [timquijano@gmail.com](mailto:timquijano@gmail.com).

## OPINION

[China air pollution: "Slightly polluted" or "hazardous"?](#) (Jaime A. Florcruz, CNN, 11/18/2011) As I type this week's column, I look out of my office window and stare at a depressing sight. A heavy blanket of smog and dust hangs over the

[Can China follow U.S. shift from coal to gas?](#) (Andrew Revkin, Dot Earth, New York Times, 7/4/2012) Here's an effort to look ahead from a promising American environmental trend to a prospect for the same in China, starting with two observations.

["Jet Li" loves coal ash: A case of astroturfing?](#) (Kate Sheppard, Mother Jones, 7/5/2012) Either there are a lot of people of Chinese heritage that love coal ash in Colorado, or something is up with the

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White House's citizen-led petition page. Add to this the fact that these Chinese Americans have names that would translate as "Small Steamed Bun," "Big Steamed Bun," and "Most Handsome Guy," and things start to look really weird.

[Suing a China WFOE's parent in a U.S. court – that's a tough one](#) (Dan Harris, China Law Blog, 7/5/2012) Just read a China Daily article on how a group of Shandong fisherman are suing ConocoPhillips in the Southern District Court of Texas for compensation arising from a couple of oil spills in Bohai Bay. Three U.S. law firms are handling the case: Bilek Law Firm LLP in Houston, Smith Stag LLC in New Orleans, and Jones, Swanson, Huddell & Garrison LLC, also in New Orleans.

[A violent new tremor in China's heartland](#) (Mark McDonald, International Herald Tribune, 7/4/2012) A crowd of everyday citizens, worried and angry and frustrated, gathering outside a government office in China's heartland — this is what most terrifies the central government in Beijing and the Communist Party. This is the way their world could end.

[China tries to breathe free](#) (Elizabeth Economy, Council on Foreign Relations, 6/29/2012) After one day in Beijing, I had a sore throat. After two days, I had a cough. In nine days, the sun never made an appearance. So, when I returned to New York from Beijing earlier this week, I wasn't surprised to learn from a friend who tracks China's air quality that the pollution in the country's capital during my stay had been among the worst since 2007.

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Bolder Protests Against Pollution Win Project's Defeat in China](#) (New York Times, 7/05/2012) China has long been known as a place where the world's dirtiest mines and factories can operate with impunity. Those days may not be over, but a growing environmental movement is beginning to make the most polluting projects much harder to build and operate.

[The dirty truth about China's incinerators](#) (Elizabeth Balkan, Guardian, 7/4/2012) Xie Yong could be called a pioneer. He is one of very few to date to sue a Chinese government agency over its unlawful refusal of requested data. His crusade for change has little to do with civic altruism, however. Xie's struggle is personal in nature, his actions forced by desperation. He has been battling his son's paralysis-causing epileptic seizures and mounting health care costs since 2010. His son's condition, Xie believes, is the result of toxic emissions from an incineration plant near his home.

[China's water still not safe despite stricter standards](#) (Shanghai Daily, 7/4/2012) China's tap water is still not safe to drink despite the adoption, on Sunday, of stricter standards concerning drinking water quality, according to a Tsinghua University professor.

[China's Xiaonanhai Dam draws ire from scientists and NGO's](#) (Songqiao Yao, International Rivers, 7/3/2012) China's largest and the world's third largest river, the Yangtze, is home to some of China's most important freshwater species. The Yangtze used to contribute to 70% of China's freshwater catch annually. However, aggressive hydropower development has reduced the size and degraded the

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quality of this aquatic haven. Many critical fish species have become endangered since the construction of the Gezhouba and Three Gorges dams. In 2007, the extinction of the Yangtze River Dolphin (or baiji) marked the loss of an entire evolutionary lineage.

[Jinsha dam plans stoke old rows](#) (China Dialogue, 7/2/2012) A war of words over hydropower development on the Yangtze tributary is the latest revival of an eight-year old argument. Deng Quanlun and Hu Feifei report.

## CORPORATIONS

[China's controversial Three Gorges dam completed](#) (Guardian, 7/4/2012) The final turbine of China's massive Three Gorges dam has been connected to the power grid, marking the completion of a controversial hydropower project that cost the country more than £38bn and displaced at least 1.3 million people.

[Westinghouse enters U.S.-China nuclear collaboration](#) (Smart Planet, 7/3/2012) Pittsburgh-based Westinghouse Electric Co. is playing a supporting role in the U.S. Department of Energy's and China's collaborative development of an alternative and potentially safer nuclear reactor - a project for which DOE has funded three U.S. universities, SmartPlanet has learned.

[ConocoPhillips sued by fisherman for China oil spills](#) (Huffington Post, 7/2/2012) A group of 30 Chinese fishermen sued ConocoPhillips in U.S. federal court on Monday, claiming their livelihoods have been greatly impacted by two oil spills last year from the company's offshore drilling operations in northeastern China.

[China caps car sales in Guangzhou to ease jams](#) (Reuters, 7/1/2012) China's booming southern city of Guangzhou is limiting the number of new cars on the streets to ease traffic jams and cut pollution, state media said on Sunday, a move that could weigh on sales in the world's largest car market.

[Toshiba to support smart community project in China](#) (Asahi Shimbun, 7/5/2012) Toshiba Corp. announced July 5 it has entered into an agreement with Jinzhou, China, to provide the city with technical support for smart community projects.

## GOVERNMENT

[China to invest \\$315 billion in energy-savings](#) (China Daily, 7/5/2012) China's ambition to shift to a greener economy is expected to provide more than 2 trillion yuan (\$315 billion) in investment opportunities over the next five years for the country's burgeoning energy-saving sector.

[China releases 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for Energy Saving and Environmental Protection Industry](#) (China Briefing, 7/5/2012) To accelerate the transformation of China's economic development

model and strengthen the country's energy saving and emission reduction efforts, China's State Council issued "The 12th Five-Year Development Plan for the Energy Saving and Environmental Protection Industry (guofa [2012] No. 19, hereinafter referred to as 'the Plan')" on June 16.

[China says no more shark fin soup at state banquets](#) (New York Times, 7/4/2012) China said Tuesday that it would prohibit official banquets from serving shark fin soup, an expensive and popular delicacy blamed for a sharp decline in global shark populations.

[Water quality 'guaranteed' for the city](#) (China Daily, 7/3/2012) The quality of drinking water supplied to Hong Kong is fully guaranteed, despite the increasing number of environmental incidents on the Pearl River and growing demand on the Chinese mainland, a senior official said.

[China's environmental watchdog promises more anti-pollution efforts](#) (Xinhua, 7/5/2012) A senior Chinese environmental official has warned that pollution control did not progress well in the country in the first half of this year. Pollution reduction facilities have not been in full swing in many places and the construction of new facilities has lagged behind schedule, said Zhang Lijun, vice minister of environmental protection, in a statement published on the ministry's website on Wednesday.

[China poised to raise solar capacity target to 21 GW by 2015](#) (Recharge News, 7/4/2012) The new goal is the latest in a series of upward revisions that officials have apparently deemed necessary to the solar target under China's 12th five-year plan for renewable energy.

[The disappearing act of lakes in China's Hubei](#) (Caixin Online, 7/3/2012) The lakes in Hubei Province are going so fast they're nearly gone. It's a disappearing act that officials are hoping to reverse with a conjuring routine they've been at for over a decade.

[Memo to Hong Kong's new leader: must clear the air](#) (Reuters, 6/29/2012) As Hong Kong strives to consolidate its reputation as a financial hub and major offshore conduit for China's wealth, the smog that often envelops its skyscrapers exacts a heavy cost on its pro-business credentials and competitiveness.