



# 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

[Liu Zhenyun: Oh China, why are you so dirty?](#) (China Digital Times, 7/13/2012) Novelist Liu Zhenyun, Mao Dun literary prize winner and author of *My Name Is Liu Yuejin*, delivered this lecture last month at the "China Dream" Review and Forum: Reflecting on Thirty Years Since the Graduation of the Classes of '77 and '78.

[History against 'green' Gansu](#) (Asia Times, 7/13/2012) Reporting from China's Gansu province, Jonathan Watts of the Guardian recently explored efforts of regional and local officials to wean that northwestern region from reliance on coal and steel industries, and instead to construct a "green" economy built around clean and renewable energy sources, in particular wind and solar.

[Fighting the good fight against pollution in China](#) (Caixin, 7/8/2012) Has the division of spoils from China's rapid economic growth become a one-sided affair? The answer to this question is less of an abstraction when it comes to the environment.

[China's Environmental Protests: Simple NIMBYism or cutting edge people power?](#) (Graham Land, Asian Correspondent, 7/8/2012) The internet is taking a lot of credit for fermenting social unrest and facilitating effective protest. The Arab Spring, the Occupy movement and the Green Revolution in Iran are three well-known examples of how social media has played a role in grass-roots, people-based political actions.

[Is China beginning to slide down the environmental Kuznet's curve?](#) (Ronald Bailey, Reason, 7/5/2012) More than two decades ago economics scholars noted that when incomes begin to rise pollution gets worse - until it doesn't. Income and pollution data from around the world have revealed that there are various per capita income thresholds at which air and water pollutants begin to decline. This discovery has been dubbed the Environmental Kuznets Curve.

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Kickstarter project plans to measure Beijing pollution using kite sensors](#) (Rick Martin, Tech in Asia, 7/12/2012) Thanks to the folks over at China Digital Times for pointing out this great Kickstarter project that aims to help measure Beijing's air quality using air quality modules mounted on kites. The project is developed by a pair of students and is called FLOAT Beijing.

[China, European countries best U.S. on energy efficiency](#) (US News, 7/12/2012) China may have an ugly environmental record, but a new report suggests that when it comes to energy efficiency, it is besting the United States, as are many of the world's other major economies. According to a new report, the U.S. ranks No. 9 of 12 major global economies in terms of energy efficiency, dragged down by its poor performance in the area of transportation.

[Herders hope for greener pastures](#) (China.org, 7/13/2012) Riding high in the saddle, Stek Ajey whistled and cajoled his flock of 84 sheep.

[Raw sewage dumped in China's pearl river, daily says](#) (Bloomberg, 7/10/2012) China's southern Guangdong province discharged billions of tons of raw sewage last year into the Pearl River Delta that supplies Hong Kong and Macau, the China Daily newspaper reported today.

[Marine pearls of China: Challenges and Opportunities in the Gulf of Tonkin](#) (National Geographic, 7/10/2012) This article is based on a field visit I made to Guangxi, China in June 2012 as part of a broader research project on sustainability in the pearl farming sector supported by the Tiffany & Co. Foundation.

[Talk of the day: Chinese students ashamed by cross-border pollution](#) (Focus Taiwan, 7/7/2012) Rubbish from China that washes up on the beaches of Taiwan-held outlying islands such as Kinmen and Matsu has long created headaches

[Atmospheric scientists release first 'bottom-up' estimates of China's CO2 emissions](#) (EScience News, 7/6/2012) Atmospheric scientists at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and Nanjing University have produced the first "bottom-up" estimates of China's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, for 2005 to 2009, and the first statistically rigorous estimates of the uncertainties surrounding China's CO2 emissions.

[China's costly pollution problem](#) (CBC News, 7/5/2012) Last month, Chinese officials issued a general warning to foreign embassies, (but really aimed at the U.S.) to stop publishing reports about their country's air quality.

[Work abounds for students majoring in environment](#) (China Daily, 7/4/2012) Students studying environmental sciences enjoy increasing employment opportunities in China, according to a recent survey. Environmental ecology undergraduate students had an employment rate as high as 94.3 percent in 2011, marking the third consecutive year of surging employment, according to the Chinese College Graduates' Employment Annual Report 2012.

## CORPORATIONS

[Oil rises for third day on China speculation, Rising equities](#) (Bloomberg, 7/13/2012) Oil rose for a third day, the longest winning streak in a month, as slowing growth in China fueled stimulus speculation and U.S. equities advanced.

[China Shenhua: Received approval for Guangdong Coal Storage, Shipping Center](#) (Dow Jones Newswire, 7/12/2012) China Shenhua Energy Co. ([1088.HK](#)) said Thursday that it has received approval from China's National Development and Reform Commission to build a coal storage and shipping center in China's Guangdong province with an investment of 4.57 billion yuan (\$725 million).

[Could China's 'Gutter Oil' Be Used To Save The Environment?](#) (International Business Timse, 7/11/2012) Instead of causing cancer, China's "gutter oil" may soon be getting a chance to help save the planet. Used cooking oil in China -- when collected from waste and refuse, it is known as "digou you", or literally "gutter oil" -- has created controversies in the past when sold illegally back to restaurants and companies to be used for human consumption.

[China's nascent shale gas industry gains momentum](#) (Energy Tribune, 7/10/2012) The shale gas revolution that has captured the media's attention worldwide is also spreading to China, a major natural gas importer. Now the Middle Kingdom is on the verge of its own energy boom and wants to duplicate North America's success and meet a significant part of its own fast growing energy needs.

[China brings dams back to Africa](#) (China Dialogue, 7/10/2012) Chinese investors have broken a boycott on investment in African dams – and loosened the grip of the environment lobby. This is good news for the continent, water expert Mike Muller tells Olivia Boyd.

[To reduce poverty and pollution, China needs more billionaires like this](#) (Forbes, 7/9/2012) If you wear clothes and drink water, this story matters. Chances are that at least one article of clothing you're wearing now was made in China. The country's textile industry produced 1.24 trillion yuan (\$197 billion) worth of garments in the first three months of the year, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

## GOVERNMENT

[China to launch rare earth trading platform in August: paper](#) (Reuters, 7/12/2012) China will launch its first spot trading platform for rare earths on August 8, state media reported, in the country's latest effort to improve price discovery and regulate the market better.

[US urges China to open talks on South China Sea](#) (Reuters, 7/12/2012) The United States urged China to open talks with Southeast Asian nations on Thursday to calm tensions over their rival claims to the potentially oil-rich and increasingly militarized South China Sea.

[Chinese cities curb car sales](#) (Business Week, 7/12/2012) In three years as a car salesman, Rooney Chen had never pulled an all-nighter. Then came June 30. At 9 p.m. that Saturday, after all 57 showrooms at the huge Race Course Automall in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou had already closed, the municipal government announced that to rein in congestion and air pollution it would cap the number of new vehicle registrations at about half of last year's total and suspend new registrations for July—effective midnight.

[Chinese city puts bounty on flesh-eating fish, Internet laughs](#) (Wall Street Journal, 7/11/2012) Chinese Internet users are mocking the city of Liuzhou for offering a 1,000-yuan (\$157) reward to anyone who can catch flesh-tearing piranha from the local river.

[5 million greener vehicles on the streets by 2020](#) (China Daily, 7/10/2012) China has set a target of producing and selling 500,000 energy-efficient and alternative-energy vehicles a year by 2015, and five million vehicles by 2020.

[China pollution protest ends, but suspicion of government high](#) (Chicago Tribune, 7/8/2012) Lao Zhou splutters with rage when asked if he believes government promises to scrap plans for a copper refinery near his home in southwest China, a project which has sparked violent protests.