



# 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

[The Coming US-China Space Race](#) (Daryl Morini, The Diplomat, 8/15/2012) The gold-class landing of the Curiosity rover on the Red Planet on August 6th was an awe-inspiring feat of human ingenuity. It was also a quintessentially American feat, as Dr. John Holdren emphasized in a speech immediately after Curiosity's successful landing.

[Is shale gas the answer to China's energy needs? Perhaps not](#) (Ho Chi-Ping, China Daily, 8/16/2012) A new hydraulic fracturing center in Sichuan province represents China's attempt to gain a foothold in an field that applies hydraulic pressure to penetrate previously inaccessible sources of fuel. "Fracking" has been in practice in the United States for the past six years, and it remains controversial.

The concerns surrounding this technology are still vague. Ongoing research, however, is beginning to find potential health and environmental problems associated with fracking.

[What the world can learn from China's water crisis](#) (Layne Cameron, 8/10/2012) In this week's Science magazine, researchers from Michigan State University look at lessons learned in China and management strategies that hold solutions for China, and across the world.

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Drought threatens China's drinking water](#) (UPI, 8/16/2012) A drinking water shortage brought on by high temperatures and lack of rain is threatening thousands in central and southwest China, officials said.

[Chinese NBA giant Yao Ming fights elephant kills](#) (International Business Times, 8/16/2012) Picture slideshow.

[China's coal expansion may spark water crisis, warns Greenpeace](#) (Guardian, 8/15/2012) China's plan to rapidly expand large coal mines and power plants in its arid northern and western provinces threatens to drain precious water supply and could trigger a severe water crisis, a report by environmental activists Greenpeace said on Tuesday.

[Genetic analyses show endangered species in shark fin soup](#) (Voice of America, 8/15/2012) Each year, fishermen catch millions of sharks, cut off their fins, and dump the bodies into the ocean to die. The fins are used to make shark fin soup, an Asian delicacy sold in many countries. Recently, a team of scientists and environmental groups collected soup from restaurants across the United States and analyzed the soups' genetic make-up. They found endangered species on the menu.

[Humans causing Tianshan glacier to melt](#) (Xinhua, 8/15/2012) Pollution caused by humans is the second leading cause in the melting of a glacier in the Tianshan Mountains of Xinjiang, experts say.

[Green protests on the rise in China](#) (Nature, 8/14/2012) For years, people in China have accepted murky air, tainted waters and scarred landscapes as the unavoidable price of the country's meteoric economic growth. But public dissent over environmental issues has been growing steadily in the communist nation, and now seems to be building the foundations of a fledgling green movement.

[China buries 40,000 tons of carbon emissions underground](#) (Ecoseed.org, 8/10/2012) China, a major carbon emitter, is facing great pressure globally to curb its immense contribution to global warming. In response, the country has been making an effort to make up for its environmental impacts.

## CORPORATIONS

[Kazakhstan expands gas capacity to China](#) (Asia Times, 8/16/2012) The longest section of the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China transit pipeline passes through Kazakhstan's territory: it measures 1,115 kilometers in length, of the total 1,830-kilometer Turkmenistan-China distance. Kazakhstan is adding a dedicated export pipeline for its own gas exports to China. In combination, these developments (alongside planned oil exports) confer to Kazakhstan a major role in China's energy security calculations.

[Chinese cars recalled in Australia for Asbestos](#) (Wall Street Journal, 8/16/2012) An Australian importer recalled about 23,000 Chinese cars after a government probe found asbestos in engine and exhaust gaskets, setting back a Chinese auto industry eager to sell cars in developed markets.

[CNOOC's big deal for Nexen seen succeeding](#) (Market Watch, 8/16/2012) In 2005, Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill joined together to raise a firestorm of criticism over Chinese state-owned energy giant Cnooc Ltd.'s \$18.5 billion bid to buy U.S. refiner Unocal Corp.

[China's Sinopec eyes take in Texas power project – report](#) (Reuters, 8/15/2012) Oil giant Sinopec Group along with Chinese banks are in talks to put up to \$1 billion in a Texas clean energy project, in what would be one of the biggest investments by Chinese companies in the U.S. power sector, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

[Suzlon to exit China; plans \\$500 million bond sale](#) (Wall Street Journal, 8/14/2012) Suzlon Energy Ltd. ([532667.BY](#)) has no plans to expand operations in China, and will exit that country after concluding the sale of its manufacturing assets in the October-December quarter, Chief Financial Officer Kirti Vagadia said Tuesday.

[Opportunity looms for premium Chinese water brands](#) (China Daily, 8/13/2012) On July 6, after a month-long silence, Evian held a news conference in Shanghai to address the issue of the excessive nitrite found in its products.

[China the next solar market for China](#) (UPI, 8/13/2012) Despite uncertainty in export markets due to trade disputes, the prospects are still good for China's domestic solar market, experts say.

[Oil falls as China buys less, global demand seen weak](#) (Reuters, 8/10/2012) Oil prices slipped on Friday on data showing China's crude oil imports dropped in July and on weaker global oil demand forecasts by the International Energy Agency.

[Sinopec pledges help to clear Hong Kong plastic spill](#) (Reuters, 8/9/2012) Chinese oil giant Sinopec promised on Thursday to help clean up a big spill of tiny plastic pellets in Hong Kong waters which have washed onto many beaches and begun killing fish in fish farms.

## GOVERNMENT

[Obstacles hurting Canada-China energy investment: official study](#) (Reuters, 8/16/2012) Unclear investment rules are hampering trade between Canada and China, a study by officials from both countries said on Wednesday, just three weeks after CNOOC Ltd offered \$15.1 billion for Canada's Nexen Inc .

[ADB urges green tax in for China](#) (UPI, 8/16/2012) In ADB's latest report on China's environment -- "Toward an Environmentally Sustainable Future" -- the bank's analysts recommend that China impose taxes on resource extraction and pollutant and carbon dioxide emissions.

[China's role in funding Ethiopian dam draws ire](#) (Christian Science Monitor, 8/16/2012) Ethiopia says construction of a dam along the Omo River will create needed electrical power for itself and Kenya, and channel water for food production. Environmentalists worry it could drain a Kenyan desert lake central to people's livelihoods.

[China tightens pollution standards for steel, iron industries; Restructuring expected](#) (Bloomberg, 8/15/2012) China's steel, iron, and coking industries will face new limits on emissions of water and air pollutants starting Oct. 1, according to the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

[US wind energy grows 16 percent, but still lags China](#) (Talking Points Memo, 8/14/2012) The U.S. Energy Department on Tuesday released a report on the state of wind energy installations throughout the country during the year 2011. The report paints an encouraging picture of a recovering wind sector from the year 2010 — when the effects of the recession were being felt in full — but it still shows the U.S. lagging behind China when it comes to new wind energy generation capacity.