



# 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

[Activist Dai Qing: How China limits change, and stores discontent](#) (Asahi Shimbun, 8/31/2012)  
A territorial dispute with Japan underpinned public protests in China this summer, but other recent unrest has targeted authorities there with testy demands for reform in public and environmental policy.

[China's South-North water transfer is "irrational"](#) (China Dialogue, 8/27/2012) Ruth Matthews, of the Water Footprint Network, tells Tom Levitt how food has come to dominate our water use and why China may need to re-think its South-North water transfer project.

[Water-transfer projects "essential" says Chinese scientist](#) (Zhang Chun, 8/28/2012) Xia Jun tells chinadialogue that China must press ahead with "essential" water-transfer projects, but needs a less chaotic approach.

[How milk standards triggered uproar in China](#) (Hongjun Zhu, China Daily, 8/31/2012) In 2010, new regulations for China's scandal-ridden dairy industry sparked a storm over safety risks and the role of business in setting policy. Zhu Hongjun, who covered the story, looks back on the controversy.

[Everything you think you know about China is wrong](#) (Minxin Pei, Foreign Policy, 8/29/2012) For the last 40 years, Americans have lagged in recognizing the declining fortunes of their foreign rivals. In the 1970s they thought the Soviet Union was 10 feet tall -- ascendant even though corruption and inefficiency were destroying the vital organs of a decaying communist regime. In the late 1980s, they feared that Japan was going to economically overtake the United States, yet the crony capitalism, speculative madness, and political corruption evident throughout the 1980s led to the collapse of the Japanese economy in 1991.

[Why China will stop U.S. energy independence](#) (Forbes, 8/23/2012) Hold onto your hats. Mitt Romney has declared North American energy independence by 2020 (effective 23/08/2012). Lots more drilling of oil and gas on federal turf, alongside offshore plays is the general gist – and especially in Alaska – all with a view to stimulating the U.S. economy.

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Melting sea ice: Bad for polar bears, Good for China](#) (International Business Times, 8/30/2012) As climate change warms the world's oceans and Arctic sea ice recedes to its lowest recorded levels this summer, China has found a way to take advantage of it, sending its first vessel through a recently opened shipping route to Iceland.

[China exclusive: Scientists looking for site for giant solar telescope](#) (Space Daily, 8/29/2012) Chinese scientists are looking for a site for a giant solar telescope, which will be the world's largest in the next two decades with data helping to understand solar activities.

[A model for conservation in China? The Tibetan antelope](#) (Christian Science Monitor, 8/28/2012) Since the antelope's population plunged to around 70,000 in the early 1900s, its numbers have stabilized at more than 100,000, according to 2009 field estimates by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

[Acid rain hangs cloud over Guangdong province](#) (China Daily, 8/27/2012) More of Guangdong province came under threat of severe damage from acid rain in the first half of this year, a result in part of an increase in automobile emissions, a recent environment report showed.

[Kites untether China's grip on air pollution data](#) (CNN, 8/24/2012) Scroll through Kickstarter, and you'll get a kick out the sheer variety of projects with tin cups in hand. A documentary about the

Dungeons and Dragons fantasy role-playing game, a zombie board game, even a sprouting pencil -- all are looking for handouts via the popular crowd-funded site.

[FLA report lauds work on environment improvements on Apple production lines](#) (International Business Times, 8/22/2012) Chinese assemblers of iPhones and iPads now work a reduced average of 60 hours each week, according to the update report released Tuesday by Washington-based Fair Labor Association (FLA).

## CORPORATIONS

[China Sunergy: Another solar company, another guidance cut](#) (Forbes, 8/30/2012) Already this week, both JA Solar and Yingli Green Energy reduced their outlook for full year shipments after posting discouraging Q2 results, as prices continue to fall in the face of slack demand. This morning, smaller China Sunergy added to the fun, with a weak Q2 report and a sharp reduction in full year shipment guidance.

[China-owned CNOOC applies for Canadian government approval of Nexen \\$15 billion takeover](#) (Washington Post, 8/29/2012) Chinese energy giant CNOOC has filed its formal application for Canadian government approval of its \$15 billion offer for Canadian oil and gas producer Nexen Inc. It would be China's biggest overseas energy acquisition.

[Dark clouds gather over China's once-booming solar industry](#) (Telegraph, 8/29/2012) China's push into solar energy was supposed to be a proud example of how the country was advancing into hi-tech manufacturing. But now the whole sector is on the brink of bankruptcy.

[GE urges open view of China](#) (Wall Street Journal, 8/29/2012) Top executives of General Electric Co., one of the world's largest companies, are urging countries such as the U.S. and Australia to open their doors wide to Chinese investors to help boost financing for infrastructure needs.

[China's worsening food safety crisis](#) (The Atlantic, 8/28/2012) Last month in the 2012 World Grand Prix Finals, China's women's volleyball team fell to countries that did not even qualify for the 2008 Olympics, where China won bronze. The coach blamed his team's abysmal performance on their veggie diet, saying that the athletes had not had any meat for three weeks.

[Shell to invest \\$1 bn a year in China shale gas strategy](#) (Guardian, 8/21/2012) Shell also plans \$12.6bn refinery and petrochemical complex – which could become China's single largest foreign investment.

## GOVERNMENT

[Lawmakers seek public voice in environmental affairs](#) (Xinhua, 8/31/2012) China's national lawmakers are debating to what extent the public should be allowed to participate in, and how much negotiating power the public should have, in environmental issues set by the government.

[Environmental assessments go online](#) (China Daily, 8/30/2012) China's environmental protection agencies have been ordered to publish environmental impact assessment reports on their websites from Sept 1 to make the evaluations available to the public.

[China invests £235 billion to tackle pollution](#) (Telegraph, 8/28/2012) The spending plan, part of the country's latest 2011-2015 five year plan, was approved in July at a meeting of China's cabinet-like State Council chaired by outgoing prime minister Wen Jiabao.

[U.S. Senator Reid, son combine for China firm's desert plant](#) (Reuters, 8/31/2012) U.S. Senator Harry Reid recognized nine years ago that connections between his official duties and the lobbying activities of his relatives could lead to ethical questions.

[Top 10 most polluted Chinese cities](#) (China.org, 8/31/2012) Urumqi was found to be the most polluted city in China during the first half of this year, a Ministry of Environment report said concerning air pollution in major Chinese cities.

[Canada to consider environment in CNOOC-Nexen probe](#) (Reuters, 8/30/2012) A Canadian official revealed more on Thursday about how Ottawa will review a politically sensitive \$15.1 billion bid by China's CNOOC Ltd for oil producer Nexen Inc, saying Ottawa will take environmental protection into account.