



# 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

[EPA stifles U.S. coal but subsidizes it in China](#) (Washington Examiner, 9/20/12) Two weeks ago, the United States national debt surpassed \$16 trillion. To put that into perspective, that is more than \$50,000 per person in the U.S. To finance this overwhelming debt, the U.S. is borrowing roughly 40 cents of every dollar we spend, a good portion of it from foreign countries like China.

[Belgian firm encouraged by China's eco-consciousness](#) (Fu Jing, China Daily, 9/21/12) David Laurier, CEO of the environmental analysis and integrated solution provider AppliTek in Belgium, is confident that his company can sustain its success in China even though it is a latecomer. His logic is simple: The Chinese government is committed to having a healthy environment for its people, and that provides great market potential for his products.

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[Should China be involved in the UK's nuclear energy infrastructure?](#) (Paul Dorfman, Guardian, 9/21/12) Government officials have been in Beijing this week with their Chinese counterparts for an "unprecedented" collaboration on energy. On the table was new nuclear power, and its role in moving the UK to a low-carbon economy.

## RESEARCH & CIVIL SOCIETY

[China: running short of water](#) (Leslie Hook, Financial Times, 9/19/12) Between now and 2030, China will be adding as much new power capacity as the US, UK, and Australia combined use today, according to calculations from HSBC. That is a lot of power. But there is a catch: Generating electricity requires water, and Chinese supplies are increasingly running short. Whether it is water used to cool nuclear power stations, in coal-washing, steam turbines, or solar panel factories—everything that generates electricity needs water at some stage. According to a new report from HSBC and consultancy China Water Risk, water shortages are set to play a bigger role in shaping China's energy choices.

[Second-hand smoke greatest source of indoor pollution in Beijing: study](#) (Xinhua, 9/21/12) A study conducted by an environmental group found that second-hand smoke is the single greatest source of indoor air pollution in Beijing.

[China-built projects in US stir up environmental concerns](#) (Ross Perlin, China Dialogue, 9/17/12) With an expected price tag over US\$6 billion, California's new Bay Bridge will be one of the most expensive structures ever built when it opens next year—and a crucial component of it was built just outside Shanghai.

['Green' warrior says doing nothing has a cost, too](#) (Jonathan Stefonek, China Daily, 9/16/12) The green technology sector is a political and financial minefield. US President Barack Obama is continually blasted over Solyndra, the failed solar panel factory that received substantial government support. The recent suicide of the Zhejiang Chengxing Solar Technology's CEO brought attention to losses in China. Much of the global economy is limping along at best, and even China's economy slowed to 7.6 percent growth. Under these conditions, the advancement and sustainability of relatively new green industries can easily take a back seat to immediate job creation and other economic incentives. But despite the setbacks, there are those like Barbara Finamore, whose enthusiasm for the sector is unabated even after more than 20 years of frontline campaigning in the changing environment of China.

[China's wind energy could soar up to 300 GW by 2020 – groups](#) (Ecoseed, 9/20/12) China's wind energy capacity could reach 300 gigawatts by 2020 despite crucial challenges that have slowed down the industry's development in the past years, according to a joint study released by the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association, the Global Wind Energy Council and Greenpeace.

## CORPORATE SECTOR

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[China CO2 Price May Not Reflect Demand, New Energy Says](#) (Bloomberg, 9/18/12) The first carbon-dioxide price reported in China's Guangdong province at 60 yuan (\$9.50) a metric ton is probably coordinated by government and may not reflect demand and supply, said Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Four Chinese cement makers bought 1.3 million tons of emission permits for the new carbon market at the price, the 21st Century Business Herald reported today. European Union carbon was today at 7.51 euros (\$9.81) a ton on the ICE Futures Europe exchange in London as of 3:04 p.m. "The price of 60 yuan a ton is negotiated between local government and the buyers, and does not reflect any supply and demand fundamentals," Charlie Cao, an analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance in Beijing, said today.

[China's Meijin Lobs \\$454 Million Bid For Western Desert](#) (Wall Street Journal, 9/18/12) China's Meijin Energy Group's offer to acquire diversified miner Western Desert Resources Ltd. signals that the world's most populous nation remains hungry for Australian resources.

[Philanthropist sells patriotic cans of fresh air to aid environment](#) (Global Times, 9/18/12) Chen Guangbiao, a Chinese private entrepreneur known for his philanthropy, began to sell canned fresh air Monday, a move he claimed was to draw more people's attention to environmental protection. "We've sold 1,000 cans in Tongzhou district today, earning about 5,000 yuan (\$792)," Chen told the Global Times Monday, adding that he will donate all the earnings to the Chinese military to defend the Diaoyu Islands. The air is collected from revolutionary regions, including Jinggang Mountain in Jiangxi Province, some ethnic minority areas and Taiwan, and sells for four to five yuan each, he said.

[Layoffs Come To China Solar Companies](#) (Forbes, 9/19/12) The U.S. has been gunning for China's major solar companies for the past two years under the Obama administration, with anti-dumping cases and higher tariffs killing sales. And with the budget crisis in Europe, countries like Italy are no longer providing incentives to state governments to use Made in China solar panel power. The result? Layoffs at the big named solar panel makers are on the rise.

[Smart Cities team up on energy research](#) (ABC News, 9/19/12) China is emerging as Newcastle's major research partner in the \$100 million dollar "Smart Grid, Smart City" project. In the latest phase of the project, Energy Australia is inviting households to join a trial of energy saving products, with the promise of rebates on their power bills. Smart Grid research through Newcastle University and the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources is also gathering pace. Institute Director Dr Allan Broadfoot says since the start of the month two new agreements have been signed with China. "We've signed an agreement with Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute and with the State Grid Electrical Power Research Institute of China," he said. "There's enormous research capabilities within those countries that we wish to tap into."

[Environmental projects under construction in newly-established Sansha](#) (Xinhua, 9/19/12) Construction on several environmental preservation projects has kicked off in the newly established island city of Sansha in the South China Sea, authorities said Wednesday. Construction on a sewage processing and pipeline project and a garbage collecting and transferring project started on Aug. 25, sources within the Sansha government said. The government of Hainan, a southern province



that administers Sansha, will prioritize environmental protection in all construction projects, as Sansha's ecological environment is fragile and non-renewable, said provincial governor Jiang Dingzhi.

[PV project developers eye up new opportunities in China's agricultural sector](#) (Julia Chan, 9/19/12) PV projects on agricultural land are playing a key role in China's rapidly growing distributed PV power generation segment as identified by NPD Solarbuzz which is currently tracking more than 300MW of agricultural PV projects in the country in its China Deal Tracker report.

## GOVERNMENT

[New Chinese 'commitments' to tackle spiralling emissions: EU](#) (AFP, 9/21/12) China has made a "commitment" to tackle spiralling greenhouse gas emissions in return for EU financial aid and expertise, the European Union announced Thursday.

[UK helps China map out low-carbon future](#) (Will Nichols, Business Green, 9/17/12) A UK government delegation will this week travel to China to help the country and others replicate an online tool praised for furthering the debate on climate change and energy policy. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has been working with the Chinese Energy Research Institute (ERI) to develop a Chinese version of the UK's 2050 Calculator and will unveil the results at a conference on Tuesday.

[China to introduce National Low-carbon Day](#) (Xinhua, 9/19/12) The State Council decided Wednesday to introduce a National Low-carbon Day in a fresh move to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the world's second-largest economy. The introduction of the National Low-carbon Day beginning 2013 is aimed at promoting awareness about climate change and low-carbon development policies, encouraging public participation and facilitating the country's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the State Council said in a statement released after an executive meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao. The National Low-carbon Day will fall on the third day of the National Energy Efficiency Promotion Week in June every year, according to the State Council.

[Chinese, Cambodian legislators meet to enhance bilateral ties](#) Xinhua (September 19, 2012) Cambodian and Chinese legislators met on Wednesday to exchange views and experience in environmental protection and preservation. Huang Xianzhong, vice-chairman of the National People's Congress Environmental Protection and Resource Conservation Committee said the visit was to study Cambodia's measures and legal frameworks in protecting environment and resource management. He also hailed Cambodia for its efforts in protecting environment and cultural heritage.

[China joins nations seeking treasure in warming Arctic](#) (New York Times, 9/19/12) With Arctic ice melting at record pace, the world's superpowers are increasingly jockeying for political influence and economic position in outposts like this one, previously regarded as barren wastelands. At stake are the Arctic's abundant supplies of oil, gas and minerals that are, thanks to climate change, becoming newly accessible along with increasingly navigable polar shipping shortcuts. This year, China has become a far



more aggressive player in this frigid field, experts say, provoking alarm among Western powers. While the United States, Russia and several nations of the European Union have Arctic territory, China has none, and as a result, has been deploying its wealth and diplomatic clout to secure footholds in the region.

[China awarded for ozone layer protection](#) (Xinhua, 9/16/12) The Ozone Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) conferred an honor to the Chinese government for its contribution to ozone layer protection in an event marking this year's International Ozone Layer Protection Day that fell on Sunday. Zhang Lijun, vice minister of environmental protection, said at the event that China has phased out more than 100,000 tons of ozone depleting substances (ODS) since 1991, an amount that accounted for around half the total disposed of by the developing countries. Since signing the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1991, China continued to improve its management over ODS and phase out ODS production and consumption, contributing greatly to global efforts in ozone layer protection, according to Zhang.

[Plans to curb sandstorms in Beijing, Tianjin](#) (China Daily, 9/20/12) The central government plans to strengthen efforts to control sandstorms and prevent environmental degradation in Beijing and Tianjin in the coming decade, according to a State Council statement on Wednesday. Members at an executive meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao discussed and passed the second-stage work plan for the Beijing-Tianjin Sandstorm Control Program (2013-22). The statement said Shaanxi will be included in the program in 2013, as it is a source of sandstorms of the two metropolises. Sandstorm-control work will also be expanded from 75 counties in five regions to 138 counties in six regions, including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanxi province and the Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

[Green is the key for Nanning](#) (Huo Yan, China Daily, 9/21/12) Nanning, the capital of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, is improving its living conditions and international levels to attract foreign investors. According to Chen Wu, Nanning's Party chief, the construction of modern eco-city will be a key project. The eco-city is based on the Langdong Area, which became very busy after its development in recent years. "The city will keep developing its south part, and will build a new Nanning in the Wuxiang New District. It's a new page in Nanning's development history," Chen said. The Wuxiang New District, which has a total area of 175 square kilometers, is a comprehensive area with residential projects, logistics centers, as well as amusement and recreation areas. It also has cultural and sports zones, and city administrative areas. The area is expected to become a good example of a modern Chinese eco-city.

[Not so fragrant](#) (Economist, 9/22/12) The new government of Hong Kong has bungled plenty since taking office in July, but it looks as if it has pulled off a deft move on green issues. Leung Chun-ying, the city's chief executive, has chosen Christine Loh Kung-wai as his new environmental undersecretary. It is a striking choice, given her background as a green activist and pro-democracy legislator.