



# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

*A weekly update of China's environmental news and analysis from  
PACE*



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By CC Huang, TimQuijano

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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 needs its own dream](#) (Thomas Friedman, New York Times, 10/2/2012) On Nov. 8, China is set to hold the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party. We already know who will be the next party leader: Vice President Xi Jinping. What we don't know is what matters: Does Xi have a "Chinese Dream" that is different from the "American Dream?" Because if Xi's dream for China's emerging middle class — 300 million people expected to grow to 800 million by 2025 — is just like the American Dream (a big car, a big house and Big Macs for all) then we need another planet.

[China's new leaders must respect environmental rights, or face crisis](#) (Ma Jun, China Dialogue, 10/9/2012) The biggest obstacle to environmental protection in China is not a scarcity of funds or technology, but a scarcity of motivation, says Ma Jun of Chinese non-profit group IPE.

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[How dirty are China's skies? A daily photo archive shows the truth](#) (Forbes, 10/05/2012)

Anyone who's been to Beijing lately would instantly recognize the photo below. It's the glorious capital of China, rendered completely invisible by pollution. This was taken in August, four years after the Chinese government spent a reported US\$19 billion to clean the air for the 2008 Olympics.

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[China now eats twice as much meat as the United States](#) (Telegraph, 10/12/2012) "It is not possible to feed everyone so much meat," said Wen Tiejun, the dean of Renmin university's Agriculture school a leading advocate of rural reform. "People must simply eat less".

[Chinese environmental activist goes on trial over books](#) (Guardian, 10/11/2012) A Chinese former official who won an award for his exposé of illegal forest clearing has gone on trial accused of profiting by printing his books on environmental conflicts without proper licenses.

[Megacities pose serious health challenges](#) (Nature, 10/12/2012) Rapid urbanization will take a heavy toll on public health if city planning and development do not incorporate measures to tackle air pollution, warns a report launched in Beijing last month.

[China strives to meet air quality standard decline](#) (Xinhua, 10/11/2012) China has been racing to meet the objectives set in its revised air quality standards, including promoting the use of an index for PM2.5, or fine particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter.

[Pollution blind spot in the textile industry](#) (China Daily, 10/9/2012) The textile industry continues to pose environmental challenges for China despite the total number of factories operating in the country shrinking, according to a report released on Monday by five NGOs.

[China and Netherlands to research novel form of large-scale tidal power](#) (Circle of Blue, 10/9/2012) On September 27, Chinese and Dutch officials were in Beijing signing an agreement to research and develop a novel renewable energy concept that uses the sea. Called "dynamic tidal power," both nations have high hopes for the new energy source that would be implemented along the Chinese coast.

[Chinese turtle passes waste urea through its mouth](#) (BBC, 10/11/2012) Biologists were puzzled by the turtle's behaviour because, despite using its lungs to breathe air, it often submerges its head in water. By testing the water, they found that the reptile was excreting urea through its mouth instead of its kidneys.

## CORPORATIONS

[BioPower inks China alliance to spur wave energy project](#) (Sydney Morning Herald, 10/12/2012) Budding wave energy hopeful, BioPower Systems, has formed a "strategic alliance" with one of China's biggest industrial firms as it seeks to develop wave energy technology to commercial scale.

[Organic certification officials regularly accept "gifts" from food companies in China](#) (China Dialogue, 10/12/2012) Organic food is not the solution to food safety woes in China, says industry expert Zhou Zejiang.

[Parched in the West by shipping water to China, bale by bale](#) (Wall Street Journal, 10/5/2012) In 2012, the drought-stricken Western United States will ship more than 50 billion gallons of water to China. This water will leave the country embedded in alfalfa—most of it grown in California—and is destined to feed Chinese cows. The strange situation illustrates what is wrong about how we think, or rather don't think, about water policy in the U.S.

[China piped gas imperils \\$100 billion LNG plans: Energy markets](#) (Bloomberg, 10/10/2012) China is importing more natural gas by pipeline than sea for the first time, highlighting the risk to planned LNG projects costing at least \$100 billion as buyers seek cheaper supplies.

[Ghana's gold sparks conflict with illegal Chinese miners](#) (Bloomberg, 10/8/2012) When a patch of land on the edge of Nweneso No. 1 village was bought by a Ghanaian who said he wanted to search for gold, few residents objected. Then dozens of Chinese moved in with excavators, wrecking farmland and turning the local stream into a trickle of mud.

[German state bank KfW targeted over Beijing waste-burning plant](#) (China Dialogue, 10/3/2012) German state bank KfW's assurances that environmental standards will be met have failed to calm nerves over Beijing's latest waste incinerator.

## GOVERNMENT

[China carbon debut defies emission doubters](#) (Bloomberg, 10/12/2012) China's first steps to build what is destined to be the world's second-biggest emissions market are boosting the prospects for fledgling programs from Australia to California.

[China to control coal production due to shrinking demand](#) (China Daily, 10/12/2012) The central government is asking major coal production regions to keep annual coal output growth below 4 percent due to shrinking demand and declining prices, in a move to help the industry become sustainable, a senior official said.

[China denounces solar tariffs](#) (UPI, 10/11/2012) China has denounced the U.S. decision to raise tariffs on imports of solar panels by Chinese companies.

[China vows to improve 'lagging' urban transport system](#) (Chicago Tribune, 10/10/2012) China will increase government spending and offer tax breaks to quicken the development of the country's urban public transport system, the cabinet said at a regular meeting on Wednesday.

[Chinese State organs to use new-energy autos](#) (China Daily, 10/10/2012) A total of 23 electric cars will be used among 11 State organs in a pilot program to promote new-energy vehicles for official use, according to a statement from the Ministry of Science and Technology, or MST, on Tuesday.

[US sets anti-dumping duties on China solar imports](#) (Business Week, 10/10/2012) The U.S. Commerce Department set anti-dumping duties ranging from 18.32 percent to 249.96 percent on solar-energy cells imported from China, reducing preliminary penalties imposed on Trina Solar Ltd. (TSL) and raising them slightly on Suntech Power Holdings Co.

[China funds projects in new energy vehicles](#) (China Daily, 10/12/2012) The Ministry of Finance announced Friday that the central government will allocate funding to support technological innovation projects in the nation's new energy auto industry.

[Beijing air quality to be better monitored](#) (Guardian, 10/8/2012) Beijing authorities have completed a network of monitors that will more accurately measure air quality in the smog-ridden city after being pushed into it by public pressure and pollution reports from the US embassy.

[China risks \\$14 billion on coal-to-gas pilot](#) (Guardian, 10/7/2012) China is spending \$14 billion (8 billion pounds) on pilot projects to turn coal in remote parts of the country into natural gas, a risky bet that could help meet the country's surging demand for the cleaner fuel.

[China spends heavily in afforestation efforts](#) (Xinhua, 10/7/2012) The Chinese government allocated 46.2 billion yuan (7.22 billion U.S. dollars) from its central budget to the return-farmland-to-forests plan during 2008-2011, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).