

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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## OPINION

[Clearing the Air in China](#) (NY Times, 10/25/2013) IN the northeast Chinese city of Harbin last week, the air pollution was so thick that schools were closed, traffic became gridlocked and flights in and out of the metropolis were canceled. For years, severe air pollution and rising carbon emissions have been downsides to China's economic growth, even as that growth has lifted more than 600 million people out of poverty.

[Study shows PM1 air pollution is most harmful](#) (China Daily, 10/28/2013) A recent study led by Chinese scientists shows a strong link between smaller air pollution particles and a range of serious health conditions. Scientists said the smaller the airborne particles, the more likely they are to cause illness, suggesting the need for monitoring of particulate matter of 1 micron or less in diameter — a category of pollution rarely monitored.

[Recent Progress Shows China's Leadership on Carbon Capture and Storage](#) (World Resources Institute, 11/06/2013) It is common knowledge that China burns a large amount of coal, with the fuel accounting for nearly 70% of China's primary energy consumption in recent years. What is less commonly known is that China is also working on ways to reduce the impact of its coal use, including aggressively pursuing research and demonstration of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technology.

[China faces a long battle for blue skies](#) (Global Times, 11/07/2013) Smoggy weather has become a lingering problem in China and the country faces a tough battle in its fight against serious air pollution, especially the northern parts, analysts argue. On Wednesday, the 10 most-polluted cities included the municipalities of Beijing and Tianjin, as well as six cities in adjacent Hebei Province, according to the Air Quality Index released by the China National Environment Monitoring Center (CNEMC).

[China must kick costly coal addiction](#) (Japan Times, 11/08/2013) Walking through Beijing's Tiananmen Square last week, a German family of five surrounded me, all wearing large face masks and sunglasses. They weren't robbing me, just asking me to

take their photo. When I yelled "Say 'cheese,'" the dad joked: "We are smiling under here." Only China's pollution bubble is no laughing matter, and tourists tell the story.

## RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[China's Response to Air Pollution Poses Threat to Water](#) (World Resources Institute, 10/28/2013) Record-setting levels of smog last week shut down Harbin, a city of 11 million people in northeast China. Officials blamed increased coal consumption during the first days of winter heating, underscoring the urgency of the China State Council's recently announced initiative to address persistent smog in major cities. But while the Air Pollution Control Action Plan has ambitious goals—cutting air particulates and coal consumption—it may create unintended problems for the country's water supply.

[Cleaner Beijing, moaning neighbors](#) (China Daily, 11/01/2013) Coal is once again under the spotlight as winter's chill approaches. As part of the coal use reduction plan, more than 100 coal-fired boilers that provide heat for more than 200,000 households will be replaced with natural gas in the capital's downtown in November. The city's environmental protection bureau is proud of the initiative, considering more than 600,000 tons of coal will be prevented from generating 1,392 tons of dust and 1,680 tons of sulfur dioxide annually.

[Chinese scientists set goal of better smog prediction, prevention](#) (UPI, 11/04/2013) Chinese scientists say they are hoping to be able more accurately forecast smog -- long a bane of many Chinese cities -- to be able to issue timely warnings. The research also has a goal of helping control pollution more effectively, they said. "Currently, the abilities to forecast heavy pollution weather and issue early warnings are insufficient," Wang Zifa with the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences told China's state-run Xinhua news agency.

[Pollution 'to ease in five to 10 years'](#) (China Daily, 11/05/2013) China's air pollution problem will be alleviated in five to 10 years, the country's top climate change negotiator said on Tuesday. Xie Zhenhua, vice-minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, was responding to recent fears voiced in South Korean media that pollution blown to that country from China has triggered cases of respiratory disease.

[Scientists say new approach to climate preparedness essential to help people adjust to coming changes](#) (Phys.org, 11/07/2013) Changes are already happening to Earth's climate due to the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and large-scale agriculture. As changes get more pronounced, people everywhere will have to adjust. In this week's issue of the journal Science, an international group of researchers urge the development of science needed to manage climate risks and capitalize on unexpected opportunities.

[Weak winds leave pollution trapped above Shanghai](#) (Global Times, 11/07/2013) Shanghai's Air Quality Index (AQI) hit at 248 at 11 am Thursday, nearing the threshold of 300 for very heavy pollution, the center said. The AQI stood at 259 at 9 pm Thursday.

The Shanghai Municipal Education Commission advised the city's public school administrators Thursday morning to cancel outdoor activities for students, according to the commission's microblog.

[Heating causes pollution spike in Northern China](#) (CCTV, 11/08/2013) As winter descends in Northern China, central heating systems are being fired up, bringing welcome indoor warmth but causing choking outdoor smog. Bill Siggins reports on the challenges cities face providing a necessity that is also creating a health hazard. Coal-fired central heating and power systems spew more than 15% of airborne pollutants in Beijing, but there's hope on the smoggy horizon.

[Shanghai air pollution hovers near index's limit](#) (South China Morning Post, 11/08/2013) Thick smog enveloped Shanghai yesterday, with the air staying "heavily polluted" all day, according to the official index - a first since autumn began. Photos shared by residents on social media showed a murky sky - an image usually associated with the city's long-time competitor, Beijing, or "Grey-jing" as some have taken to calling it.

[Smoggy Beijing sees lung cancer cases soar](#) (BBC, 11/09/2013) According to figures published by the state-run Xinhua news agency, they have increased by more than 50%. Beijing health officials say smoking is still the number one cause of lung cancer, but they admit air pollution is also a factor. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently estimated that polluted air kills millions of people every year.

## **COPPORATE SECTOR**

[Japan's green companies thriving in China](#) (CRI, 10/31/2013) As pollution levels soar across China, authorities are introducing stricter measures in hopes of rolling back the toxic tide. The push to clean up the country's air, land and water has provided new opportunities for those in the green technology business. Japan's Asahi Glass, one of the world's major glassmakers, is looking to cash in on going green.

[18 Fun Renewable Energy Charts From NREL Director Dan Arvizu & Ren21's Renewables 2013 Global Status Report](#) (Clean Technica, 11/05/2013) I had the good fortune of seeing NREL's director, Dan Arvizu, give an optimistic renewable energy and cleantech presentation in Abu Dhabi in January. He certainly knows how to pack a presentation full of interesting charts. More recently, Dan gave a presentation in Colorado that I didn't attend but have the slides for. Below are a few of my favorite slides from the new presentation, followed by several fun charts and tables from the key findings of Ren21's Renewables 2013 Global Status Report.

[Offshore Wind Experiences Its Best Growth In 2013](#) (Clean Technica, 11/08/2013) Offshore wind power installations are on track to hit a seventh consecutive annual record in 2013. Developers added 1,080 megawatts of generating capacity in the first half of the year, expanding the world total by 20 percent in just six months. Fifteen countries host some 6,500 megawatts of offshore wind capacity. Before the year is out, the world total should exceed 7,100 megawatts. Although still small compared with the

roughly 300,000 megawatts of land-based wind power, offshore capacity is growing at close to 40 percent a year.

[What China? Energy traders see money in the good old USA](#) (Reuters, 11/08/2013) China may have overtaken the United States as the world's biggest oil importer, but America is now the land of opportunity for traders looking to profit off energy markets, thanks to changes brought by the shale gas revolution. After a generation in which traders salivated over emerging markets, executives at the Reuters Global Commodities Summit this week spoke about the good old fashioned U.S.A. - soon to overtake Russia as the world's biggest oil producer - the way they once used to gush about BRICS.

## **GOVERNMENT**

[China to monitor smog's impact on health](#) (Xinhua, 10/28/2013) China's health watchdog has vowed to set up a national network to monitor the impact of air pollution on human health within the coming three to five years. The goal was revealed in a work plan on air pollution released by the National Health and Family Planning Commission on Monday.

[With Reactor Deal, China and Pakistan Seek to Reshape Global Nuclear Governance](#) (World Politics Review, 11/05/2013) In April, the China National Nuclear Corp. (CNNC) announced the export of two ACP-1000 reactors to Pakistan, plans subsequently confirmed by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in June. In addition to reaffirming China's commitment to one of the most important aspects of its "all weather" strategic relationship with Pakistan, the move also heralded an expansion of Chinese nuclear exceptionalism, underpinned by China's growing confidence in its domestic industrial and international financial strength.

[Environmental watchdog handles more tip-offs in July](#) (Xinhua, 11/05/2013) China's environmental watchdog said on Tuesday that it dealt with 179 tip-offs on environmental pollution in July, marking a 20 percent jump compared with the number in June. Of the processed tip-offs, 155 were about environmental illegalities, accounting for 87 percent of the reports, according to the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

[Chinese city adopts emergency response for air pollution](#) (Xinhua, 11/05/2013) An emergency response plan has been put into effect in Taiyuan, capital city of north China's Shanxi Province, to deal with air pollution. Kindergartens, primary and high schools will close, and some industrial plants temporarily shut down when a red air pollution alert is issued, according to the Taiyuan Municipal Heavy Air Pollution Emergency Response Program, which was released on Monday.

[China to close schools, stop outdoor activities during heavy smog](#) (South China Morning Post, 11/06/2013) Chinese cities should close schools, cut working hours and stop outdoor activities during the most severe spells of air pollution, the Ministry of Environmental Protection said on Wednesday. "Every possible compulsory measure" must be taken to cut emissions during the heaviest smog, which has a serious impact

on health, the ministry said, including suspending factory production and imposing traffic restrictions.

[Seeing cleaner path ahead](#) (Xinhua, 11/07/2013) The air pollution that is choking an increasingly larger area, and even causing concern in neighboring countries, is something we all can see. And sadly, the less we can see, the worse we can see it is. When the northeastern city Harbin was shrouded in smog a week ago, visibility was down to about 10 meters and gauze masks were a necessity for local residents.