

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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By Hongfu Pan and Kristiene Gong

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OPINION

[Fight China's Smog with Ethanol, Says Chen Lin](#) (StreetWise Report, 02/06/2014) In decades past, we have seen that any commodity China really wants goes through the roof. We saw it in copper. We saw it in oil. We saw it in liquefied natural gas. If China starts mandating a 5% blend of ethanol to gasoline, ethanol should trade on par with gasoline.

[China's environment: A small breath of fresh air](#) (China Daily, 02/07/2014) WHEN, in 2008, the American embassy in Beijing started publishing a measure of the fetid smog enveloping the capital, China's government protested and ordered the publication to stop.

[China considers new powers for pollution watchdog as part of govt shakeup](#) (Reuters, 02/10/2014) China could grant its undersized environment ministry new powers over resources, possibly allowing it to veto future projects, and more muscle to punish polluters as part of a government shake-up to tackle decades of unchecked growth.

[Claims Beijing uninhabitable 'exaggerated'](#) (Global Times, 02/13/2014) Media reports saying that China's capital city is on the verge of becoming inappropriate for human habitation misled readers by exaggerating the findings of a report issued by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), one of the authors of the report has said.

RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[Severe weather causes holiday migration chaos](#) (Global Times, 02/07/2014) Rain and snow have disrupted the journeys of millions of people traveling across the country after the Chinese lunar new year holiday, causing chaos during peak-day travel.

[Health watchdog clarifies 'rewards' for not smoking](#) (Global Times, 02/09/2014) A regulation issued by China's health watchdog which rewards its own staff for successfully quitting smoking for a year has drawn criticism online, but the department has responded by claiming the reward is merely verbal praise rather than money.

[Beijing, Shanghai low in global competitiveness](#) (China Daily, 02/12/2014) China's two mega-cities rank low among 40 metropolitan centers worldwide for global competitiveness, says a report by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

[Chinese Villagers Attack Polluting Factory Over Concerns For The Environment](#) (Huffington Post, 02/12/2014) Villagers in southwestern China infuriated by a factory that was polluting the environment smashed its offices and equipment, and later clashed with police, underscoring the potential for such concerns to trigger violent unrest.

[Hong Kong's air quality to 'drastically improve' within five years, says Christine Loh](#) (South China Morning Post, 02/16/2014) Hong Kong's air quality will show "dramatic improvement" over the next five years, says undersecretary for the environment Christine Loh Kung-wai. And she predicts that reductions in pollution should start being measured by the second half of this year

CORPORATE SECTOR

[Smoggy city cuts coal](#) (Global Times, 02/07/2014) Shijiazhuang, one of China's smoggiest cities, plans to cut coal consumption by 15 million tonnes in four years, including 4 million tonnes this year.

[Tesla, Kandi Jolted Up By Richer Chinese EV Subsidies](#) (Investor's Business Daily, 02/10/2014) Shares of Tesla Motors (TSLA) climbed sharply Monday after China said it will give more subsidies for electric vehicles than announced earlier, as it pushes to cut rising air pollution.

[Private-Equity Investors Join China's Environmental Cleanup](#) (Wall Street Journal, 02/11/2014) Private-equity firms are again betting on China's environmental sector as the government adopts a new sense of urgency in cleaning up the nation's filthy air and water.

[Nation to launch major anti-pollution plans](#) (China Daily, 02/12/2014) Central govt emphasizes economic instruments to improve air quality. The central government will introduce a series of policies to implement a landmark anti-pollution action plan that aims to reduce airborne particles.

[China to extend electric car subsidies beyond 2015](#) (ECNS, 02/12/2014) China, the world's second-largest energy user, will give more subsidies for electric cars than the previously announced and extend the incentive program beyond 2015 to help reduce air pollution.

GOVERNMENT

[China says no cover-ups using state secrecy as excuse](#) (Reuters, 02/03/2014) China has unveiled new rules telling officials not to cover up what should be publicly available

information using the excuse it is a state secret, in what state media said was a move towards greater government transparency.

[China under pressure in meeting emissions targets: official](#) (Xinhua, 02/11/2014) China is facing pressure in meeting the emissions cut targets set in its pollution control plan by 2015, an environment official said Tuesday.

[China says gets tough on polluters, nixes projects worth \\$19.5 bln](#) (Reuters, 02/11/2014) China's environmental watchdog vetoed as many as 32 projects with a total investment of 118.4 billion yuan (\$19.5 billion) last year as it stepped up efforts to get tough on industrial polluters, a senior official said on Tuesday.

[2013 China's progress report on combating pollution](#) (Xinhua, 02/11/2014) In recent years, China has made great efforts to improve the quality of its environment. It has stepped up efforts especially after many Chinese cities experienced more than usual smoggy days in the past few years.

[China to set up \\$2 billion fund to help fight smog](#) (ENDS Europe, 02/12/2014) The Chinese government said on Wednesday said it will set up a 10 billion yuan (\$2 billion) fund to fight air pollution, offering rewards for companies that clean up their operations.