

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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OPINION

[China faces monumental challenges in tackling environmental degradation](#) (South China Morning Post, 03/16/2014) I first came to China in 1985 to study bird migration at Beidaihe, on the coast east of Beijing. There was little traffic in the town, where carts pulled by donkeys carried bricks and other loads. In Beijing, bicycles abounded, and taxis were rare.

[American Hybrids and EVs Are Seriously Damaging China's Environment](#) (Complex, 03/17/2014) We tend to think of electric cars as being completely environmentally safe, as a result of the fact that they have no tail pipes spewing CO2 into the air. The truth, however, is that like all manufactured products, there are environmental side effects.

[Op-Ed: China's pollution gets worse, but face masks still don't work](#) (Digital Journal, 03/25/2014) Air pollution in China has become so bad that it has fueled a face-mask cottage-industry in the country. While most of the masks are no better than wearing a bandana over one's face, people are spending millions of dollars for this needed protection.

[Air pollution risk greater than thought](#) (Independent Online, 03/25/2014) Air pollution killed about 7 million people in 2012, making it the world's single biggest environmental health risk, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday.

[China Rivers at the Brink of Collapse](#) (Huffington Post, 03/26/2014) China's rulers have traditionally derived their legitimacy from controlling water. The country ranks only sixth in terms of annual river runoff, but counts half the planet's large dams within its borders. A new report warns that dam building has brought China's river ecosystems to the point of collapse.

RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[Air Pollution May Cause Genetic Harm in Kids, China Study Finds](#) (SFGate, 03/20/2014) Air pollution led to genetic changes that may have sapped learning skills in children whose mothers were exposed to a Chinese coal-fired power plant before it was shuttered a decade ago, researchers found.

[Guizhou to make 'fresh canned air' to boost tourism after Xi Jinping comments](#) (South China Morning Post, 03/21/2014) Tourism authorities in China's southwestern Guizhou province announced on Thursday plans to manufacture canned fresh air as part of a larger scheme to promote the southwestern region's tourism, according to the bureau's official website.

[New school to focus on energy and environment](#) (South China Morning Post, 03/24/2014) Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's joint school of sustainable development in Xian will contribute to energy and environmental policies on the mainland, the university's provost says.

[Coal plant closure in China led to improvements in children's health](#) (Science Codex, 03/26/2014) Decreased exposure to air pollution in utero is linked with improved childhood developmental and higher levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a key protein for brain development, according to a study of looking at the closure of coal-burning power plant in China led by researchers at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health at the Mailman School of Public Health.

[The Environment and Children's Health Care in Northwest China](#) (7thSpace Interactive, 03/27/2014) Industrialization in the northwest provinces of the People's Republic of China is accelerating rapid increases in early life environmental exposures, yet no publications have assessed health care provider capacity to manage common hazards.

CORPORATE SECTOR

[Chad fines China's CNPC unit \\$1.2 billion for environmental damage](#) (Chicago Tribune, 03/21/2014) Chad has fined the local unit of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) \$1.2 billion for environmental violations, a statement from the environment minister said on Friday.

[Pollution police: China drones expose smog-forming companies, over 200 violations cited](#) (The Voice of Russia, 03/25/2014) The pollution police are actively patrolling in China as drones are taking off into the sky to spy on and expose smog-forming companies. Over 200 environmental violations have been cited so far just from the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) soaring high over cities like Beijing to look for the root cause of smog and pinpoint ecosystem breaches being made.

[China to Crack Down on Illegal Wastewater Discharges](#) (OOSKA News, 03/26/2014) Chinese companies that illegally discharge wastewater will receive a "heavy blow" from the government, according to Premier Li Keqiang.

[Enforcement seen key to success of China's new environmental markets](#) (Reuters, 03/27/2014) China's plan for a market in air pollution permits promises to help clean up its air cheaply, but the move could prove just as useless as previous environmental policies unless the government stamps out lax enforcement and spotty data.

[Chinese environment policy puts hurdle on iron ore export from India](#) (Business Standard, 03/27/2014) Iron ore exporters from Goa may face daunting task ahead for shipment of the newly purchased steelmaking raw material through online auctions due to restrictions imposed by Chinese recently passed environment law. The strict Chinese environment law may also affect iron ore sales through online auctions in Goa.

GOVERNMENT

[China vows to clean up 60 percent of cities by 2020](#) (Reuters, 03/17/2014) China pledged on Sunday that it will make sure that 60 percent of its cities meet national pollution standards by 2020, with pressure growing to make cities liveable as hundreds of millions of migrants are expected to relocate from the countryside.

[China tackles devastating soil pollution](#) (News24, 03/20/2014) China's environmental authorities have passed a plan to tackle soil pollution as the government becomes increasingly concerned about the risk to food posed by widespread contamination of farmland.

[Hebei looks overseas for smog control](#) (China Daily, 03/24/2014) Hebei province will import 200 foreign experts to assist with 50 projects on air pollution control over the next four years, and create an industrial zone in which companies can develop solutions.

[China says polluting industry still growing too fast, heavy smog alert for Beijing](#) (Chicago Tribune, 03/25/2014) China's energy-hungry, high-polluting industries continued to grow too fast in 2013, putting "huge pressures" on the environment and causing air quality to worsen, the country's pollution agency said on Tuesday.

[China to move some facilities out of polluted capital to ease congestion](#) (Chicago Tribune, 03/27/2014) China plans to move some administrative, research and healthcare facilities out of its capital to a nearby city to ease the burden on Beijing, which is often wreathed in heavy smog and choked with traffic jams, state media reported on Thursday.