

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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OPINION

[Population controls will not solve environment issues](#) (BBC News, 10/27/2014)

Restricting population growth will not solve global issues of sustainability in the short term, new research says. A worldwide one-child policy would mean the number of people in 2100 remained around current levels, according to a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Even a catastrophic event that killed billions of people would have little effect on the overall impact, it said.

[China's New Tools to Battle Air Pollution Can Also Help Fight Climate Change](#)

(Huffington Post, 10/30/2014) In preparation for hosting the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which will be attended by President Obama and other world leaders, Beijing's municipal government has announced a six-day public holiday for central and city government. It will order drivers to use their vehicles only on alternate days. In neighboring Hebei province, more than 800 factories and 900 construction sites will halt work for nearly two weeks, in an attempt to keep the skies clear over Beijing during the meeting.

[NGO criticism in China is 'making things worse'](#) (China Dialogue, 11/05/2014) Three years ago, I quit my job at Heilongjiang province's environmental authority to work full time advocating for transparency on environmental issues. I've travelled all over China in the last three years, and come to realise that Chinese NGOs usually opt for direct criticism of government and businesses. Rather than helping to solve problems, this often exacerbates them.

RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[China's ports fail to regulate pollution: Report](#) (The Times of India, 10/29/2014) China's busy ports fail to regulate heavy emissions of sulfur oxide and other pollutants mostly from cargo ships although they're the biggest source of air pollution in port cities such as Hong Kong, according to a new report. The US-based Natural Resources Defense Council found that maritime activity accounts for half of all sulfur oxide emitted in Hong Kong and about a third of all nitrogen oxide.

[Chinese capital of recycling electronic waste is booming, but at a cost to the environment and locals' health](#)

(The Japan Times, 10/29/2014) Mountains of discarded remote controls litter the warehouse floor. In a dimly lit room, women on plastic stools pry open the devices, as if shucking oysters, to retrieve the circuitry inside. In a narrow alley a few blocks over, a father and son from a distant province wash microchips in plastic buckets. Men unload old telephones and computer keyboards by the shovelful off a truck.

[China's growth-obsessed officials ignoring green policies – parliament](#)

(Reuters, 10/30/2014) Local officials determined to make their economies bigger at any cost are ignoring Beijing's push to cut hazardous air pollution, opting instead to expand heavy industries and cut clean energy from the grid, a Chinese parliamentary report said. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's parliament, dispatched a team of inspectors to 10 cities and provinces from May to September to oversee the implementation of new pollution policies.

[Olympics bid fuels drive for clean air](#)

(China Daily, 10/31/2014) For Nick Ward, a snowboarding enthusiast from the United States who lives in Beijing, the only issue holding back his skiing passion in the Chinese capital is the heavy haze that sometimes shrouds North China. "I've never seen the smog back home (in New Hampshire, a northeastern state of the US). It happens now and then here even in winter, and it's really an obstacle for outdoor sports," said Ward, who has been in Beijing for two years.

[Rising Temperatures Could Stall the Fight Against Disease](#)

(Nature World News, 11/03/2014) Water is one of the most common agents of illness, especially in highly populated regions with shared utilities. Now, a new report details how rising water temperatures across the globe could result in the increased prevalence of water-borne illnesses, making the prevention of disease far more difficult.

[China's Existential Question: Is Rice Unhealthy?](#)

(Worldcrunch, 11/04/2014) A recent article declaring rice "the king of junk food" has set China's Internet boiling over. The article argues that white rice is nutritionally deficient, containing very little protein, adipose, vitamins and minerals, and that its starch content technically qualifies it as junk food. Generally, those in northern China tend to eat noodles, while southerners choose rice instead. Still, rice is estimated to be the staple food of more than half the Chinese population.

[The Draws – and Deterrents – of Working in China: Language, Opportunity](#)

(The Wall Street Journal, 11/04/2014) China is looking closer at how to attract and retain foreign talent – and finding that the environment is a big concern and that language appears to be an issue for many expats. Of the more than 3,000 respondents in a new study by a group affiliated with China's State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs and CareerBuilder, two-thirds currently work in China, while one-third were job seekers not living in China in CareerBuilder's database.

[Smog killed 670,000 people in China in 2012: government study](#) (Hindustan Times, 11/06/2014) Pollution caused by coal triggered an estimated 670,000 premature deaths in China in 2012, a study by top universities and a government department has revealed, a shocking reminder of the way industrial smog is impacting the second largest economy of the world.

[China says APEC pollution curbs not being implemented](#) (Reuters, 11/06/2014) Several regions in China have failed to take steps to cut smog during a major meeting of global leaders set to start this week in Beijing, the environment ministry said. To ensure clean air during a prestigious Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, China said it would thin traffic and close hundreds of factories within a 200-km (124-mile) radius of the capital over the period from Nov. 1 to 12.

CORPORATE SECTOR

[China shipping delivers toxic cocktail](#) (IOL, 10/29/2014) Beijing - China is waging war on pollution, closing factories and targeting dirty coal-fired power plants, but its ports are pumping out pollution virtually unchecked, according to a report by a US environmental group. The thousands of ships that ply China's waterways are delivering a toxic cocktail of pollution, with just one ship capable of emitting the same pollution as half a million trucks each day, the report by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) said.

[Irena analyses renewable energy map of UAE, US and China](#) (Gulfnews, 11/03/2014) Abu Dhabi: The International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena) will present a detailed analysis on the UAE, US and China and their options to increase the share of renewable energy in their energy mix at the two-day council meeting of the agency in Abu Dhabi.

[China Will Limit Pollution from Steel and Cement](#) (Scientific American, 11/06/2014) The Chinese government for the first time has said publicly that it will cap carbon dioxide emissions from two major polluting industries, but its impact on the nation's overall climate change mitigation remains unclear. The announcement was made in a guideline published Tuesday by China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economy planner.

[Chinese company, Canadian university partner on energy center](#) (China Daily, 11/06/2014) University of Calgary President Elizabeth Cannon and John Chen, who will serve as the first director of the new energy research, education and training center in Beijing that is a partnership between the college and China-based Kerui Group, in Beijing last month. Provided to China Daily. The University of Calgary, in partnership with Chinese oil and gas company Kerui Group, has opened a research, education and training center in Beijing, the first such facility in China operated by a foreign university.

GOVERNMENT

[China, Sweden establish green-tech cooperation platform](#) (Global Post, 11/04/2014)

China and Sweden established a green technology cooperation platform on Tuesday in Stockholm, aiming for closer mutual cooperation in the green technology industries. The Sino-Swedish Green-Coop Platform was signed by Chen Yuming, Chinese ambassador to Sweden and Thomas Lagerqvist, chairman of the Sweden-China Trade Council (SCTC), on Tuesday afternoon at the World Trade Centre in Stockholm.

[China: The Next Phase of Urbanization](#) (The Barron's, 11/05/2014) China published its new 2014–2020 urbanization plan in March this year, targeting a slower urbanization rate compared to the last decade, but focusing on building a better quality of life. In the last decade, boosted by the RMB4 trillion stimulus in 2008/09, China's urbanization path was particularly steep, reaching over 52% urbanized by 2012, from only 36% in 2000. The latest urbanization plan maintains the goal of a 60% urbanization rate for 2020 (2013: 53.7%), which would imply a slower, approximate 1% incremental urbanization rate per year to 2020.

[Report: Over 40 percent of China's farm land degraded](#) (Digital Journal, 11/05/2014)

Over 40 percent of China's arable land is suffering degradation, according to a report released on Tuesday by Xinhua, China's official news agency. The report cites state agriculture ministry statistics based on the second national land survey in 2013. Up until very recently, little was known of the true extent of soil degradation in China. According to the China Daily, Xinhua says degraded land in this case includes farm lands suffering from reduced fertility, erosion, acidification, the effects of climate change and pollution.

[Credibility of US-China climate cooperation hit by mid-term elections](#) (China Dialogue, 11/06/2014) The US administration sees climate change at, or near, the top of its bilateral agenda with China – despite the domestic setback for environmental issues caused by the Democratic Party's ringing defeat in Tuesday's Congressional elections. The expectation is that President Barack Obama will use his upcoming meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the APEC summit in Beijing to create momentum for the UN climate talks in Lima in December - and ultimately the international climate conference in Paris next year.