

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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## OPINION

[China Agrees To Pollution Limits, But Will It Make A Difference?](#) (NPR, 11/14/2014) All this week, Beijing residents have had a breath of fresh air. With world leaders in town for a summit meeting, China shut down factories, took many cars off the roads and declared a week-long vacation for many Beijing residents. If only the skies were always this blue, some residents thought. But of course no quick fix will solve the problem. China promised for the first time that its emissions will continue to climb until peaking around the year 2030.

[U.S.-China climate pact puts pressure on India](#) (The Salt Lake Tribune, 11/14/2014) This week's China-U.S. climate agreement between the world's top two polluting countries puts pressure on India, No. 3 on the list, to become more energy efficient and should encourage investment in renewable energy. But the pact is also a relief for India because it acknowledges the long-held view among developing economies that industrialized nations have been emitting heat-trapping gases for many more decades and so should shoulder more of the burden for tackling climate change.

[New Study Holds Good News For China Environment & Economy](#) (Clean Technica, 11/19/2014) Following in the wake of the monumental US-China climate announcement from last week, a new report claims that China could lower its carbon dioxide output and minimise pollution without harming its economic growth. One of the greatest sticking points for Chinese carbon reduction is the simple fact that the only way it can continue to grow at its current pace is to rely on fossil fuel energy generation.

[US and China's emission cuts may not be enough](#) (New Scientist, 11/19/2014) IT HAS been a remarkable fortnight for climate change announcements. First came coordinated Chinese and US promises to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Then the US and Japan pledged a total of \$4.5 billion to an international fund to help poorer countries deal with global warming.

[China's New 'Great Seawall' is Harming Ecosystems](#) (Natural World News, 11/20/2014) For the greater part of the last two decades, China has been rapidly developing a series of conjoined seawalls along nearly half the entire length of its mainland's coastline. And

while this has been a major boon for desperate land developers, it has proven disastrous for local and even migrating wildlife.

## **RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

[670,000 People Died in China During 2012 Because of Pollution Caused by Coal Burning](#) (VICE News, 11/09/2014) Six hundred and seventy thousand people died in 2012 because of air pollution generated by coal burning in China, according to a new study released by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC). "The study focuses on quantifying the impacts of China's overuse of coal," NRDC's Jake Schmidt told VICE News.

[Wake Up, Check Pollution Say China's Xi](#) (Industry Week, 11/10/2014) Chinese President Xi Jinping has been checking Beijing's pollution first thing every morning, he told world leaders Monday, after authorities pulled out all the stops to avoid the city's notorious smog during a summit. The Chinese capital is periodically hit by choking, acrid haze with particulate levels soaring far beyond recommended limits. Public anger is mounting over the issue, tourists are staying away and the government is increasingly embarrassed.

[Program Helps Reduce Energy Bills, Protect the Environment in China](#) (the World Bank, 11/12/2014) Xu Zhenhua started his career as a founding member of Wuxi's first thermo power plant in 1982. Thirty years later, he led the work to close it. "We had mixed feelings to see it shut down. Many colleagues and I spent our best years in the plant. But we knew the plant is a polluter and its closure was for the benefit of the whole city and the environment," said Xu, general manager of Wuxi Xielian Thermos Heating Co.

[China's Future City](#) (MIT Technology Review, 11/18/2014) Strolling along sidewalks shaded by plane trees, one might take Tianjin Eco-City for just another of the many residential areas sprouting up all over China. But on closer inspection, this place is different. The roadside trash cans are covered with solar photovoltaic panels so they can light up at night; free electric buses connect different districts; the drainage wells for storm water are all embedded in the curbs.

[R&S Celebrates 20 Years' Environmental-Education in China](#) (Women of China, 11/18/2014) To celebrate the achievements made in the environmental-education of Chinese youth, the Roots & Shoots (R&S) China Summit 2014 was held in Beijing on November 16, with a special appearance by the founder of the R & S program Dr. Jane Goodall, as well as many officials from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and R & S volunteers and supporters also in attendance.

[China outlines plan to reach new climate goals](#) (The State, 11/19/2014) China on Wednesday set a target for coal use through 2020 with an eye on a commitment made with the US last week to curtail greenhouse gas emissions. The guidelines aim to ensure that coal burning reaches no higher than 4.2 billion tons per year by 2020. The figure for 2013 was 3.6 billion tons.

[At Factory Waste Ponds, Fumes Choke Fantasies](#) (Caixin Media, 11/19/2014) Deep in the Tengger Desert, near a community of cattle herders about 700 kilometers west of Beijing, pipes from a complex of coal processing and chemical factories once spewed slimy wastewater into six ponds. The "evaporation ponds" were designed to protect the desert's sensitive environment. . By exposing wastewater to dry air and sunlight on the pond's surface, water was supposed to dissipate into the sky, leaving behind salt and toxins for further processing.

## **CORPORATE SECTOR**

[Asia Cement China performs well in challenging environment](#) (World Cement, 11/10/2014) Asia Cement (China) Holdings Corporation reported consolidated revenue of RMB5957.5 million for the nine months ending 30 September and profit of RMB530.6 million. The Group attributed the improved performance to an increased sales volume, higher cement selling prices and decreased coal costs.

[Obama's Deal With China Is a Big Win for Solar, Nuclear, and Clean Coal](#) (Mother Jones, 11/12/2014) The plan announced Tuesday night for the United States and China to join forces in the fight against climate change is a big deal. It sets a new, more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target for the US (although the target will only bring emissions slightly below 1990 levels, which isn't as aggressive as climate scientists have advocated). It establishes a goal for China to get one-fifth of its power from low-carbon sources by 2030.

[China to cap coal use by 2020](#) (World Coal, 11/20/2014) China has said it will set a cap on coal consumption in 2020, following a statement from influential government think tank, which said China must cap its use of coal by 2020 to meet climate goals. The State Council, China's cabinet, released details of an energy strategy, which includes capping coal consumption at 4.2 billion t in 2020 and having coal be no more than 62% of the primary energy mix by that year.

## **GOVERNMENT**

[BREAKING: The US and China Just Announced a Huge Deal on Climate—and it's a Gamechanger](#) (Mother Jones, 11/11/2014) In a surprise announcement Tuesday night, the world's two biggest economies and greenhouse gas emitters, United States and China, said they will partner closely on a broad-ranging package of plans to fight climate change, including new targets to reduce carbon pollution, according to a statement from the White House.

[U.S., EU override Australia to put climate change on G20 agenda](#) (Reuters, 11/15/2014) The G20 communique will include a significant passage on climate change, EU officials said on Sunday, as the United States and other heavyweight nations override host Australia's attempts to keep the issue off the formal agenda. Much of the meeting of world leaders in Australia has been overshadowed by the crisis in Ukraine, with

Western leaders warning Russian President Vladimir Putin that he risked more economic sanctions if he failed to end Russian backing for separatist rebels.

[No new environmental goals for Canada, despite U.S.-China deal, Ottawa says](#) (Global News, 11/16/2014) Last week's China-U.S. climate agreement between the world's top two polluters puts pressure on Canada to do more, but the government won't commit to matching the Americans' new target. "We're committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions but, you know, with Paris in 2015 we're not going to presuppose any of the negotiations and agreements that come before that session," said Colin Carrie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment.

[US-China climate deal's ambition fails to impress India](#) (The Guardian, 11/18/2014) The United States and China sprang a surprise last week with their secretly-negotiated deal to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Although cheered as "historic milestone in the global fight against climate change," "the real deal," a "landmark," "ambitious," and "game-changer" by western media, the agreement received a less than enthusiastic response in India.

[Beijing Plans to Slow Energy Consumption Increase to 28PCT by 2020](#) (Macau Daily, 11/20/2014) China, a week after unveiling an accord aimed at limiting carbon emissions, plans to cap the increasing rate at which it consumes energy to 28 percent for the seven-year period to 2020. The nation is targeting energy use equivalent to an annual 4.8 billion metric tons of standard coal by 2020, according to a statement issued by the State Council yesterday.