

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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OPINION

[Coal Use Expected To Rise In Next Few Years](#) (Firedoglake, 01/13/2015) The world's demand for coal will grow to 9 billion tonnes by 2019, according to a report released last month from the International Energy Agency. In spite of all efforts to reduce its consumption, oversupply and low prices are still attractive to many countries, especially in Asia, to fulfill demands for electricity. The report highlighted the role of China in continuing to be the major factor in importing more coal.

[China: Trends In Chinese Regulation For Manufacturers To Watch In 2015](#) (Mondaq News Alerts, 01/14/2015) In China, there are an overwhelming number of measures to govern almost all aspects of the process of manufacturing a product, bringing that product to market, and maintaining that product's integrity and competitiveness in the marketplace. However, the application of these laws varies significantly across agencies, subject matters and internal jurisdictions.

[Clearing the Air: Is Natural Gas a Game Changer for Coal in China?](#) (New Security Beat, 01/15/2014) On the heels of a landmark U.S.-China climate agreement, 2015 will be a critical year for China's environmental and energy policy. A revised and much stricter Environmental Protection Law went into force on January 1; new amendments to the Air Pollution Law are likely to be put in place; and the National Development and Reform Commission will draft a new five-year plan.

[How much pollution can China take?](#) (Market Watch, 01/15/2015) How much pollution an ecosystem can handle is a question that must be answered in an environmental policy setting, but it has gone unanswered in China, despite apparent ambitions to fix the problem. In early August, Chongqing Liangjiang Voluntary Service Center, a non-governmental organization, asked 31 local governments across China for information about regional environmental "carrying capacities." Over the following month, Liangjiang received replies from most governments, but none answered its question.

RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[China capitalizes on Beijing 2022 to speed up environmental improvement](#) (Shanghai Daily, 01/12/2015) China is aiming to speed up its environmental protection and

improvement, especially to solve the smog trouble in and around Beijing, by taking the advantage of Beijing 2022 efforts. According to the 2022 Winter Olympics candidature file released on Monday, the concept and measures of sustainability will be implemented in all aspects of Beijing 2022.

[Experts Urge Gov't to Consider Environmental 'Carrying Capacity'](#) (Caixin Media, 01/14/2015) How much pollution an ecosystem can handle is a question that must be answered in environmental policy setting, but it has gone unanswered in China, despite apparent ambitions to fix the problem. In early August, Chongqing Liangjiang Voluntary Service Center, a non-governmental organization, asked 31 local governments across China for information about regional environmental carrying capacities.

[Report: Tibet's glaciers at their warmest](#) (Xinhua, 01/05/2015) Recent decades have likely been the warmest and wettest on record in the Tibetan Plateau, known as the 'Third Pole' for its ice fields. A report on the region's ecosystem published today shows climate change has been coming fast at the glaciers. The Tibetan Plateau and surrounding mountains represent one of the largest ice masses on earth. But the glaciers are retreating rapidly, according to a report published by the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

[China's NGOs able to enact legal measures on environmental violation](#) (CCTV, 01/15/2015) China's newly revised Environmental Protection Law came into effect on January the 1st. The revision gives NGOs in China the legal status required to take legal action against polluters. Already it has helped to launch the very first suit.

[Environment key in shaping immune system: study](#) (China Post, 01/17/2015) How a person's immune system does its job seems to depend more on environment and the germs he or she encounters than on genes, says new research that put twins to the test to find out. After all, the immune system adapts throughout life to fight disease, said Stanford University immunologist Mark Davis, who led the work.

CORPORATE SECTOR

[China's rare earths quotas go, possible new moves stoke supply doubts](#) (Reuters, 01/07/2015) China's move to scrap export quotas on rare earths, crucial in most modern technology, may not mean an end to the uncertainty over supplies because the top producer can still find ways to control shipments and influence prices, industry players said. China, which supplies about 90 percent of the world's rare earths needs, imposed export restrictions and raised tariffs in 2010 as it sought higher prices to help cover the huge environmental costs of production and tried to encourage the growth of domestic industries that use rare earths.

[Here's How China's Tougher Environmental Policies Are Transforming Australia's Iron Ore Market](#) (Business Insider, 01/07/2015) The prices of higher quality iron ore are holding strong coming into 2015. It's a trend which is causing a little confusion in the

market given the spot price of the lower grade product, known in the market as fines, fell throughout 2014 as a result of oversupply and tapering Chinese demand.

[Environmental certification for Yokohama tyre plant in China](#) (Tyrepress, 01/13/2015) Late last year, the Yokohama Rubber tyre factory in Hangzhou, China was certified by city authorities as a 'Hangzhou City Environmental Education Base'. The company views this certification as significant as, out of the some 300,000 companies operating in Hangzhou City, only 30 have been granted this certification – and the Hangzhou Yokohama Tire Co., Ltd facility is only one of four certified manufacturing operations.

[China commissions Greenspan's buoys](#) (Coffs Coast Advocate, 01/14/2015) THE SUCCESS of a 2012 project which saw Greenspan Technology develop eight buoys to put into Singapore waters for water quality monitoring has seen the commissioning of a similar project for China. Greenspan's Project Neptune buoys have the ability to forecast in advance where crude oil or nutrient spills would be in six, 12 or 24 hours. The China project uses the same design and technology.

[Fines Total \\$26 Million for Polluters in China](#) (New York Times, 12/31/2014) A court in eastern China has ordered six companies to pay fines totaling about \$26 million for discharging waste acid into two waterways, according to the court's microblog account. The fine, 160 million renminbi, is the biggest of any Chinese environmental pollution case and seems to signal that officials are trying to crack down on companies that have steadily degraded much of China's land, water and air.

[China encourages NGOs to sue polluters](#) (Channel News Asia, 01/15/2015) Environmental activists have said China's recent move to grant public interest groups more power to sue polluters looks good on paper. But they are sceptical whether it is a significant step forward in China's battle against pollution. China is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, and many firms regularly cut corners due to systemic corruption and weak enforcement of environmental laws.

GOVERNMENT

[China Says It Will Make It Easier For Environmental Groups To Sue Polluters](#) (ThinkProgress, 01/08/2015) China's highest court announced Wednesday that it will reduce the cost of litigation for environmental groups seeking to sue companies or individuals that pollute the country's air, land, and water. In a post on its website, the Supreme People's Court said it would give "special status" and reduce court fees for "social organizations involved in public interest litigation" involving the environment.

[China to announce new support for new energy cars](#) (Xinhua, 01/14/2015) China will create a favorable environment to foster quicker growth in the new-energy vehicle sector through fiscal policy, the Ministry of Finance said on Tuesday. Existing policies have already created a fertile environment for the sector to expand, said Zeng Xiao'an, director of the ministry's economic construction department.

[China met 2014 pollution control targets: ministry](#) (Reuters, 01/15/2015) China has met its 2014 targets for air and water pollution control, the official news agency Xinhua said on Thursday. The environmental protection minister, Zhou Shengxian, told an annual government meeting that authorities last year banned 7 million high-emission vehicles from the road, shut down 50,000 coal-fired furnaces, installed denitrification and desulfurisation equipment in power plants and factories, and added new sewage treatment plants, Xinhua said.

[Beijing city raises subsidies for scrapping polluting vehicles](#) (Global Post, 01/06/2015) Beijing car owners with emissions-heavy models can now earn more money from scrapping their vehicles after the city raised its subsidy for doing so by an average of 2,000 yuan (321.8 U.S. dollars), environmental protection authorities said Tuesday.

[Ships, cargo trucks 'next' as city builds on air pollution successes](#) (Shanghai Daily, 01/08/2015) REDUCING pollution caused by heavy trucks and ships will be a priority for Shanghai this year, an environment official said yesterday. Although the city has far fewer vehicles than Beijing, the amount of pollution they create is much higher, said Luo Hailin, an official with the Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau.