

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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By Hongfu Pan and Jonathan Gong

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## OPINION

[Global emissions stall in 2014 following slowdown in China's economy](#) (Guardian, 03/13/2015) A slowdown in China's economic growth helped the world to a pause in the upward rise in greenhouse gas emissions last year, according to data released on Friday. China burnt less coal last year than expected, as the projected rise in its energy demand faltered along with the rise in its economic growth, and as the expansion of its renewable energy generation continued.

[Revamped environmental law raises hope for cleanup in China](#) (U-T San Diego, 03/13/2015) People in China who want to take industries to task for fouling their surroundings have been rushing to file complaints and lawsuits this year in a test of legal reforms that toughen environmental penalties and make clear that many public-interest groups have the right to sue.

[The Big Haze: China's Great Leap Backwards](#) (Earth Island Journal, 03/13/2015) Viewed more than 200 million times online since its late February release, a hard hitting anti-pollution documentary went viral in the Peoples Republic — until China's so-called "Great Firewall" removed the compelling Internet sensation from Chinese websites. The self-financed Under the Dome is created and presented by Beijing-based investigative reporter, TV/radio host, and author Chai Jing.

[China's environmental awakening: TV documentary is new green hope](#) (Deutsche Welle, 03/12/2015) China is well known for its inexorable economic growth. A new documentary has sent a wake up call to the country's environmental consciousness. Will China finally start fighting its devastating pollution?

[The Fog of Protest: The Promotion and Censoring of "Under the Dome"](#) (Energy Collective, 03/11/2015) Less than a week after People's Daily Online, the flagship newspaper of the Communist Party of China, released the air pollution documentary, Under the Dome, the government took steps to curtail the buzz. A leaked document from the Central Propaganda Department instructed media outlets to, "absolutely discontinue coverage of the documentary."

[Pollution is changing the way China does politics](#) (Vox, 03/10/2015) Ever since 1989, when troops massacred hundreds of protesters around Beijing's Tiananmen Square, China's ruling Communist Party has built its legitimacy on a bargain with the people that is unspoken but universally understood: the Party promises economic growth, and citizens don't make a fuss about the absence of democracy and the freedoms that go with it.

## RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[China sees surge in court cases against polluters](#) (The Australian, 03/13/2015) Chinese courts heard almost nine times as many cases against polluters in 2014 than the year before, evidence of the government's campaign to clean up China's environment after years of lax enforcement. An annual report by the Supreme People's Court, released Thursday, said courts concluded 16,000 cases related to environmental violations in 2014.

[China Carbon Emissions Decline as 2014 Global CO2 Stays Flat](#) (Bloomberg, 03/13/2015) China's emissions of carbon dioxide fell last year for the first time in more than a decade, helping stall global production of climate-warming gases. The finding, along with new data from the International Energy Agency, is a sign that efforts to control pollution are gaining traction.

[China closes factories to reduce water and soil pollution](#) (CCTV, 03/13/2015) Strengthening environmental regulation is a priority, as Chinese lawmakers and advisers meet. Last April a government report stated nearly one fifth of arable land was polluted. A severe warning for China's plans for industrialization and commercialization. CCTV's Han Bin filed this report from Central China's Hunan Province.

[Introducing China's New Environment Chief: Chen Jining](#) (International Environmental Technology, 03/10/2015) Just one year on from China's famed declaration of war on pollution, the country has unveiled their new weapon. Chen Jining is a 51 year old environmental scientist, the President of the prestigious Tsinghua University and most recently is China's Minister of Environmental Protection. And it's fair to say that his appointment has raised some eyebrows.

[China has no truck with ivory smuggling](#) (Guardian, 03/06/2015) The report on your website (David Attenborough calls on Chinese president to end ivory trade, theguardian.com, 20 February) of the open letter by animal conservationists and MPs accused China of its ivory trade policy and attributed elephant poaching to "China's demand". Such allegations are misleading and contrary to the facts.

## CORPORATE SECTOR

[US and Chinese companies dominate list of most-polluting coal plants](#) (Guardian, 03/13/2015) The 100 global power companies most at risk from growing pressure to shut highly polluting coal plants have been revealed in a new report from Oxford

University. Chinese companies dominate the top of the ranking but US companies, including Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, occupy 10 of the top 25 places.

[China Focus: Political sessions add chance of foreign investors](#) (Xinhua, 03/08/2015)

The annual sessions of China's national legislature and top political consultative body have signaled business opportunities for foreign investors. Struggling with slowing economic expansion, mounting environmental pressure and rising labor costs at home, China is seeking new growth engines by opening its doors more widely.

[Chinese city shuts factories as environmental law bites](#) (Reuters, 03/06/2015) An industrial city in eastern China has closed several factories, including many steel and nickel pig iron producers, in an apparent sign the government is stepping up enforcement of a new environmental law in the face of growing public discontent over pollution.

[China's environment is caught in a steel trap](#) (Business Spectator, 03/05/2015)

Thousands of delegates have arrived in Beijing to take part in the annual parliamentary sessions. Beijing residents have been treated with rare blue skies again as the authorities clamp down on polluters before major events. One of the hottest topics for discussion is China's pollution problem. An anti-smog documentary film named "Under the Dome", has been viewed more than 100 million times since last Friday night has galvanised public opinion.

## **GOVERNMENT**

[Environmental conservation under China's 'new normal'](#) (CCTV, 03/13/2015) As the PRC acclimates to a prolonged slowdown in the economy after 30 years of rapid industrialization, the Chinese government plans to implement a more sustainable mode of economic development on a national scale. China has demonstrated its commitment to promoting quality production by lowering its GDP growth target to 7 percent for 2015.

[China Focus: Timetable revealed for environment tax](#) (Global Post, 03/12/2015)

Chinese authorities have a timetable for implementing a system of taxing polluters, a senior law researcher has revealed. The long-awaited tax, which will replace the current administrative penalties that are widely seen as ineffective, will be ushered in after the law behind it is finalized.

[China needs CO2 cap to meet climate pledges: legislator](#) (Reuters, 03/12/2015) China needs to impose a nationwide carbon cap if it is to fulfill a pledge made last year to bring emissions to a peak by around 2030, a legislator said in a proposal submitted to parliament this week. Wang Yi, a member of the China Academy of Sciences and adviser to China's climate negotiation team, said the country should include an absolute CO2 cap of around 10 billion tonnes for 2020 in its five-year plan covering the 2016-2020 period.

[China Headlines: Xi's eco-protection footprint](#) (Xinhua, 03/10/2015) Ecological protection has been a major focus for the ongoing "two sessions" -- China's most important annual political event. President Xi Jinping asked Chinese people to protect the environment as if they were "caring for one's own eyes and life", while reviewing the work report of the State Council together with national lawmakers from eastern Jiangxi Province.

[China Plans to Enact Its First Laws to Curb Soil Pollution](#) (Bloomberg, 03/04/2015) China plans to enact its first legislation to curb soil pollution as policy makers ready new laws amid ballooning interest in environmentalism. The nation will also amend laws to curb air and water pollution, Fu Ying, National People's Congress spokeswoman, said at a briefing on the National People's Congress meetings that start tomorrow.