

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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## OPINION

[After "Under the Dome": Can China solve its air pollution crisis?](#) (CityMetric, 03/25/2015)

When it comes to air pollution, the government of China is currently standing on an ever-eroding precipice. On one side is a growing citizens movement, that is demanding clearer skies and a healthier environment; on the other are deeply instilled industrial, economic, and political patterns that cannot be rapidly revamped.

[Will China's new infrastructure bank help or hurt the environment?](#) (MiamiHerald, 03/25/2015) China scored a geopolitical twofer this month with its Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. First, it stunned the White House by successfully persuading Great Britain and other U.S. allies in Europe to join the bank, which will boost China's power to shape infrastructure across Asia. Then it forced the Obama administration to backtrack on its criticisms of the bank, lest it appear to look hypocritical.

[A Potentially Powerful New Weapon in China's War on Pollution](#) (Wall Street Journal, 03/27/2015) Days before the opening of this year's annual meeting of the National People's Congress, a dramatic documentary about the profusion of life-threatening environmental pollution in China went viral online. By the time the documentary, "Under the Dome," was pulled from video sites a week later, it had been viewed over 100 million times.

[Calling time on coal in China](#) (Interfax Global Energy, 03/27/2015) If in a hundred years from now smog no longer shrouds Chinese cities, 22nd-century historians may look back at this past month as the turning point in China's relationship with the environment. It began with a 104-minute documentary titled after a Stephen King novel. Under the Dome – a frank, sombre account of China's air pollution crisis by former state television news reporter Chai Jing – stirred a national debate over the ecological damage wrought by decades of relentless economic growth.

[Steps needed to eliminate smog](#) (China Daily, 03/28/2015) China's efforts to combat pollution and smog will last for more than a decade as coal and other fossil energy sources will continue to power the world's second-largest economy, experts said on Friday. Adopting more clean energy sources to at least partially replace the fossil-dominated energy structure of the country over the next decades will be the key to

eliminate the smog choking large parts of the country, said Qin Dahe, an academic with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and former director of the Chinese National Meteorological Administration.

## **RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

[Did China's most popular environmental film just vanish into the haze?](#) (CNN, 03/08/2015) When it came to the environment in China, it was hazy through much of the weekend -- literally and figuratively. As a thick layer of toxic air blanketed Beijing and much of northern China on Friday, censors smothered a wildly popular but controversial documentary on the country's air pollution, removing it from all major video streaming sites.

[Top Beijing Scientist: China Faces 'Huge Impact' From Climate Change](#) (NPR, 03/22/2015) China's top weather scientist has made a rare official acknowledgement: climate change, he says, could have a "huge impact" on the country's crop yields and infrastructure. Zheng Guogang, the head of China's meteorological administration, tells Xinhua news agency that China is already experiencing temperature increases that outpace those in other parts of the world.

[China Focus: Chinese court accepts first lawsuit from environmental organization](#) (Global Times, 03/25/2015) A commonwealth organization has demanded an industrial polluter in Shandong province receive hefty penalties when filing the country's first environmental lawsuit under a new law that came into effect on January 1. On Wednesday, the Intermediate People's Court in Dezhou City, east China's Shandong Province, confirmed it accepted the lawsuit lodged by the All-China Environment Federation. In it, the federation demands 30 million yuan (\$4.8 million) compensation for damages from air pollution discharged by the Zhenhua Co. Ltd., an affiliated branch of Dezhou Jinghua Group.

[Top court calls for more judicial efforts on environmental protection](#) (China Daily, 03/28/2015) China has made some progress in environmental judicial protection due to a series of measures, including tougher punishment on pollution violators and a lowered threshold for green NGOs, the top court said on Saturday. Also, the top court will strengthen the exchanges on judicial practices regarding environmental protection and improve cooperation with other membercountries in BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - to help these judicial bodies more efficiently handle pollution cases.

## **CORPORATE SECTOR**

[China Adds Its Latest Environment-Focused Billionaire](#) (Forbes, 03/24/2015) Wang Piaoyang, chairman of Beijing Water Business Doctor, has joined the ranks of the world's billionaires following gains in the share price of his Shenzhen-listed wastewater management company. Wang owns 29% of Beijing Water, a stake worth 6.9 billion yuan, or \$1.1 billion, at yesterday's closing price of 97.87 yuan. The shares have gained

more than 150% in past year amid a broader rally that has made China's stock market the world's best performer.

[Water-Treatment Specialist SIIC to Acquire China's Fudan](#) (Bloomberg, 03/25/2015) SIIC Environment Holdings Ltd., a Shanghai government-backed water-treatment company, is acquiring a majority stake in China's Fudan Water Engineering & Technology Co. for 1.07 billion yuan (\$172 million). SIIC as part of the deal to buy Global Envirotech Investment Ltd., a holding company that owns 92 percent of Fudan Water, also agreed to pay off 479.2 million yuan in debt, Singapore-based SIIC said Tuesday in a stock exchange filing. Fudan operates about 10 water-treatment projects in China including in Shanghai, Jiangsu and Guangdong.

[China's Coal Cap Policy Will Increase Country's Clean Energy Jobs](#) (eNews Park Forest, 03/26/2015) March 26, 2015 – China's national policies to control coal consumption can lead to greater and better employment opportunities in China's power sector and related industries, according to a new study released today by the China Coal Cap Project, a joint initiative of academic, governmental and non-profit researchers. The study analyzes the overall employment benefits of establishing a national coal cap policy starting in China's 13th Five Year Plan, which begins next year.

[ChemChina plants fined over emissions violations: Xinhua](#) (Reuters, 03/27/2015) Two small refineries under state-run China National Chemical Corporation (ChemChina) have been fined by the environmental watchdog for emissions violations and ordered to halt production, state media reported on Friday. China put a new environment law into effect at the start of 2015, and can now impose unlimited fines and even prison sentences on officials who fail to conform with new standards.

[Embracing green construction on a local level](#) (China Daily, 03/28/2015) Green construction has been widely recognized in China as an important step toward energy efficiency amid efforts to fight pollution, but the concept does not always translate to the Chinese market. The concept of "green construction" was first introduced to China in 2000 as an efficient way to reserve resources, protect the environment and cut pollution.

## **GOVERNMENT**

[China Cuts Its Energy Efficiency Goal](#) (Radio Free Asia, 03/23/2015) After claiming big gains in energy savings last year, China has sharply lowered its conservation target for 2015, signaling greater concern about economic growth. As smog smothers its major cities, China has been struggling to control its "energy intensity," the amount of energy consumed to produce each unit of gross domestic product (GDP).

[China's environment watchdog to exit from evaluation services](#) (Xinhua, 03/25/2015) The Ministry of Environmental Protection has called for its affiliated organizations to cease commercial environmental evaluation services by the end of 2016. Eight organizations directly under the ministry are required to break away from providing such

services for construction projects by the end of the year, according to a statement from the ministry on Wednesday.

[Environment tax law on fast track](#) (Xinhua, 03/26/2015) The State Council, China's cabinet, said on Wednesday that it would review the draft environment tax law "as quickly as possible". The State Council adopted a plan for its legislative work in 2015 at an executive meeting presided over by Premier Li Keqiang. Economic management, social and cultural development, environmental protection and government reform will be prioritized, according to a statement issued after the meeting.

[China bans commercial logging in NE forests](#) (China.org, 03/27/2015) The State Forestry Administration (SFA) said commercial logging would be banned in state forests in Inner Mongolia and Jilin to assist in the recovery of China's wood resources. Before this, Heilongjiang, another heavily forested area in northeast China, banned commercial logging in state forests on April 1, 2014, the SFA said.