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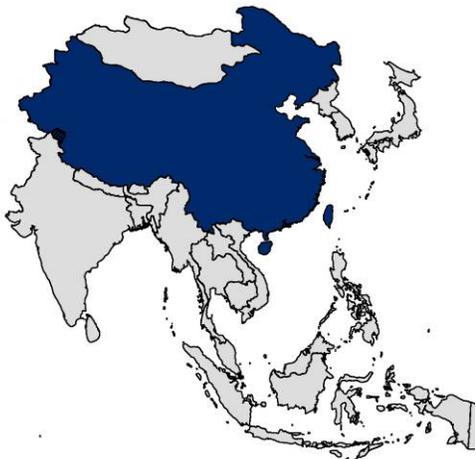
U.S.-China Partnership for Climate Action

AUGUST 2011



Photo: ISC

Smog obscures Shanghai high-rises beyond a stretch of residential housing blocks. Pervasive smog affects large areas of China as a result of expanding reliance on coal-fired power plants to generate electricity for industrial and residential use. China is the world's largest energy consumer, with most of its energy coming from coal.



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THE CHALLENGE

U.S.-China cooperation on energy and the environment is a high priority for both countries. The two countries have significant experience, technologies, and services that can advance international efforts to address energy and environmental challenges and promote low carbon development. In 2009, China surpassed the United States as the world's largest consumer of energy, and it now accounts for 22% of global energy consumption, as compared to 19% for the United States. As its industries and cities continue to grow, China's energy demand is projected to continue to increase. In response, China has adopted ambitious targets to strengthen environmental and energy performance in industry, power generation, and urban centers, as well as new carbon reduction goals.

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

The goal of the U.S.-Partnership for Climate Action (PCA) is to promote sustained reductions in energy use and improve environmental management through public-private partnerships among industries, electric utilities, and cities, bringing together the experience and talent of leading U.S. and Chinese practitioners. Partners include nongovernmental, research, and government institutions with experience in energy conservation, greenhouse gas (GHG) management, and environmental innovation as well as major multinational corporations and foundations with strong interests in promoting environmental protection, healthier and safer working conditions, energy conservation, and clean technologies. Such partnerships bring an expanding pool of talent, expertise and resources to bear on China's myriad environmental challenges.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) programs in China support cooperation between both countries and focus on activities of mutual interest, including energy and the environment. USAID programs also coordinate with other U.S. agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

APPROACH

The PCA is implemented through three integrated components that reflect China's largest and fastest-growing energy-consumers: industry, electric power utilities, and cities and communities. Activities are concentrated in two of China's most industrialized and urbanized provinces, Guangdong and Jiangsu.

CONTINUES >



Photo: ISC

Chinese children hold up their written pledges to help reduce GHG emissions.

“We need to harness the unique skills of both our cities, our states, our universities, our private companies, our civil societies to find solutions to common problems. This is especially true when it comes to clean energy, energy security, environmental stability and climate change.”

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the May 2011 U.S.-China Eco Partnerships signing ceremony

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- **Industry: Environmental, Energy, and Carbon Management.** The PCA is improving the capacity of Chinese industries to reduce their energy and carbon footprint and improve worker health and safety. The program has introduced new standards and techniques through a comprehensive environmental and energy-focused curriculum in Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Academies in Guangzhou and Jiangsu. These Academies were jointly established with Sun Yat-Sen and Nanjing Universities and are the first Academies of their kind in China. To date they have expanded the pool of qualified EHS managers significantly, having trained more than 3,000 industry managers in energy efficiency, EHS practices, and GHG management. In connection with these efforts, the PCA team has joined with key Chinese industries to develop new GHG protocols and introduce customized GHG accounting software for industry.
- **Power Sector: Overcoming Barriers to Energy Efficiency.** Introducing new efficiencies is the most cost effective way to reduce energy consumption. Accordingly, PCA works to eliminate policy and market barriers to energy efficiency in China’s power and industrial sectors, targeting energy production and consumption. Activities include holding workshops featuring leading U.S. officials and experts on demand side management policies for power sector regulators, and a pilot project that encourages Chinese industries to invest in energy efficiency measures.
- **Low Carbon Cities: Cooperation on Best Practices.** The PCA’s Climate Leadership Academy (CLA) brings together Chinese city officials to share best practices on low carbon development. CLA supports U.S.-China peer learning workshops and is working with Chinese cities that are piloting low carbon city development. The program works to integrate climate action strategies into city master plans, and promotes municipal energy efficiency, city-level GHG measurement, and community-based initiatives. PCA partners share best practices and case studies to identify and replicate program successes, helping maximize program resources.

PARTNERS

Implementing partners. Institute for Sustainable Communities, World Resources Institute, Berkeley National Laboratory, Regulatory Assistance Project.

Cooperating partners. GE Foundation, Alcoa Foundation, Pfizer, Wal-Mart Foundation, SC Johnson, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Sun Yat-sen University, Nanjing University, Tsinghua University, Renmin University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Virginia Tech, China Electricity Council, Energy Research Institute, Development and Reform Commissions of Guangdong and Jiangsu Provinces, Guangdong Energy Conservation Center, Guangzhou Academy of Energy Testing and Inspection, Guangdong Economic and Information Commission, Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau, China National Institute of Standardization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Defense Council, Shining Stone, Shanghai Energy Efficiency Center, China CDM Fund Management Center.