



FACT SHEET






2017-2021

From 2017-2021, China has made notable progress on environmental and development policy, both in terms of general policy direction and the implementation of specific laws and regulations. The examples cited below cannot solely be attributable to the efforts of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). Nevertheless, the China Council's long history of clear and specific policy recommendations closely mirrors the evolving framework of substantive new environmental initiatives launched by the Government of China during Phase VI (2017-2021).

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|----------|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Climate Change | 2 | Nature Protection | 3 | Crosscutting Issues |
|----------|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|

Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality

Major climate outcomes in China during Phase VI

 <p>China now boasts the world's largest ETS</p>	 <p>Sets goal of carbon neutrality by 2060</p>	 <p>MEE restructure signals importance of climate</p>	 <p>More than 25% of electricity is from renewables</p>	 <p>China takes leadership role on nature-based solutions</p>
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Carbon trading initiative

2008

For more than a decade, CCICED has provided research on market-based carbon pricing and recommendations on carbon trading design, coverage, monitoring, and enforcement.

As early as 2008, CCICED recommendations included establishment of ETS pilot projects in seven provinces.

2021

In 2021, China's National Carbon Trading Scheme officially comes online. MEE's press release included the opinions of CCICED's International Chief Advisor.

The scheme is the world's largest carbon market, with an initial coverage of

2,225
power sector
producers



International climate governance

2019

In 2019, CCICED recommends China aim to peak carbon emissions in key industries during the 14th Five Year Plan.

2020

In 2020, CCICED recommends China adjust its national emissions target based on actual conditions and set total emissions target for 2030.

At the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2020, Xi Jinping announced China's goal of peak carbon by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060. In December 2020, China committed to 25% non-fossil fuel energy production by 2030.

Work on decarbonization pathways accelerated across key economic sectors—leveraging green technology innovation and focusing on opportunities like green, low-carbon urban clusters



Domestic climate governance

2017/18

In 2017 and 2018, CCICED recommended an upgrade of China's contribution to global climate governance through enhanced action on domestic climate change mitigation.

2018

In 2018, China restructured the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (MEP) into the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), bringing climate change under the auspices of the national environmental body.

Since 2015, China has notably increased its alignment of domestic climate mitigation with global governance



Energy efficiency

2011

CCICED energy efficiency recommendations (e.g., through its 2011 publication “China’s Low Carbon Industrialization Strategy”) included the need to promote multiple alternative high quality energy sources to replace coal.

2016-18

From 2016 to 2018, China saw an increase in the use of clean and efficient energy for basic power consumption needs.

2019

In 2019, renewable energy accounted for 27.9% of total electricity generation.



China now leads the world in the promotion of

new-energy vehicles

Nature-based climate solutions

2011

Adding to earlier recommendations for carbon sequestration initiatives, CCICED’s 2011 policy recommendations include establishing ecological enterprises to act as carbon sinks.

CCICED recommended financing and other safeguards to avoid deforestation and protect ecosystems that could be affected by the Belt and Road Initiative.

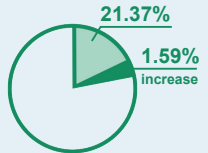
2019

At the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit, China co-led (along with New Zealand) the Nature Based Solutions Coalition, which launched the widely supported “NBS for Climate Manifesto.”

China issued the “Policy Proposition on Nature-Based Climate Solutions” at the Summit, proposing that a new “Group of Friends for NBS” be formed.

2021

In January 2021, the MEE issued a policy prioritising nature-based solutions to climate change, and synergies between climate, nature, and pollution control.



Afforestation

projects in China saw the national forest coverage rate grow from 21.37% to 22.96% between 2010 and 2018

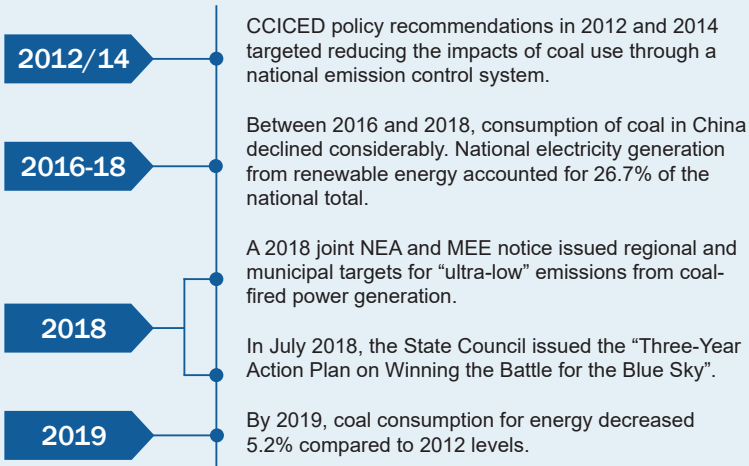
China is now one of the largest contributors to increases in global green space.

Nature Protection

Major nature outcomes in China during Phase VI



Pollution control



Over the Phase VI period, many traditional coal-fired power generation units were converted into

ultra-low emissions facilities



China says it now has the most efficient clean coal-fired power generation system in the world.

Ocean management and planning

2017

China is the world's largest fishing nation and in 2019 its proportion of transport ships surpassed Japan to rank second behind Greece.

In 2017, CCICED recommended creating a national strategy to allow for "green development of its Blue Economy."

2018

In 2018, the State Oceanic Administration issued its National Marine Ecological Environment Protection Plan (2017-2020).

In 2018, CCICED recommended that China work with partner countries to take action on plastic pollution.

China hosted meetings with policymakers, experts, NGOs and industry representatives on plastic pollution in marine environments. Beijing also signed joint statements with Canada and France to encourage action on the issue.

All 11 of China's coastal provinces have established "Red Lines" (see section on ecological conservation) to protect

30%
of coastal waters

37%
of the coastline

Water resources and river basin management

2014

In 2014, CCICED recommended the establishment of a water resource tax.

2015

In 2015, CCICED recommended creating an environmental risk prevention system.

2016

In 2016, China launched resource tax pilot projects resulting in a notable drop in water consumption in target areas.

2019

In 2019, the Resource Tax Law was adopted and the State Council was authorized to impose a trial water resource tax.

2021

In 2021, China implemented the Yangtze River Protection Law, which prohibits vessels from carrying highly toxic and other dangerous chemicals in the Yangtze River Basin, and a 10-year fishing moratorium.

The Yangtze River Protection Law

prohibits vessels from carrying highly toxic and other dangerous chemicals in the Yangtze River Basin



Green value chain



The new

Green Value Chain Institute

was launched to further examine ways to ensure both legality and avoid deforestation in supply chains

2016

In 2016, CCICED recommended taking steps to avoid global deforestation in its Special Policy Study Report on China's Role in Greening Global Value Chains.

2018

In 2018, CCICED recommended integrating "deforestation-free" language into its Green Public Procurement program.

2019

In December 2019, the country's Forest Law was revised, banning the "purchase, process or transport" of illegal logs (including imports).

2020

In 2020, a new Green Value Chain Institute was launched.

Ecological conservation and protected areas

China initiates a national system for protected areas and wilderness areas.

CCICED's work highlights the value in advancing ecological protection within the wider vision of an Ecological Civilization.

CCICED recommends expanding protected areas to include medium- and longer-term timelines for biodiversity and green development projects.

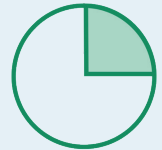
In 2014, CCICED supports advancement of the National Ecological Conservation Red Line (ECRL) system (launched in 2011).

In 2014, State Council recommendations include the implementation of the ECRL.

By 2019, more than 11,800 protected areas were established at all levels.

2014

2019



The ECRL will protect more than

2.4 million

square kilometres—around one quarter of mainland China

China has more than 11,800 protected areas, covering over a quarter of the mainland.

Crosscutting Issues

Major crosscutting outcomes in China during Phase VI



Green financing

CCICED's annual policy recommendations have consistently called for progress on green finance based on policy research. Examples include: establishing a National Green Development Fund; promoting green credit, green bonds and green insurance; and establishing cross-departmental green finance coordination mechanisms.

In 2012, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) introduced green credit guidelines for banks.

In 2014, CCICED set up a Green Finance Task Force.

CCICED's green financing recommendations were adopted by the central government and also incorporated into the 2015 G20 Summit agenda.

In 2018, CCICED's Policy Recommendations highlighted opportunities for green project financing through a "Greening the BRI" fund.

In 2020, CCICED recommendations included adopting world-class standards and safeguards for BRI projects, increasing green bilateral and regional green Overseas Development Assistance, and other steps aimed at shifting investments away from carbon-intensive sectors in geographic areas of importance to biodiversity and local and indigenous communities.

CCICED has played a leading role in the introduction, encouragement, and demonstration of **green finance** in China



China now boasts a massive green finance market, with **RMB12 trillion** in green credit available and about **RMB800 billion** in green bonds issued

2012

2014

2015

2018

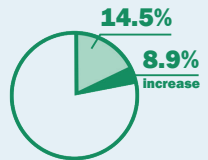
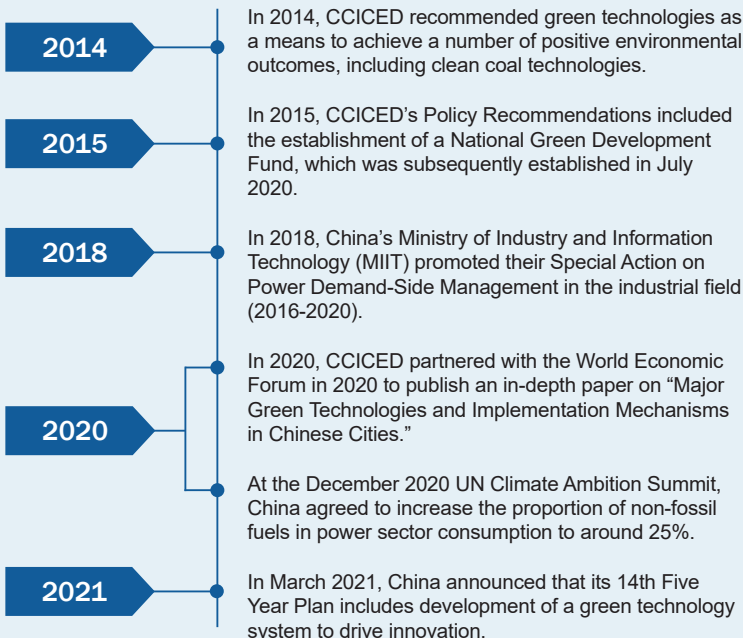
2020

Green Belt and Road Initiative



The BRIGC aims to integrate sustainable development into the BRI and contribute to SDGs related to environment and development

Green technology



Estimates indicate that between 2012 and 2019, **clean energy consumption** increased by 8.9 percentage points to account for 23.4% of the total energy sector

Green urbanization and consumption

2018

The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposes to shift traditional thinking, fully integrate green standards into green urban planning and bring forward innovative solutions in combination with local realities.

2018-19

In December 2018, the General Office of the State Council issued the *Plan for Pilot Development of Solid Waste-Free Cities*. At the end of April 2019, MEE published a list of pilot solid waste-free programs. In May 2019, MEE issued the *Guidelines for Compilation of Implementation Plan of Solid Waste-free Cities Pilot Programs* and the *Indicators for Solid Waste-Free Cities (tentative)*.

2019

NDRC promulgated the *Key Tasks of New Urbanization 2019*, which sets forth working requirements in 2019. It also puts forward that new urbanization should take into full consideration of the actual bearing capacity of resources and the environment, stress coordinated development, make full use of intelligent IT means, conduct lean management and coordinate with the control of air pollution and other environmental problems.

The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations stated that green consumption is one of the key measures for ecological civilization, and should be included as a key task for the national-level 14th FYP.

The 2020 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed that green consumption sectors should be prioritized. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to increase the supply of green products and green services, including clothing, green food, green housing, transportation, and tourism.

2020

On March 2020, NDRC and MOJ released *Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment of a System of Regulations and Policies for Green Production and Consumption*, which stipulates multiple tasks such as promoting green design, enhancing clean industrial production, developing recycling industrial economy, strengthening control of industrial pollution, advancing the development of clean energies, facilitating the green development of agricultural and service industries, boosting consumption of green products and advocating green lifestyles.



In 2021, the Standing Committee of National People's Congress adopted the

Anti-Food Waste Law



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