

# Pathways For a Green and Just Transition in Traditional Energy Regions



## Focus

- We explored the strategic positioning of the Coal Triangle Region across climate, energy security, ecological, and economic priorities, alongside pathways for transforming coal-based industries and cultivating green successor sectors.
- We assessed how transition strategies could be adapted to different provinces and city types. We also examined how to sharply cut emissions in energy-intensive industrial parks, using zero-carbon parks and zero-carbon trade demonstration zones as pilot models.
- We analyzed how greater coordination between China's regions can help balance energy security, emissions cuts, and socio-economic growth.

## Findings

- ✓ Balancing climate, ecological, energy security, and economic priorities makes accelerating the coal transition urgent. China's 15th Five-Year Plan provides a vital window before the country's carbon peaking for avoiding high-carbon lock-in.
- ✓ The region urgently needs a national mechanism to share transition costs and benefits between the country's regions and ease transition pressures.
- ✓ Dependence on coal industries and jobs varies widely by city, requiring phased, tailored strategies.
- ✓ Major industrial parks generate over 90% of regional emissions. Developing zero-carbon parks and trade zones will drive deep decarbonization and foster emerging green industries.

## Recommendations

- 1 **ESTABLISH** a National Green and Just Energy Transition Demonstration Zone with clear targets across national, provincial, and city levels and cross-regional cost-sharing mechanisms.
- 2 **ACCELERATE** the low-carbon transition in the coal power and coal-chemical sectors by capping emissions, stopping new coal power, phasing out inefficient units, and expanding green power exports.
- 3 **PILOT** city just transition models and strengthen social safety nets using carbon market funds for site cleanup, worker reskilling, and social protection.
- 4 **INNOVATE** green value creation through expanding zero-carbon parks, green hydrogen production, and trade for low-carbon products.
- 5 **DEEPEN** China–EU energy transition dialogue and cooperation through a dedicated working group focused on policy exchange, city twinning, joint research, and green investment.