

Climate Change Mitigation:

Perspectives on Effective Deployment in China

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The Big Picture

- China and the United States are the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases – together responsible for over one-third of the world's net total.
- Successful, long-term, global climate mitigation hinges in significant part on what our two countries do.
- Climate change cooperation is a high priority and a bright spot in the U.S.-China bilateral relationship.

November 2014 Joint Announcement



- Historic joint announcement by President Obama and President Xi of our respective post-2020 climate targets:
 - U.S.: reduce GHGs 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025
 - China: peak CO2 emissions around 2030 and make best efforts to peak earlier; increase non-fossil energy share to around 20% by 2030
- Announcement injected immediate momentum into the global climate negotiations and solidified climate as a pillar in the bilateral relationship.

September 2015

Joint Presidential Statement



- Joint Statement includes substantial domestic policy commitments demonstrating that both countries are acting decisively to achieve our targets.
 - United States: Clean Power Plan; HDV efficiency standards; methane emission standards; HFC action; appliance and equipment efficiency standards
 - China: green power dispatch; national ETS in 2017; green buildings and public transport targets; HDV efficiency standards; HFC action
- Also highlights major progress on climate finance and lays out a common vision for the Paris

China's major climate targets and actions

- Peak CO2 emissions around 2030 and make best efforts to peak early
- Increase non-fossil energy share to 15% by 2020 and 20% by 2030
- Reduce carbon intensity of the economy 40-45% from 2005 levels by 2020 and 60-65% by 2030
- Increase wind/solar/nuclear capacity to 200 GW/100 GW/58 GW by 2020 (2014 numbers: 96 GW/28 GW/20 GW)
- Massive investments in renewable energy – China is #1 in the world
- National ETS launching in 2017, incorporating lessons learned from seven existing carbon trading pilots
- Power sector reform and “green power dispatch”
- Significant subnational action, including Alliance for Peaking Pioneer Cities
- Contributing factors:
 - Economic restructuring away from heavy industry and towards services
 - Air pollution control efforts

Bilateral Cooperation

- President Obama and President Xi have repeatedly reaffirmed the importance and priority of bilateral cooperation to support the achievement of ambitious domestic actions and the long-term transition to low carbon economies.
- U.S.-China cooperation on climate change, clean energy, and environment is robust and comprehensive – over 50 relevant outcomes at the 2015 Strategic & Economic Dialogue (S&ED).

Multiple mechanisms for cooperation

- U.S.-China Climate Change Working Group (CCWG)
- U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center (CERC)
- U.S.-China Ten Year Framework for Energy and Environment Cooperation (TYF), including EcoPartnerships program
- U.S.-China Energy Efficiency Action Plan (including Energy Efficiency Forum)
- U.S-China Energy Policy Dialogue
- U.S.-China Renewable Energy Partnership
- Trade missions and reverse trade missions
- EPA-MEP air quality and climate work
- USTDA projects
- Fossil Energy Protocol
- Oil and Gas Industry Forum
- Joint peer review of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies under the G-20
- Joint projects in multilateral fora such as the Clean Energy Ministerial and APEC

U.S.-China Climate Change Working Group

- Launched by Secretary Kerry in April 2013
- Designed to reinvigorate and refocus our climate cooperation
- Three broad areas:
 1. Sectoral, project-based initiatives
 2. Implementation of President Obama and President Xi's June 2013 agreement to work together to phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons, a potent greenhouse gas.
 3. "Enhanced Policy Dialogue" to share information regarding respective post-2020 plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions and "Domestic Policy Dialogue" to exchange domestic policy experience

CCWG Sectoral Initiatives

- Goal is to achieve concrete outcomes
- Working-level, agency-to-agency dialogues, exchanges, experience transfer, pilot projects, etc.
- Current initiatives:
 1. Heavy-Duty and Other Vehicles
 2. Smart Grids
 3. Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage
 4. Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Industry
 5. GHG Data Management
 6. Climate Change and Forests
 7. Climate-Smart / Low-Carbon Cities
 8. Industrial Boilers Efficiency and Fuel Switching
 9. Green Ports and Vessels (under development)
 10. Zero Emission Vehicles (under development)

Strength of bilateral cooperation

- Comprehensive web of collaboration covers all sectors, all gases, short-term and long-term.
- Core, project-based cooperation achieves real technological / regulatory progress.
- Strong foundation of working constructively together creates trust and enables stronger post-2020 dialogue – including on the road to Paris.

Road to Paris



- UNFCCC global climate conference (“COP21”) occurring November 30-December 11, 2015
- We are working to achieve an ambitious agreement, applicable to all countries, to take effect beginning in 2020.
- >170 countries representing >90% of emissions have already submitted “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions,” including the U.S. and China.
- Lots of work left to do, but strong momentum for success, in part because of leadership of U.S. and China.



11/12/14: “As the world’s two largest economies, energy consumers and emitters of greenhouse gases, we [the U.S. and China] have a special responsibility to lead the global effort against climate change...

This is a major milestone in the U.S.-China relationship, and it shows what’s possible when we work together on an urgent global challenge.”