China has embarked on several key national policies and programs on energy and climate change. Urban CO2 emissions are 58% of national total energy-related CO2 emissions. Chinese cities have an especially large role to play during rapid urbanization, to quickly choose low-carbon urban design and infrastructure that will have long-lasting effects on the country’s GHG emissions. For more information, please refer to the report: “The Role of Chinese Cities in Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction.”

China’s Climate Change Goals in 2015

- China announced its international climate pledge (Intended National Determined Contributions, or INDCs) in June 2015. China’s national pledge is to peak CO2 emissions around 2030, make efforts to peak sooner, to increase non-fossil energy to 20 percent of its energy mix by 2030, and to reduce the carbon intensity of its economy (CO2 emissions per unit of GDP) by 60 to 65 percent from 2005 to 2030.

6 Ways for Chinese Cities to Achieve Low-carbon Development

- **Industry:** Improve industrial energy efficiency and promote higher-quality construction and better product design to reduce urban industrial demand.
- **Buildings:** Implement stringent building codes, and promote low energy, passive design and green buildings.
- **Transport:** Improve urban design to reduce private transport demand and maximize efficiency and electrification of vehicles.
- **Power:** Develop distributed renewable energy power generation in cities and urban areas, and develop a more distributed power grid.
- **Freight:** Optimize freight transport and reduce vehicle transport logistics, by improving the delivery efficiency of urban delivery vehicles.
- **Appliances:** Promote procurement and adoption of clean, super-efficient appliances and equipment.

In 2010, China’s National Development Reform Commission (NDRC) initiated eight low-carbon pilot cities and five low-carbon pilot provinces. In 2012, NDRC added 28 cities and one province to the low-carbon pilot program. China’s low-carbon pilot cities have prepared climate action plans, conducted energy and GHG inventories, and developed local standards and incentives that go beyond national requirements. By the end of October 2014, the carbon trading pilots in Beijing, Chongqing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangdong Province and Hubei Province had traded 13.75 MtCO2 with a total transaction volume of over 500 million Yuan. These pilots’ accumulated experience and lessons will be designed into a national carbon trading system that will be implemented during the 12th Five Year Plan period.

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