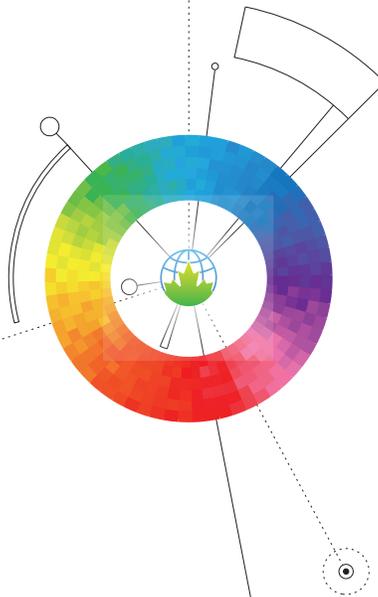


2017
CANADIAN
CLEAN TECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY REPORT



GUEST EDITORIAL:
**THE CHINESE
EMBASSY**



China's Active Response to the Challenges of the Low-Carbon Era

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The Paris Agreement, which officially went into effect on November 4, 2016, has opened a new chapter in the global response to climate change, and it has brought new opportunities for countries to promote sustainable, low-carbon development.

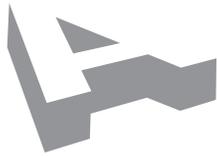
Sustainable development is a concept rich in connotations, and it can be achieved by various methods. Each country should choose the optimal path based on its condition. As the world's most populous country and one of its largest economies, China is under extreme pressure to enact environmental protection. In this respect, the Chinese government has adopted the construction of an ecological civilization as a national strategy, and it sees low-carbon development as an important measure in transforming the mode of economic development. During the Twelfth Five-Year Plan, which lasted from 2011 to 2015, China invested \$468 billion in key economic areas to develop a green and low-carbon economy. For instance, carbon intensity decreased cumulatively by 20 percent, non-fossil energy's share in total primary energy consumption increased to 12 percent, and forest reserves increased to over 15 billion cubic metres—all of which exceeded planning objectives. In June 2016, the second United Nations Conference on Environment issued the report *Green is Gold: The Strategy and Actions of China's Ecological Civilization*, which introduced China's efforts to the international community. Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, commented that China's attempt to develop an ecological civilization represents a concrete example of the sustainable development concept, and can provide guidance for other countries hoping to address similar economic, environmental, and social challenges.



For the future, China proposes that carbon dioxide emissions will peak around the year 2030, and the country is multiplying its efforts to reach this level as soon as possible. We also aim to lower carbon intensity by 60 to 65 percent as compared to 2005. In order to accomplish these objectives on schedule, the Chinese government will carry out a series of measures, such as adopting a double control system on total energy consumption and intensity, implementing the Near Zero Emission Zone, establishing a national carbon-trading market, and significantly increasing forest carbon sink.

On the international stage, China is an active participant in the fight against climate change. We maintain the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and we effectively promote the negotiation process. China also actively supports developing countries in their attempts to cope with climate change by promising \$3.1 billion to establish the China South-South Climate Fund. The Chinese government has invested a total of \$580 million to provide physical aid and equipment for small island states, as well as countries throughout the developing world.

The successful implementation of the Paris Agreement requires collaboration between all countries around the world. China and Canada each have their own advantages when dealing with climate change. China's low-carbon industry has a market of CNY30 trillion for future development, which will create job opportunities for 69 million people. Canada has advanced technologies and an array of elite talent. Collaboration between the two countries as we move into the low-carbon era is therefore mutually beneficial. China is willing to work with Canada to address the issue of global climate change and to make a greater contribution to the well-being of future generations.



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