

China, a leader of renewable energy expansion worldwide and a key country for global energy transitions

The IEA works with Chinese stakeholders to shape energy policy, support implementation and improve data transparency

- **IEA recommendations have informed China's 14th and 15th Five-Year Plans for renewable energy, including the introduction of the country's first-ever target for total renewable electricity generation**
- **IEA analysis directly informed China's 2025 Heat Pump Action Plan and national policy for spot markets**
- **New IEA data and an interactive dashboard tracks China's official energy finance in emerging and developing economies**

Key facts

China's **power system,** the largest in the world, accounts for

17% of **global energy** sector CO_2 emissions

over 40% of **China's energy-related** CO_2 emissions

2 of every 3 tons of coal used globally is burnt to produce electricity in China

In 2025, China accounted for **over 60%** of all new **renewable power capacity** worldwide

In 2026-2030, China will deliver

almost 50% of all new **offshore wind** projects globally

60% of **onshore wind**

over 50% **solar PV** projects

Sources: IEA (2026), World Energy Balances; IEA (2026), Renewables 2026

Power markets and renewable energy policy

Working closely with China's National Energy Administration (NEA), the IEA has helped shape China's renewable energy policy, with recommendations reflected in the country's 14th and 15th Five-Year Plans – including a first-ever target for total renewable electricity generation. Ahead of each plan's release, the IEA draws on its expertise to advise NEA decision makers across renewable electricity, heat, transport and power-market reform, generating practical tools such as the market-based toolkit for integrating rising volumes of wind and solar. This gives IEA members rare visibility into how the world's largest power system is managing this transition.

China's role in global energy finance

China is one of the world's largest financiers of energy projects in emerging and developing economies, committing more than USD 55 billion annually over the past decade. A new IEA report and interactive dashboard sheds light on where that capital is flowing and its role in clean energy transitions, providing IEA members and partners with a stronger evidence base for decision-making.

Energy data and statistics

Reliable and transparent data on China's energy system is a strategic asset for governments and investors wanting to understand global energy trends. Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2026, the IEA is working with China's National Bureau of Statistics to strengthen the country's energy accounting and its alignment with international standards – helping the wider world track the progress of one of the most important players in the energy transition.

Heat pumps for clean, efficient heating

Heating is one of the largest sources of global energy demand and heat pumps can meet it several times more efficiently than fossil-fuel boilers, cutting energy costs and emissions. The country's Heat Pump Action Plan, released in April 2025 to accelerate efficient heating in industry, was directly informed by recommendations from the IEA's *The Future of Heat Pumps in China*. Building on this, the IEA published the *Heat Pump Taxonomy* in May 2026, drawing on China's experience as the world's largest heat pump market to set a global standard for tracking and comparing markets.

Energy efficiency in buildings and industry

The IEA works with China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD) and other partners to raise energy efficiency across buildings and industry. The IEA's 2026 report *Energy Efficiency in China's Buildings Sector*, developed with MOHURD, identifies opportunities to cut energy use, including by retrofitting existing buildings. In industry, the IEA is working with policymakers to develop practical guidance and scale up efficiency retrofits, including through energy service companies.

Supporting China's climate ambition

The IEA's *Energy Sector Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality* in China set out a pathway to the country's 2060 carbon neutrality goal and helped inform national energy transition roadmaps elsewhere. At the Chinese government's invitation, the IEA also advised on China's emissions trading system – the world's largest – including how auctioning could strengthen its effectiveness. This work continues to inform China's efforts to peak emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Opportunities for engagement

- **Support for China's 15th Five-Year Plan**
  Spanning renewables, industry and power sector transformation, IEA analysis contributes to critical planning and investment decisions for achieving China's long-term energy and climate goals.
- **Providing advice on power market regulation**
  The IEA will publish a new report on ways to support the integration of renewable energy into China's power system and how to use its electricity system more effectively, including using electricity network tariff structures.
- **Tracking finance for energy innovation**
  The IEA will assess the role of venture capital in financing energy technologies and identify opportunities to scale up investment.
- **Tackling inefficient appliance imports**
  A new analysis will focus on appliance efficiency requirements and trade flows, helping governments understand their exposure and identify potential policy responses.
- **Advancing more efficient industrial parks**
  The IEA will share best practices on industrial clustering, spatial planning, grid integration and energy efficiency to inform policy and planning in China, India and Latin America.

This work is supported by the **Clean Energy Transitions Programme,** the IEA's flagship programme for taking action to achieve a clean energy transformation worldwide.

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