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# Guangdong Environmental Partnership Program

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Photo: Matthew A. deGroot

An assembly line at a ceramic factory in Guangdong Province. ISC and its partners are developing an Environment, Health and Safety Academy that will train factory managers to comply with EHS standards.

## ABOUT THE GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

In 2007 the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) launched the Guangdong Environmental Partnership (GEP) program, a public-private partnership to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve public health, and increase environmental accountability in Guangdong Province, China's "factory to the world." Taking advantage of the best of US and Chinese resources and expertise, the program brings cleaner and more sustainable environmental practices to one of China's most industrial provinces.

With USAID funding through a Congressional earmark, ISC is working at three levels—in business, government, and communities—to spark a wave of change in environmental and energy-efficiency practices in industries and communities across the province. The program focuses on practical projects that reap immediate returns, building momentum and building people's conviction that they can make change happen. The program is cultivating a network of organizations, businesses, universities, schools and agencies dedicated to transforming Guangdong into a model of efficiency and sustainable development.

## APPROACH

The GEP is designed to achieve short-term GHG emission reductions and improved governance in Guangdong while building the long-term ability to tackle tough environmental problems. At the regional and local levels in China, addressing climate change has not been seen as critical or urgent. The GEP works with key groups to achieve real, scalable, and sustained reductions in emissions. For communities, this means focusing on improving environmental factors that affect people's health and on the cost savings resulting from energy efficiency. For local companies, it is cost efficiency and increased competitiveness. For provincial and local governments, it is meeting national environmental and energy efficiency targets and improving regulatory oversight. For multinational corporations, it is reducing risk by improving environmental compliance among their supply chain manufacturers.

Working closely with Chinese and US stakeholders, the GEP has identified environmental solutions from which a small investment can bring a large return. Public and private partners can engage in practical activities that provide measurable impacts, sustainability, and opportunities for duplication.

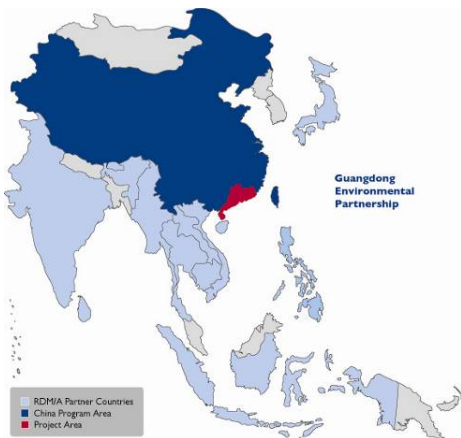




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One of many factories in Guangdong Province, China.

The program encourages Guangdong government, businesses, and communities to pursue more environmentally sound policies and practices by: examining regulations and laws at the city, regional and provincial levels; working with factories and small and medium businesses, the province's biggest contributors to GHG emissions and public health and safety concerns; and building demand for and expertise in solving pressing environmental problems.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The GEP engages communities, NGOs, businesses, and government at all levels in activities that build skills, awareness, and motivation to work together toward a greener economy through three program components:

**Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Academy.** The program will create a Chinese-owned and operated EHS Academy in partnership with Chinese institutions and major multinational corporations including General Electric, Wal-Mart, Honeywell, and others. The Academy will improve the ability of factories, suppliers, and small and medium businesses to reduce harmful emissions and comply with new environment and energy laws. The program will integrate energy efficiency, emissions reduction, communications, and leadership skills into the more traditional environment, health, and safety curriculum.

**Environmental Governance.** Working with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the GEP will strengthen the ability of the regional South China Environmental Protection Supervision Center and regional and local environmental protection bureaus to implement new regulations, provide public information, and engage community members.

**Mobilizing Communities.** By working with city employees, businesses, schools, NGOs, and community leaders in three pilot communities, the program will demonstrate the links between energy efficiency and more immediate concerns such as cost of living and health, as well as the broader issues of GHG emissions and climate change, and inspire community-wide efforts to exceed energy efficiency targets. These efforts aim to stimulate informed public demand for environmental accountability and transparency among governments and private businesses.

## PARTNERS

**Implementing partners.** Institute of Sustainable Communities, G.E. Foundation, G.E., Citi Foundation, Wal-Mart, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Honeywell, SABIC Innovative Plastics, Adidas, Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

**Cooperating partners.** Business for Social Responsibility, General Electric, the Global Environmental Institute, the Guangdong Economic and Trade Commission, Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau, LEAF (Japan), Lingnan College, Sun Yat-sen University, Ministry of Environmental Protection, National Development and Reform Commission, Natural Resources Defense Council, Shelburne Farms, Shining Stone, South China Normal University, Doumen Township, Guanlan Township, Sanjiao Township, US EPA, and Vermont Law School.

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