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US-China Partnership for Climate Action

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USAID's Partnership for Climate Action aims to contribute technical assistance in China that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address associated environmental challenges in key industries, cities, and communities.

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR CLIMATE ACTION

China and the US are the world's top two greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters and account for approximately 40% of worldwide GHG emissions, and joint efforts and engagement by both countries are essential to address climate change. To further such cooperation, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) in 2009 launched the US-China Partnership for Climate Action (PCA) to tackle both nations' goals for reducing GHG emissions. The PCA program will leverage resources and best practices from both countries to achieve significant, meaningful, and lasting GHG reductions.

Together with the World Resources Institute (WRI), with USAID funding through a Congressional earmark, and with several private donors, ISC is focusing this public-private initiative on two of China's most industrialized provinces, Guangdong and Jiangsu.

APPROACH

Building on ISC's existing Guangdong Environmental Partnership program, the PCA will expand the use of GHG measurement standards and tools, remove policy and financial barriers to scaling up energy efficiency initiatives, and build the capacity of Chinese industries and urban cities to achieve significant and lasting reductions in GHG emissions.

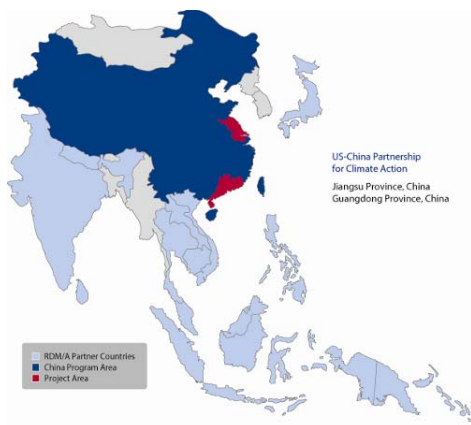
The program targets the largest current sources of GHG emissions in China, the industrial and electric power sectors, and the fastest growing source of new emissions, urban cities.

By targeting three sectors simultaneously, the PCA aims to remove systemic barriers to more effective approaches to energy efficiency and climate action. By exchanging best practices and providing implementers with the tools they need to effect real change, ISC's work will yield successful models that can be replicated across China and the United States.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Each component of the three-year US-China Partnership for Climate Action focuses on a different sector — industry, electrical power, and cities:

Industry — Measuring and Reducing Carbon. The first component aims to improve the capacity of energy-intensive industries to significantly reduce their energy and carbon footprints. The program will build industry capacity to use these new standards and tools through a comprehensive energy and climate curriculum designed by ISC's Environment, Health, and



CONTINUES >



Institute for Sustainable Communities

Towers, power lines, and apartment complexes border wetlands in Guangdong Province, China. The US-China Partnership for Climate Action aims to both reduce energy demand and green energy supply.

Safety (EHS) Academy in Guangzhou. ISC will also establish a second EHS academy in Jiangsu Province. The academies provide affordable, state-of-the-art training to help manufacturing enterprises save energy, reduce harmful emissions, and improve worker health and safety while expanding the pool of qualified EHS managers.

Power Sector — Overcoming Barriers. The second component helps identify and remove key barriers to increasing energy efficiency in the power sector, and helps stimulate and scale up public sector financing mechanisms for clean energy initiatives.

Working with partners, the program is targeting both supply-side and demand-side policy barriers and public finance mechanisms. The PCA will also expand models for major energy efficiency initiatives and build capacity in the industrial, residential, and commercial sectors to identify and secure energy efficiency and renewable energy financing. ISC will distribute best practices, document case studies and train practitioners, building on and coordinating with the other program components.

Cities — Peer Learning for Municipal Leaders. The third component involves working with Chinese cities to deepen and scale up successful clean energy models through peer-to-peer networking with US counterparts. This component integrates lessons learned in Chinese cities and builds on ISC's Climate Leadership Academy (CLA) model, which equips municipal leaders in the US with the skills and practical expertise to implement large-scale energy efficiency programs. CLAs provide knowledge, resources, and skills to tackle cities' toughest challenges in the fight against global warming.

Drawing on WRI's experience, the program will also go deeper in select cities to explore: ways of integrating climate action strategies into cities' master plans; how to establish effective municipal energy efficiency financing mechanisms; and how to measure GHG emissions at the city level. In all these activities, the program builds awareness of the local and global impacts of climate change and demonstrates how joint US-China initiatives can produce large-scale results in climate mitigation.

PARTNERS

Implementing partners. ISC and WRI, BP, GE Foundation, SC Johnson, and the Wal-Mart Foundation

Cooperating partners. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Regulatory Assistance Project, Virginia Tech ICCN, Tsinghua University, Renmin University, Tianjin Climate Exchange, China Electricity Council, China CDM Fund Management Center, Energy Research Institute, Guangdong Economic and Trade Commission, Energy Research Association of Jiangsu Province, and China National Institute of Standardization

Contact: Orestes Anastasia

US Agency for International Development
Regional Development Mission for Asia
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor
63 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Patumwan
Bangkok 10330, Thailand
Office: +66 2-257-3239
Fax: +66 2-257-3262
E-mail: oanastasia@usaid.gov
Web: <http://asia.usaid.gov>