



Low Emissions Cities Alliance 城市减排合作项目

BACKGROUND

As the world's largest CO₂ emitter, China's role in reducing global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is critical. **China's emissions have a direct relationship to the environmental health of the region and beyond, with air pollution reaching as far as the Western United States.** Significant emissions reductions in China will benefit the entire world.

The Chinese government has taken major strides to promote low emissions development. One of its major initiatives is to “peak” CO₂ emissions by 2030 – China's annual emissions will shift from increasing each year to decreasing each year. To advance this important initiative, the Chinese government is now promoting “early peaking” by setting policies that encourage Chinese cities and provinces to peak emissions before the national 2030 deadline. This will also accelerate much needed improvements to China's air quality.

This ambitious “early peaking” goal can only be met through leadership and interventions at the city and community level, where national policies are implemented. Chinese cities know the important role they must play to meet national commitments, but **they need new skills, knowledge and approaches to make it happen.**

SUPPORTING LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT

The Low Emissions Cities Alliance program is a \$10 million partnership funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Energy Foundation China (EFC), and implemented by the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC). Working with stakeholders in the public and private sectors, this three-year program will help 12 selected partner cities to significantly accelerate their emissions reductions.

The program will accelerate emissions reductions more broadly throughout China by creating a network of Chinese trainers and supporting the expansion of national-level policies and regulations that draw upon best practices. Capacity building and policy support will be customized to participating cities' priorities.

ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Climate action planning, including GHG inventories and emissions forecasting;
- Green building and low carbon solutions for the built environment;
- Renewable energy utilization and low emissions technology;
- Green transportation;
- Sustainable land use; and
- Green finance, including green bonds and public-private partnerships.



CITY EXCHANGES

The Low Emissions Cities Alliance will include city exchanges between China and the United States. These exchanges will provide cities from both countries with opportunities to share strategies and approaches to similar challenges. In addition, the program will provide market opportunities for U.S. businesses, particularly in the energy and technology sectors. As the program team works with Chinese cities to implement their early peaking strategies, mutual benefits will result from engagement with U.S. companies that offer relevant technologies and services addressing urban priorities.

IMPACT AND RESULTS

The program provides local Chinese leaders from the targeted urban areas with customized technical assistance to support their ability to meet emissions reduction and low-carbon development targets, and helps the participating urban areas to implement their plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and engage in low-carbon development.

PARTNERS

About USAID

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. USAID carries out U.S. foreign policy by promoting broad-scale human progress at the same time it expands stable, free societies, creates markets and trade partners for the United States, and fosters good will abroad. Learn more at www.usaid.gov

About ISC

Since 1991, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) has worked in the United States and around the world to help communities, cities, industry, and NGOs accomplish their environmental, economic, and social goals. ISC uses training, technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning, and demonstration projects to help unleash the power of local people and institutions to address immediate challenges and opportunities – all while building those on-the-ground solutions into national and international best practices and policy. At the heart of the organization's approach is results-focused, authentic and pragmatic engagement with all stakeholders, which unearths locally-driven and equitable solutions to the biggest challenge we face – global climate change. Learn more at www.sustain.org

About EFC

Energy Foundation China (EFC) is a grant-making private foundation that is part of the U.S.-based Energy Foundation and that is dedicated to China's sustainable energy development. Since 1999, EFC has worked to support China's transition to clean energy sources. It supports policy research, standards development, capacity building, and best practices dissemination in the program areas of Clean Power, Buildings, Environmental Management, Industry, Green Economic Growth Transition, Sustainable Cities, Transportation, and Communications. Learn more at www.efchina.org

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