

China Deep Decarbonization and Equitable Long-term Strategies Alliance (China-DELTA)

城市公平深度脱碳中长期战略规划研究项目

Building on ISC’s work in China since 2007, China DELTA is advancing the global agenda of achieving a low carbon future by focusing on China’s cities—starting with Changsha, Guangzhou, and Tianjin.

About China DELTA

The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) seeks to bring climate equity to the fore while advancing carbon neutrality in China. As part of a first phase pilot, ISC launched the China Deep Decarbonization and Equitable Long-term Strategies Alliance (China DELTA) in April 2021.

China DELTA is an 18-month project aimed at dramatically reducing climate emissions and mitigating the scope of global climate disruption by supporting China’s achievement of its 2060 Carbon Neutrality Pledge.



Tianjin
Population: 13.7 million
GDP: CNY 1.6trillion
GHG Emissions: 170 Mt

Changsha
Population: 10 million
GDP: CNY 1.3trillion
GHG Emissions: 63 Mt

Guangzhou
Population: 18.8 million
GDP: CNY 2.8trillion
GHG Emissions: 110 Mt

Cities Are the Key to Reaching China’s Carbon Neutrality Goal

China’s quest to achieve carbon neutrality must focus on where carbon emissions happen—in the cities. 61% of China’s population currently lives in cities.² This figure is projected to rise to 70% by 2035.³ With coal-intensive energy use, dense vehicular traffic, and heavy polluting industries, cities generate 85% of the country’s total CO₂ emissions.⁴

China’s cities, therefore, must lead the way in decarbonization by transforming its energy systems and related economic systems.

Background

China is boldly committing to reducing carbon emissions to slow global warming. At the UN General Assembly’s 76th session on September 21, 2021, President Xi Jinping pledged that “China will strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.”¹ See the complete statement [here](#).

As the world’s largest GHG emitter, China’s “moonshot” goal holds the potential to eliminate 25% of the world’s net carbon emissions and will serve as a model for the international community.

Project Approach

China DELTA is the first project of its kind to support Chinese cities in a wholesale rethinking of their societal and economic practices and create a roadmap to deliver on China’s 2060 carbon neutrality pledge.



ISC's Vision for China DELTA

Grow

from 3 to 30 cities

Build

further carbon neutral city alliances

Strengthen

ISC's Equitable Climate Strategy with the SIA Tool

ISC supports local leaders and practitioners in the three cities to develop concrete steps over the next 3-5 years to reduce GHG emissions and identify ways each city can contribute innovations to the national effort. ISC will guide cities in applying the SIA tool during the carbon neutrality planning process. The SIA tool will ensure that the results and procedures of the cities' 2060 carbon neutrality roadmaps will incorporate adequate social equity principles. At DELTA's completion, ISC will demonstrate, document, and disseminate a replicable model for climate action and carbon neutrality planning that can inform and mobilize other Chinese cities toward achieving China's moonshot goal.

What will the DELTA Program achieve?

OUTPUT

National Level

- ✔ Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Tool
- ✔ Guidebook for City Carbon Neutrality Roadmap (with application of the SIA Tool)

City Level

- ✔ Tianjin and Changsha: Equitable Carbon Neutrality Roadmap and Climate Action Plan
- ✔ Guangzhou: City Carbon Neutrality Benchmark Study

OUTCOME

- ✔ GHG reduction of 1 billion MTCO₂E before 2060
- ✔ Selected Chinese cities progress toward equitable carbon neutrality
- ✔ 12 Institutions with improved capacity to respond to China's 2060 carbon neutrality pledge

COMPONENT 1

Develop cross-sector 2060 Carbon Neutrality Roadmaps

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6 3-5 Year Climate Action Plans Completed

5 Participatory Workshops to Review Roadmaps

4 Complete 2060 Carbon Neutrality Roadmaps

3 Conduct ISC's Participatory Needs/Wants Assessment

2 Kick-off Workshops

1 Establish Carbon Neutrality Task Forces

COMPONENT 2

Disseminate Best Practices

- ✔ Case studies
- ✔ Presentation at COP 26
- ✔ Final learning event in China
- ✔ International webinar
- ✔ Final report

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Tool

- 1 Green Jobs
- 2 Public Service
- 3 Green Transportation
- 4 Healthy Environment
- 5 Energy Affordability
- 6 Good Governance



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. At the heart of ISC's approach is focusing on results and an authentic and pragmatic engagement with all stakeholders to unearth locally-driven and equitable solutions to the biggest challenge we face – global climate change.

Operating in China since 2007, ISC has cooperated with partners in the government, private sector, academia, and non-profit organizations to carry out capacity building and technical support for carbon peaking and carbon neutrality, sustainable urban development, and green supply chain. ISC China representative office is registered with the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau and supervised by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.



REFERENCES

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