

EIA and Climate Change Adaptation in China

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Current Efforts



Case Study:



How Climate Change has been incorporated in EIA



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Current Efforts

1. Laws on EIA

- “The Environmental Protection Law” (1989)
- “Regulations on the Administration of Construction Project Environmental Protection ”(1998)
- “Environmental Impact Assessment Law” (2003)
- “Regulations on Program Environmental Impact Assessment” (2009)

Now in China, EIA focuses on the methods and institutions for analyzing, predicting and appraising the impacts of programs and construction projects that might incur after they are carried out. In case the environmental impact appraisal document of a construction project fails to pass the examination, the construction entity may not start construction.

In 2010, administrative departments in charge of environmental protection at all levels of China has overall approved 390 thousand environmental impact appraisal documents with the amount of investment up to 25.8 trillion RMB.





Current Efforts

2. Departments in charge of the corresponding trade of the key construction projects are the main targets of EIA policy to actively respond to climate change

- Thermal power plants make big contribution to CO₂ emissions. In China, EIA policy restricts to newly build or extend thermal power plants excluding those are combined heat and power generation, or setting up the large while shutting down the small in key areas, and prohibits the construction of thermal power plants in urban area of prefecture-level cities except those are combined heat and power generation.
- Steels consume excessive quantities of energy and resources, and exert huge influence on the emission of greenhouse gases. In China, the government stipulates newly-built construction project is required to eliminate the equal amount of outdated productivity in its EIA implementation.





Cast Study

- The Ministry of Environmental Protection has conducted the strategy environmental impact assessment on the development of key industries in five areas covering 15 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities since 2009, and made an in-depth research into the carbon emission.
- To give an example. When analyze the efficiency of comprehensive use of resources and environment, we take carbon emission per unit of GDP as an index to predict the total amount of energy consumption and carbon emission under different scenarios, and thus propose the objectives to raise the entry barrier of resources and environment efficiency.





Main Challenges

- EIA system needs to be improved. China responds to climate change mainly through energy conservation in the past few years, and has already made the target to reduce energy consumption per unit of GDP by 16% in 2015. While in China, Development and Reform Commission is taking charge of energy conservation with full authority. Under the current system frame, therefore, the EIA management of Ministry of Environmental Protection put more emphasizes on the control of routine pollutants instead of greenhouse gases.
- Technical force needs to be enhanced. China has fell behind over the research and study of greenhouse gases, and still have a long way to go to learn advanced concepts such as how to deal with climate change from the aspect of SEA.



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Thank You !

