

National Action Plan of Air Pollution Control

Translation by Zhang Qiyue (Rachel.Zhangqy@gmail.com)

Particular Pollutant: respirable suspended particle (PM10), fine particulate matter (PM2.5)

General Background: Industrialization, Urbanization, Increasing Energy Consumption

General Requirement: guaranteeing public health; promoting ecological civilization construction; combining governmental control and market regulation, overall promotion and key area demonstration, cross-area cooperation and local management, and quantitative reduction and qualitative improvement; formulating control mechanism of government leadership, enterprise implementation, market promotion and public participation; conducting tailored and phased management; promoting industrial structure optimization; improving R&D capability; increasing quality of economic growth; achieving environmental, economic and social benefits.

Qualitative Target: with five years' efforts, national air quality should be improved generally, and heavy pollution weather should be substantially decreased; air quality in Jingjinji Area (Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei), Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta should be improved significantly. With five more years' efforts or longer, heavy pollution weather should be eliminated, with significant improvement of national air quality

Quantitative Target: by 2017, PM 10 concentration in cities above prefecture level should decrease by over 10% of 2012, with increasing number of good weather days; PM 2.5 concentration in Jingjinji Area, Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta should decrease by 25%, 20% and 15% respectively, and annual average concentration of PM 2.5 in Beijing should be controlled under 60 micrograms / cubic meter

1. Strengthening Comprehensive Control and Decreasing Pollutant Emissions

- (1) Strengthening comprehensive control over industrial enterprises: to remedy small coal-fired boilers, promoting construction of centralized heating, “coal to gas” and “coal to electricity” projects; to accelerate construction projects of desulfurization, denitrification and dust control; to promote pollution control of volatile organic compounds; construction and improvement of pollution control facilities for coal-fired power plants, coal-fired boilers and industrial furnace in Jingjinji Area, Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta should be finished by 2015.
- (2) Deepening non-point source pollution control: to conduct comprehensive control over urban dust; to carry out oil and smog pollution control on restaurants.
- (3) Strengthening mobile source pollution control: to strengthen urban transportation management; to improve fuel quality, to accelerate elimination of yellow-labeled and older vehicles; to improve environmental management of motor vehicles; to accelerate upgrading of low-speed vehicles; to promote new energy vehicles

2. Optimizing Industrial Structure and Promoting Industrial Restructuring and Upgrading

- (4) Conducting strict control over production capability increase in “two-intensive” industries (energy-intensive and pollution-intensive)
- (5) Accelerating elimination of backward production: to follow the guidance of “ Guiding catalog for elimination of backward technologies, devices and products in some industrial sectors (2010)” and “Guiding catalog for adjusting industrial structure (2011) (revised)”;
- to conduct comprehensive investigation over scattered small-scale industrial enterprises of backward devices and poor devices for environmental protection
- (6) Reducing excessive production capacity: to increase enforcing and punishing intensity concerning environmental protection and energy consumption; to formulate fiscal, land and financial policies to promote exit of “two-intensive” enterprises; incremental production project in production-excessive industries will not be approved.
- (7) Suspending illegal projects under construction in industries of extremely

excessive production capacity. Here, local government should strengthen organizational leadership and supervision to play its role.

3. Accelerating Technological Transformation in Enterprises, and Improving Innovation Capacity

- (8) Strengthening technological research and promotion: to strengthen support for science and compounds control, diesel (vehicle) emissions purification, environmental monitoring, new energy vehicles, smart grid, etc. and their promotion; to increase international communication and cooperation on advanced technologies and management experiences.
- (9) Promoting cleaner production comprehensively: to conduct cleaner production audits in key industries, including iron and steel, cement, chemical, petrochemical, non-ferrous metal smelting and so on; to promote product innovation of non-organic solvent-based paints and pesticides; to develop new varieties of slow-release fertilizers.
- (10) Promoting circular economy: to encourage development of industry clusters and conduct circular improvement over the clusters; to promote synergistic waste disposal of industrial furnaces and blast furnace among cement and iron and steel industries; to promote re-production of electromechanical products.
- (11) Fostering energy saving and environmental protection industries: to transfer political requirements to curb air pollution into market demands for the development of energy saving and environmental protection industries; to encourage foreign investment in these industries

4. Accelerating Energy Structure Adjustment, and Increasing Supply of Clean Energy

- (12) Controlling total amount of coal consumption: to formulate mid and long term targets for national coal consumption, and implement target-based and responsibility specific management; new construction projects in Jingjinji Area, Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta should be prohibited to construct affiliated coal-fired power plants
- (13) Accelerating replacement to clean energy: to increase supply of natural gas,

synthetic natural gas (SNG) and coal bed methane; to formulate SNG development plan, so as to promote the industrialization and scaling up of SNG, with the premise of meeting environmental requirements and water demands; to develop hydropower, geothermal power, wind power, solar power, biomass and nuclear power with the premise of guaranteeing safety issue; to accelerate replacement rate of natural gas facilities in Jingjinji Area, Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta.

(14) Promoting cleaner utilization of coal: to increase proportion of coal washing; to prohibit import of low quality coal of high-ash, high-sulfur content; to constrain import of sulfur petroleum coke; to expand banning area of pollution-intensive fuel combustion in urban area, and spread to rural area gradually

(15) Increasing efficiency of energy utilization: to strictly implement energy saving evaluation and audit system; to promote development of green building , by implementing green building standards first in public building and public housing invested by government; to promote heat metering reform; to accelerate construction and improvement of heat pipe network

5. Conducting Entrance Control for Energy Saving and Environmental Protection Concerns, and Optimizing Industrial Layout

(16) Adjusting industrial layout: to determine distribution, structure and scale of key industries in accordance with requirements of main functional area planning; to conduct EIA on all new, changing and expanding projects; to implement differentiated industrial policies in eastern, middle and western China, with higher energy saving and environmental protection requirements for Jingjinji Area, Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta to prevent transfer of backward production

(17) Strengthen energy saving and environmental protection indicator constraints: to intensify entrance control, and improve entrance standard; to implement total amount control over pollutant emissions; to prohibit supports from relevant bureaus, units and financial organizations to projects failing to pass energy assessment and EIA

(18) Optimizing spatial pattern: to formulate and implement urban planning, combining reduction of production-excessive industry, energy saving and corporate mergers

and acquisitions

6. Harnessing Market Mechanism, and Improving Environmental Economic Policies

(19) Making use of market mechanism: to adopt principles of “who pollutes, pays/ more emission, more responsibility/ benefits and supplements by saving energy and reducing emissions”; to formulate enterprise consumption quotas for water, electricity and other resource products according to industries and areas; to fully implement preferential taxation policy of “Energy Performance Contracting” and improve supporting policy for environmental services

(20) Improve Price and Tax Policies: to improve electricity price policy for denitrification; to promote pricing mechanism price of natural gas, to clarify the price relationship between natural gas and alternative energy; to determine oil price in accordance with principles of supplementing cost, good quality good price and polluter pays principles; to intensify collection efforts of sewage charges; to research on incorporating some products of “two-intensive” industries into scope of consumption tax

(21) Expand investing and financing channels: to deepen investing and financing mechanism reform for energy saving and environmental protection; to promote civil and social investment on air pollution control; local government should provide financial support of demonstrating and guiding effects; central government should set up special fund for air pollution control, to conduct “Award instead of Supplement” in key areas according to control effects

7. Improve Legislation System and Regulations, and Implementing Strict Supervision and Management According to Laws

(22) Improve laws, regulations and standards: to accelerate revision of air pollution control law; to accelerate formulate and revise of industrial emission standards, vehicle energy consumption standard, fuel quality standard and heat metering standard, and to improve policies of industrial pollution prevention technologies and cleaner production index system

(23) Improving environmental monitoring capacity: to improve environmental monitoring system of national government supervising, local government

monitoring and units taking charge; to construct unified national air quality monitoring system, consisting of city stations, background stations and regional stations

(24) Increasing enforcement efforts of environmental protection law: to promote innovation of enforcement mechanisms of joint enforcement, regional enforcement and cross enforcement; to close bad-performance enterprises with illegal emission and constant noncompliance

(25) Conduct environmental information disclosure: national government will issue best 10 and worst 10 cities of air quality monthly; Provincial government will issue air quality ranking covering cities above prefecture level; local media should issue monitoring information of air quality; EPU of all levels and enterprises should disclose EIA information of new construction projects, and other information of corporate environmental performance

8. Establishing Regional Cooperating Mechanism to Conduct Comprehensive Regional Environmental Management

(26) Establishing regional cooperating mechanism: to establish air pollution control cooperating mechanism in Jingjinji Area, Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta, involving relevant ministries of state council and corresponding provincial government

(27) Decomposing goals and tasks: State council will sign target and responsibility contracts of air pollution control with local government to decompose and designate targets and tasks to local governments and enterprises; air pollution indicator will be incorporated into constraint index system to evaluate economic and social development; state council will formulate assessment methods to conduct evaluation of complement situation in each province at the beginning of every year

(28) Strict accountability

9. Establish Monitoring and Emergency Response System, to Deal With Heavy Pollution Weather Properly

(29) Establishing monitoring and emergency system: MEP and other EPUs should

cooperate with meteorological departments, so as to set up monitoring and emergency response system for heavy pollution weather

(30) Formulating and improving contingency plans: Municipal government, where air quality fails to meet required standard, should formulate and improve contingency plans for heavy pollution weather, and disclose the plans to public; emergency drills against heavy pollution weather should be carried out; emergency response systems and contingency plans in Jingjinji Area, Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta should be reported to MEP and filed by 2013

(31) Taking emergency measures in time: to incorporate emergency response for heavy metal pollution into emergency management system of local government; responsible person in local government should take the responsibility; emergency measures should be taken according to alert level of heavy metal pollution

10. Clarifying Responsibilities of Government, Enterprises and Society and Mobilizing Public Participation in Environmental Protection

(32) Clarifying responsibilities of local government

(33) Strengthening cooperation among ministries and bureaus

(34) Strengthening the role of enterprises: Enterprises are the responsibility subject for air pollution control, which should obey environmental laws and regulations, improve internal management, increase investment, adopt advanced production technologies and control methods, and meet emission standards

(35) Mobilize public participation