

China doubles solar power target by 2020: report

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Residents are seen walking past a line of solar power panels in Shenyang, in northeast China's Liaoning province. China has more than doubled its target for solar power capacity to 50 gigawatts by 2020, state media said, as the world's largest polluter steps up efforts to boost clean energy sources.

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The increased target follows a massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan that triggered a nuclear crisis in the country's northeast and fuelled worldwide debate about the safety of [atomic power](#).

China hopes its installed solar power capacity will reach 10 gigawatts by 2015 and 50 [gigawatts](#) by the end of the decade, the Shanghai Securities

News said, citing Li Junfeng, deputy director of the energy research arm of the National Development and Reform Commission.

The country's current installed capacity is less than one gigawatt, the official China Daily said last month.

Li said China will soon publish a five-year blueprint and other supportive policies for the solar power industry.

Officials at the NDRC, China's top economic planning agency, were not immediately available to comment.

Beijing has ordered safety inspections of the country's [nuclear plants](#) and "temporarily" suspended approval of new and proposed projects following the disasters in Japan, but has said it will continue to develop the technology.

[China](#) -- which in November admitted it is the world's biggest [greenhouse gas](#) emitter -- has some of the globe's worst air and water quality after three decades of unrestrained growth and resulting pollution.

Leaders of the world's second-largest economy plan to invest hundreds of billions of dollars developing clean energy over the next decade as it seeks to meet a target of generating 15 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

It currently relies on carbon-belching coal for 70 percent of its energy needs.

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