

# China announces plan to curb carbon emissions

November 6 2016

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A man and a child wear masks during a heavily polluted day in Beijing, China, Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016. China has announced a plan to curb greenhouse gas emissions over the next several years, while capping coal consumption and increasing the use of non-fossil fuels. Under the plan, by 2020, the level of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will be 18 percent lower than in 2015, the State Council said on its website Friday, Nov. 4. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

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next several years, while capping coal consumption and increasing the use of non-fossil fuels.

Under the plan, by 2020, the level of [carbon dioxide emissions](#) per unit of GDP will be 18 percent lower than in 2015, the State Council said on its website Friday, the same day that the Paris climate agreement came into effect.

Coal consumption must be capped at about 4.2 billion tonnes (4.7 billion tons), while non-fossil fuel energy generation capacity like hydropower and nuclear power will be expanded to 15 percent of China's total capacity.

China has taken a leading role in climate change talks, and its collaboration with the United States has been touted by Washington and Beijing as a bright spot in an otherwise strained relationship.

China will guarantee that emissions peak no later than 2030 under the Paris pact. There are also plans to officially launch a national carbon trading market next year.

In recent years, China has become a world leader in renewable energy investment and installation of new wind and solar power capacity, but efforts by the central government to break away from coal consumption have been frustrating at times.



A woman wears a mask during a heavily polluted day in Beijing, China, Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016. China has announced a plan to curb greenhouse gas emissions over the next several years, while capping coal consumption and increasing the use of non-fossil fuels. Under the plan, by 2020, the level of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will be 18 percent lower than in 2015, the State Council said on its website Friday, Nov. 4. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

Even after Beijing declared a "war on pollution," hundreds of new coal power plants were approved for construction in 2015 by local governments keen to buoy their economies.

Central economic planners earlier this year declared a halt on new approvals for [coal plants](#). Energy officials went a step further last month when they declared a construction freeze on scores of partially built plants across more than a dozen provinces, garnering praise from environmental groups such as Greenpeace.



To curb greenhouse gas emissions over the next several years, while capping coal consumption and increasing the use of non-fossil fuels. Under the plan, by 2020, the level of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will be 18 percent lower than in 2015, the State Council said on its website Friday, Nov. 4. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

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