

Chapter 39 | Expediting the Transition to a Green Growth Model

In continuing to give priority to the environment and green development, we will promote the total consumption control, judicious allocation, comprehensive conservation, and circular use of resources, so as to achieve both high-quality economic growth and a high-standard of environmental protection.

Section 1 Ensuring Efficient Use of Resources

Prioritizing energy conservation, we will enhance conservation efforts in industry, construction, transportation, and public institutions, boost energy efficiency in emerging domains like 5G networks and big data centers, and strengthen energy conservation management for major energy consumers. We will implement key projects to optimize energy systems and upgrade energy-saving technologies, and accelerate the formulation and revision of mandatory national standards for energy consumption quotas and energy efficiency of products and equipment. Water conservation programs will come into effect nationwide, with mandatory limits being imposed on the use of water resources. We will improve the efficiency of water conservation in agriculture, reduce the discharge of wastewater from industrial sources, and promote the conservation and loss reduction of water in urban areas. We will encourage the use of reclaimed water in order to reduce water consumption per unit of GDP by about 16%. Efforts will be intensified to put land to more economical and intensive use, to enhance the management

of idle land and land that has been approved for acquisition or transfer but has not yet been supplied, and to make better use of urban land that is being used inefficiently. We will facilitate the reutilization of deserted industrial and mining land and improve policies for supporting the combined use and diverse development of land. No more than 1.97 million hectares of land will be newly designated for construction, and steady steps will be taken to lower the total area of land allotted to construction per unit of GDP. We will improve our ability to develop and protect mineral resources and work harder to make the mining sector and mining activities more environmentally friendly.

Section 2

Creating a Resource Recycling System

We will fully put into practice the concept of a circular economy to create a tiered system for the efficient recycling of resources. We will encourage industrial parks to make their operations more circular, strengthen weak links in industrial chains, and extend the length of industrial chains to promote the cascading use of energy and resources and advance waste recycling and the centralized disposal of pollutants. We will promote the comprehensive utilization of bulk solid waste and ensure the well-regulated development of the remanufacturing industry. We will accelerate the development of circular agriculture, which will see the integration of crop production and livestock and poultry farming. We will step up the planning and construction of waste recycling facilities and improve urban waste recycling and sorting systems. We will promote “reverse recycling” models for producers and establish a sound resource recycling system which integrates online and offline businesses so as to control resource flows. We will expand the scope of the extended producer responsibility system. The reduction, standardization, and recycling of express delivery packaging will

also be advanced.

Section 3 Vigorously Developing the Green Economy

While resolutely curbing the blind development of energy-intensive, high-emissions projects, we will actively promote development based on the green transformation. We will expand the sectors relating to energy conservation and environmental protection, clean production, clean energy, ecosystems and the environment, green upgrading of infrastructure, and green services, and promote energy performance contracting, water-saving management contracting, and third-party governance of environmental pollution. We will pursue the clean and efficient use of coal and other fossil energy sources and the green transformation of industries such as steel, petrochemical, and building materials. Bulk goods and goods traveling medium and long distances will be transported by rail or water instead of by road. We will move forward with the electrification of public transport and delivery vehicles. We will create a market-based system for green technology innovation, implement initiatives to make breakthroughs in this area, and perform benchmarking to improve the resource efficiency of key industries and products. We will establish a unified standards, certification, and identification system for green products, and improve the mechanism for promoting energy-saving household appliances, efficient lighting, and water-saving devices. Extensive campaigns will be carried out to promote eco-friendly lifestyles.

Section 4

Building a Green Development Policy Framework

Green development will be ensured through stronger legal and policy safeguards. We will implement tax policies conducive to energy conservation, environmental protection, and comprehensive utilization of resources, and initiate a major push to develop green finance. We will improve the paid use system for natural resources by developing new mechanisms for pricing the use of natural resources, the treatment of wastewater and refuse, and the consumption of water and energy. We will further reform the review and supervision system for energy conservation in fixed asset investment projects and the management system for major energy consumers. We will improve the top-runner system for energy and water efficiency. We will strengthen management of water quotas in water-consuming industries. The development of ecological conservation pilot zones will be deepened. And more intensive efforts will be made to support Shanxi in developing a national comprehensive experimental reform zone for resource-dependent economy transformation and carrying out comprehensive reform trials for an energy revolution.

Box 15

Environmental Protection and Resource Conservation Projects

01 Reduction of air pollution emissions

- Put in place clean production facilities for 850 million metric tons of cement clinkers, 460 million metric tons of coking capacity, and about 4,000 non-ferrous metal furnaces;
- Realize ultra-low emissions for 530 million metric tons of steel capacity;
- Transform treatment practices for volatile organic compounds in petrochemicals, chemicals, painting, medicine, packaging and printing, and other key industries;
- Eliminate the use of bulk coal in key areas affected by heavy air pollution.

continued

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Environmental Protection and Resource Conservation Projects	
02	<p>Water pollution prevention and control and water ecosystem restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consolidate the gains in treating malodorous black water bodies in cities at and above the prefectural level and take comprehensive steps to treat 1,500 sections of malodorous black water bodies in urban areas in 363 county-level cities; ▪ Strengthen pollution control and ecological restoration on key lakes and reservoirs, including the Tai, Chao, Dianchi, Erhai, Baiyangdian, Poyang, Dongting, Chagan, and Ulansuhai lakes and the Danjiangkou reservoir; ▪ Take integrated steps to harness the Yongding, Mulan, and other rivers; ▪ Move faster to comprehensively address the over-extraction of groundwater in northern China and other key areas and promote environmental governance in the Yellow River estuary.
03	<p>Soil contamination prevention and control and safe use of land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carry out demonstrations on the safe use of agricultural lands in 100 counties with large areas of contaminated soil; ▪ Implement 100 projects to control soil contamination at the source with a focus on chemical and non-ferrous metal industries.
04	<p>Urban sewage and refuse treatment facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build or upgrade 80,000 kilometers of sewers and increase daily sewage treatment capacity by 20 million cubic meters; ▪ Accelerate the construction of waste incineration facilities, and ensure that no raw refuse goes to landfills in areas with a daily urban domestic waste collection and transportation capacity of more than 300 metric tons; ▪ Carry out trials for small household waste incineration facilities.
05	<p>Medical and hazardous waste disposal and comprehensive utilization of solid waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address weaknesses in medical waste disposal facilities by building a national technology center for hazardous waste risk prevention and control along with six regional centers, as well as 20 regional centers for the centralized disposal of special hazardous waste; ▪ Launch 100 demonstration projects for comprehensively using bulk solid waste with a focus on tailings, associated minerals, coal gangue, fly ash, and construction refuse.
06	<p>Economical use of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement major demonstration projects for industrial application of energy-conserving and low-carbon technologies; ▪ Carry out major demonstration projects for near-zero energy consumption buildings, near-zero carbon emissions, and carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS); ▪ Develop systems for recycling waste and used materials in 60 large and medium cities.