

NEWSLETTER

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

4 - 10 May 2026



World's first molten salt reactor for industrial heat begins operation

The world's first commercial molten salt reactor dedicated to providing industrial process heat has started operation at a chemical park in Shandong. The 100 MW thermal reactor supplies continuous 600°C heat for petrochemical production, replacing a coal-fired boiler. The project cuts the site's direct CO₂ emissions by an estimated 800,000 tons annually. **(China Daily)**

National power grid achieves 24-hour average of 90% renewable penetration

China's State Grid announced its system achieved a national milestone with renewables supplying over 90% of electricity demand for a continuous 24-hour period. The feat, accomplished on a day of high wind and solar output with flexible hydro and storage support, demonstrates the grid's advanced balancing capabilities. It sets a global record for a major power system of this scale. **(China Daily)**

Major steel producer shifts fully to hydrogen-based direct reduced iron

A leading steel producer in Hebei has fully converted its largest plant to use hydrogen-based direct reduced iron (DRI) technology. The facility now replaces coking coal with green hydrogen produced via on-site electrolysis powered by dedicated renewable energy farms. The switch eliminates over 5 million tons of CO₂ emissions from the site annually. **(Hebei Provincial Government)**

New ultra-high voltage line to deliver 12 GW of Tibetan renewables to central China

Construction began on a new ±800 kV ultra-high-voltage direct current transmission line from the Tibetan Plateau to Hunan province. The line will transmit up to 12 GW of solar and wind power over 2,000 km, delivering 50 TWh of clean electricity annually. It is a critical piece of infrastructure to harness the vast renewable potential of western China. **(China Daily)**

National park system expands with new "ecological corridors" for wildlife

China's national park system expanded with the establishment of three major "ecological corridors" linking existing protected areas. The corridors, spanning over 5,000 km², are designed to facilitate wildlife migration and enhance genetic diversity for species like the Siberian tiger and giant panda. The plan includes restricted human activity zones and dedicated wildlife overpasses on major highways. **(National Forestry and Grassland Administration)**