

NEWSLETTER

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

25 – 31 May 2026



World's first gigawatt-level pumped storage plant in an abandoned mine begins operation

The world's first gigawatt-scale pumped hydro energy storage facility built in an abandoned coal mine has started operation in Shanxi province. The plant utilizes existing mine shafts and cavities to create an 8 GWh storage system with minimal new land use and environmental impact. It provides critical grid stability for the region's growing renewable energy output. **(National Energy Administration)**

National green steel procurement standard released for public projects

China has released a mandatory national green procurement standard for steel used in all public infrastructure projects. The standard sets strict carbon intensity limits based on a full lifecycle assessment, favoring electric arc furnaces and hydrogen-based production. It is expected to create a guaranteed market for over 50 million tons of low-carbon steel annually. **(Ministry of Finance)**

First commercial direct air capture plant with geological storage begins operation

China's first commercial-scale direct air capture (DAC) plant, coupled with permanent geological storage, has begun operation in the Ordos Basin. The facility is designed to capture 50,000 tons of CO₂ annually from the atmosphere and inject it deep underground. The project is integrated with a nearby green hydrogen production site, utilizing its low-carbon heat and power. **(Ministry of Ecology and Environment)**

National power grid passes 72-hour test powered by 95% renewables

China's State Grid successfully completed a 72-hour test where over 95% of the power for its eastern and central regional grids came from renewable sources. The test, conducted under favorable weather conditions, relied on advanced forecasting, demand response, and a vast fleet of energy storage. It verified the technical feasibility of operating a major continental-scale grid on near-zero-carbon electricity. **(China Daily)**

Mandatory corporate climate disclosure rule takes effect for listed companies

A new mandatory rule requiring all China-listed companies to disclose climate-related financial risks and emissions data has taken effect. The regulation follows the framework of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), ensuring global comparability. It covers Scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions for major sectors. **(China Securities Regulatory Commission)**