

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new report on *Coordinated Governance of Air and Climate Pollutants: Lessons from the California Experience* – authored by me, David Pettit at NRDC, and Siyi Shen. The report is an effort to introduce California's experience in air and climate regulation to Chinese regulators and researchers. In [2018](#), China's Ministry of Ecology & Environment gained regulatory authority over climate change regulation that had previously resided at the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China's economic planning agency. The reorganization, which put air and climate regulatory authorities under one roof, has spurred Chinese interest in greater coordination of air pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) regulation.

The idea of coordinating air and climate regulation is straightforward. All things being equal, it is preferable to pursue measures that fulfill multiple objectives and maximize “co-benefits.” Although coordination is simple in concept, it's much more difficult in implementation. Bureaucratic fragmentation, divided regulatory authorities, and overall complexity all take their toll.



Even so, California has made strides in coordinating regulation of air and climate pollutants. The [2016 Mobile Source Strategy](#) is perhaps the most conscious effort to coordinate state-wide regulation of air pollutants, GHGs, and toxic emissions in the transportation sector. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's [2017 Clean Air Plan](#) is the best example of a coordinated approach at the regional level. Our report provides an overview of California's top-level targets and the measures being taken in the transportation, energy, and industrial sectors. It also addresses California's use of cap-and-trade funds to support air pollution and

climate change efforts, and important developments in environmental justice. The goal was to make California's work on air and climate change accessible to a broader audience beyond U.S. borders. Our specific audience during the drafting of this report was policymakers and researchers in China, but we hope the report will be of use to others around the world and in the U.S.

We launched the report on August 24th (Beijing time) via a bilingual Zoom with more than a hundred attendees from China, the U.S. and Canada. The meeting included remarks from Ming Dengli, head of Beijing Bureau of Ecology & Environment's Climate Change Department; Lauren Sanchez, deputy secretary at CalEPA (by video); Ma Jun, Chai Fahe, and other leading Chinese environmental experts.

The project received support from the Energy Foundation China. Our research was conducted in collaboration with the Beijing Bureau of Ecology & Environment and researchers from Peking University, China Academy of Environmental Planning, and others.

You can download a copy of the report in [English](#) or [Chinese](#).

This blog was co-authored with Siyi Shen.

TABLE 12
Summary of Coordinated Governance Policies & Tools

Transportation
Advanced Clean Cars Program Low-Emission Vehicle III Regulation for Criteria Pollutants Low-Emission Vehicle III Regulation for GHGs ZEV Program—Light and Medium-Duty Vehicles Advanced Clean Trucks Program Emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles ZEV trucks Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards Fuels Low Carbon Fuel Standard Transportation Planning (to lower Vehicle Miles Traveled) Environmental Impact Assessment (CEQA) Carbon Cap and Trade for Fuel Distributors (discussed under "Industry") Other—off-road equipment, shipping, aviation and locomotives
Electricity Generation and Consumption
Renewable portfolio standards GHG performance standards—Clean Power Plan/ACE Rule Energy efficiency standards for appliances, equipment Building energy efficiency and fuel switching Carbon cap and trade for electricity generators and importers (discussed under "Industry")
Industry
Carbon cap and trade Industrial (technology and performance) standards
Incentives
Cap-and-Trade funding investments, subsidies, grants
Environmental Justice
AB 617 & AB 1550