

# Environment and climate – will China take the lead?

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Fafo frokostseminar



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# Challenges & drivers: environment, energy & climate



- 28 % of global emissions
  - National peak in 2030
- Climate change growing concern
- Air pollution
  - Coal the culprit-59% of energy
- Climate impact & adaptation
- Paris Agreement
- Global climate governance



# 2020 a milestone: energy & air pollution

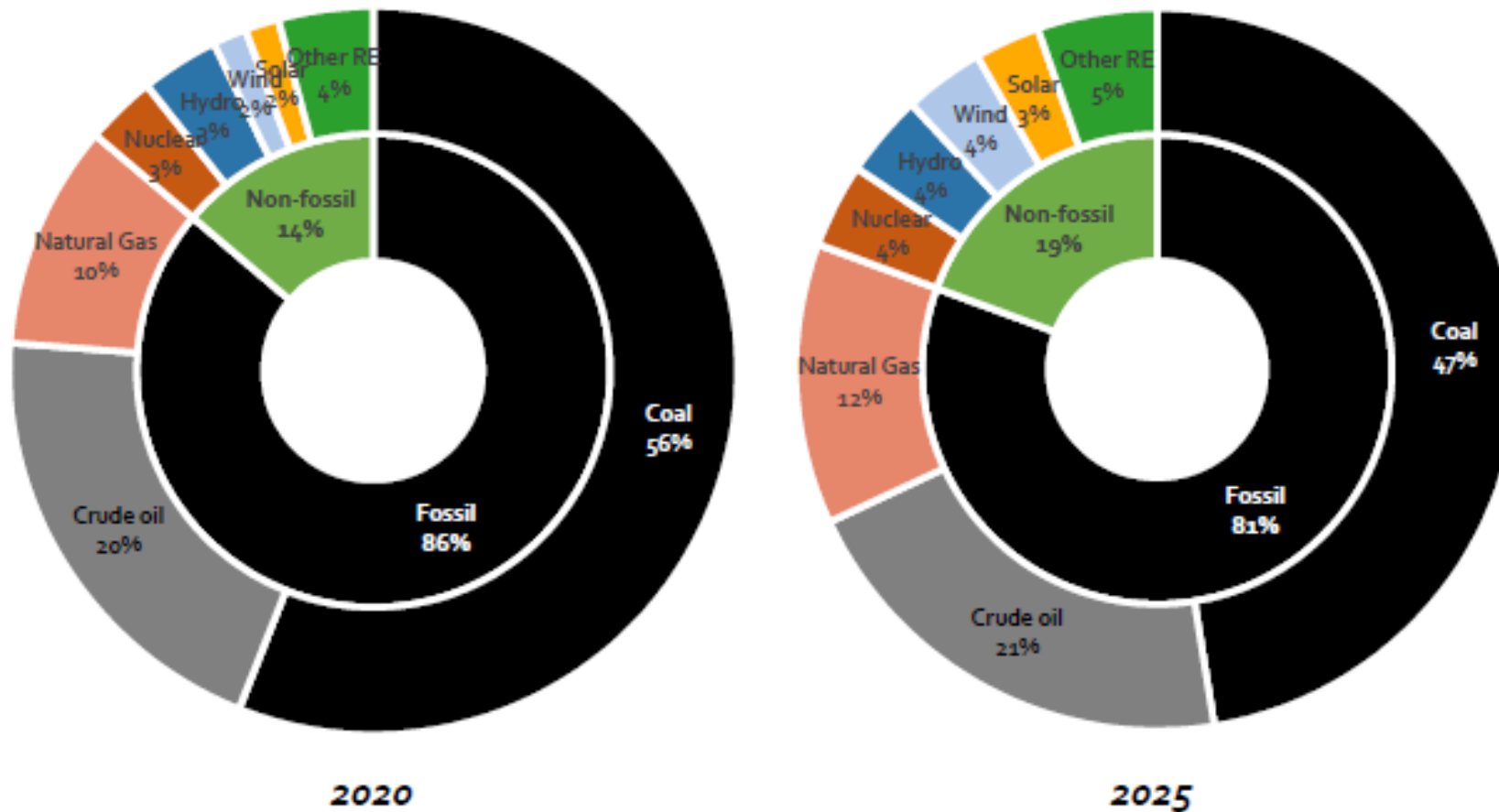
- Energy revolution 2014
  - restructure the energy sector, develop energy technologies & institutional reform
  - The Energy Development Strategy Action Plan (2014–2020 State Council)
- Coal and energy security crucial:
  - Final year of the 13<sup>th</sup> FYP
  - FYP for energy development goals to be reached: 58% coal, 15% non-fossil
  - Li Keqiang Oct 2019 hosted a meeting of the National Energy Commission
  - Still emphasis on coal in the coming year(s)
- Yet...renewable energy to grow
  - cut to solar subsidies last year, but solar expected to grow + wind power
- Three-year air pollution control plan in 2018-2020 (State Council)
- National carbon market (emissions trading scheme):
  - Launched in 2017 with trial trading period
  - Real trading to begin in 2020 in power sector
- Finalisation of 14th FYP (2021-2025) – increasing ambitions?



# CREO 2019 projects shift in energy mix

ERI/CNREC CREO 2019 <http://boostre.cnrec.org.cn/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CREO2019-Summary-191206.pdf>

**Figure 11: Shift in primary energy consumption mix during 14<sup>th</sup> FYP (Below 2°C)**



# Environment & biodiversity

- Global biodiversity decline is severe - including in China
  - though domestic achievements in reforestation
- Beijing Call for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change
  - Joint statement, President Macron's visit to China in November
- Kunming Yunnan will be the stage for the 2020 UN biodiversity talks (CBD COP 15)
  - a meeting which is expected to deliver a global framework for plant and wildlife protection beyond next year
- Hosting CBD COP
  - implies that China is taking a lead in ensuring more ambitious biodiversity targets?
  - Lead in Nature based solutions at UN climate summit 2019 & CC COP Madrid
    - which is seen as being close to China's ecological civilization and afforestation efforts



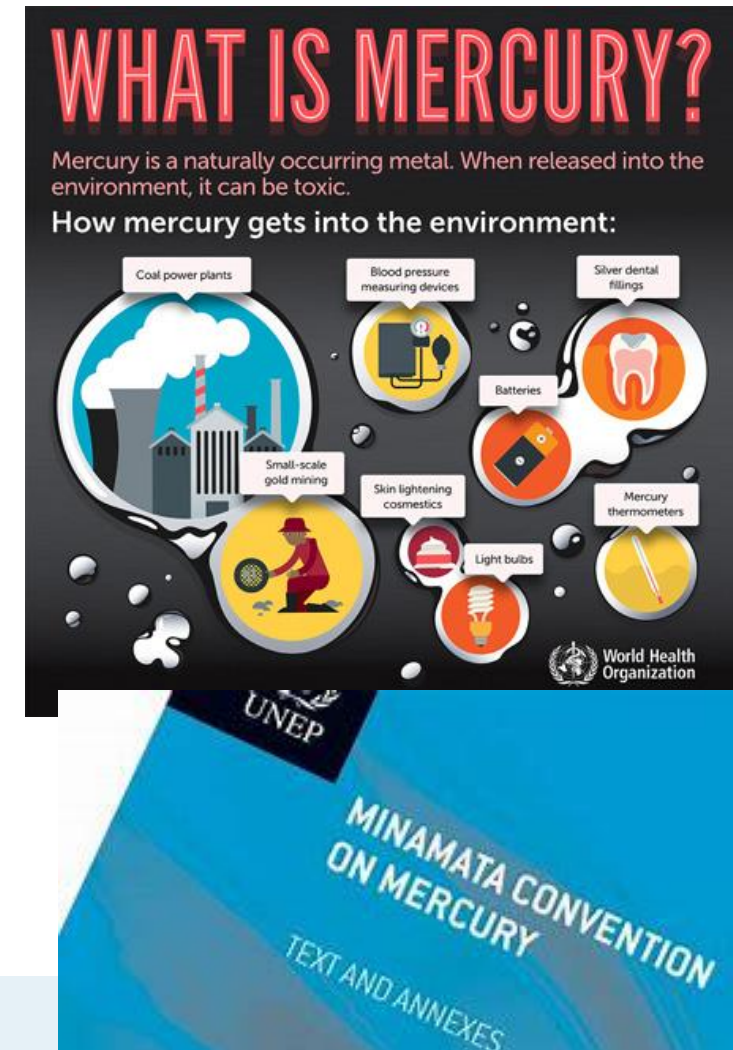
# Urbanisation: driving change?

- Urbanisation 60%
  - **1 billion by 2030**
- Increased pressure on environment
- Air pollution
  - **Biggest driver for the transition**
- Policies in place:
  - Air Pollution Action Plans
  - Low carbon cities pilots and Alliance of Peaking Pioneer Cities (APPC) & a carbon market
  - **Cities ahead of the state: peak earlier**
- Electric Vehicles
  - **40% of global electric car fleet in China (2017)** IEA EV Outlook 2018
  - Tesla production in Shanghai 2019
  - Shenzhen: 100 % electrified bus fleet
  - 62 % of 12,518 taxis; goal 100% by 2020



# Minamata Convention on mercury

- China accounts for 29–40% of global mercury emission
- China was one of the earlier countries to ratify the Minamata Convention (MC) in April 2016,
  - approved by the National People's Congress
- From almost ignoring the issue 10 years ago...
  - the country is an active player in the Minamata negotiations and mercury pollution is on the domestic environmental agenda
  - China has developed a strong scientific community on mercury research



# SUMMARY

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- China continues efforts on environment, energy and climate
  - EVs development
  - Cleaner energy
- Positive trends, but also challenges
  - Sub-national policy implementation
  - Trade war w/US, slowing economy..
- China global leadership?
  - Climate & PA: US out, EU China summit fall 2020 – potential
  - Env/Bio environment: BIO CBD COP 15
  - Renewables potential domestic/global



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谢谢！  
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