

The image features a traditional Indian stone structure with a large, ornate dome and intricate carvings. In the background, a modern wind turbine with white blades and a red-and-white striped tower is visible against a clear blue sky. The text 'NRDC INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE' is overlaid on the top left of the image.

# NRDC INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE

## SHIFTING TO LOW-CARBON ECONOMIES ACROSS THE GLOBE

**F**rom wildfires in America's West to the typhoon that hit the Phillipines, the world is experiencing more extreme weather events--the real effects of climate change. With the need for electricity growing around the world, we need to work together to find solutions that provide energy access and ability for growth without further harming our climate. Without changes in policy and practice, high-polluting coal and oil would continue to dominate energy markets, with devastating consequence. To help curb climate change and promote cleaner energy economies across the globe, NRDC combines on-the-ground work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, Canada, Europe, China, India and Latin America with advocacy for international policy changes.

## PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### AN OVERVIEW OF NRDC INTERNATIONAL

The greatest environmental crises we face are shared. Climate change knows no borders. Pollution travels freely through our air and water. Economic growth and demand for natural resources is increasing pressure on our wild spaces, wildlife and natural resources. Globalization has moved manufacturing to areas of the world where environmental laws and enforcement are weak. However, these challenges also create opportunities to work in international partnerships to move our societies away from destructive practices towards environmentally responsible action. For decades, NRDC has worked internationally to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges from pollution and consumption to protecting our health, water, oceans, air, climate, wildlands and wildlife. NRDC works with partners to advocate for strong laws and enforcement, as well as for market transformation. NRDC also takes on some of the most destructive projects around the world—those that would threaten the globe's most important wild places. We draw on the solid expertise of NRDC lawyers, scientists, economists, communicators and policy experts. We have made deep commitments to working in China, India, the Americas and throughout the globe on environmental reform, especially to help build low carbon, sustainable communities to fight climate change. And we work through international networks of allies to protect our global commons, focusing on the climate, the oceans, wildlife and air while addressing the global threats of toxics, climate change and fisheries. Our broad partnerships at the local level bring a practical expertise to our work at the global level. Our international work and network of partnerships across regions helps provides us avenues for exchange of best practices and advocacy across borders around the world.

Energy efficiency is the fastest and cheapest way to meet energy needs. Wide-scale deployment of energy efficiency is an essential component of efforts to address climate change. Addressing this is an urgent challenge as especially in the developing world, much of the infrastructure that will exist in 2030 and beyond hasn't yet been built. As a result, decisions today can lock-in a significant amount of future climate pollution. For example, buildings already account for more than 30 percent of India's electricity use, and two-thirds of the buildings that will exist in India by 2030 have yet to be built. In China, half of all the world's new buildings for the next two decades will be built in the country. NRDC is working to help tap into the full potential of energy efficiency:

- In India, NRDC is partnering with Indian groups to share our efficiency expertise on buildings and appliances. We are working in Hyderabad, with city officials, technical experts, real estate groups, universities and banks to increase building efficiency by implementing India's Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC). We are also engaging with energy experts to increase efficiency in India's booming consumer appliance market by improving standards, testing, and harmonization for appliances such as televisions, air conditioners and lighting.

- In China, NRDC was the first international environmental organization to establish a clean energy program focused on energy efficiency. For two decades, we have been working at central and local levels to promote advanced energy efficiency concepts, standards and international best practices, such as green building certification, building energy efficiency standards and benchmarking, and "efficiency power plants". We collaborate closely with partners at all levels in China to develop large-scale programs to manage energy demand through energy efficiency, and aim to help China meet a large portion of its growing energy demand through efficiency policy and technology.

- In Latin America, we have been working with partners in Chile to demonstrate how to boost energy efficiency in order to meet new energy demand. For example, we have worked with our partners to develop strong energy efficiency policies that take the best lessons learned from the United States and other international practice and apply it to the reality in Chile. We are also working to ensure the adoption of strong vehicle efficiency and pollution standards for new cars sold in Mexico.

- Globally, we are engaged in efforts that will have an impact across a variety of countries. For example, as part of a U.N. Environment Programme initiative, NRDC is working on efforts to phase-out inefficient light-bulbs since electricity for lighting accounts for approximately 5 per cent of world's climate pollution.



## ADVANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Deployment of renewable energy like wind and solar must be a cornerstone of the world's efforts to address climate change. These sources of energy are booming throughout the world since they help curb climate change, reduce local air pollution, are cost-competitive in most locations, and create jobs. Internationally NRDC is helping to speed up the deployment of renewable energy sources:

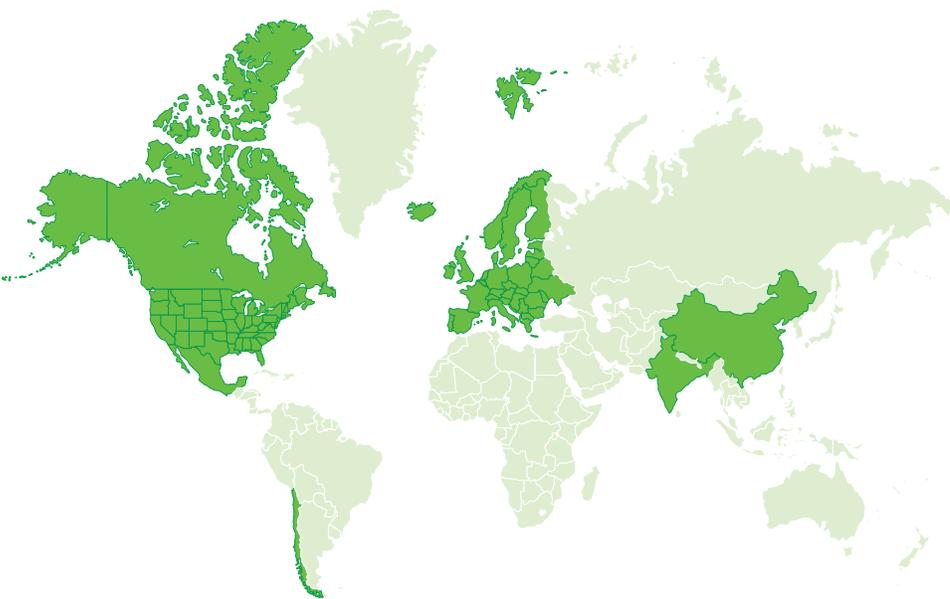
- In India, working with partners we are helping the government evaluate its solar program and take it to the next level. We have outlined key actions that the government is incorporating into its Solar Mission to help meet its very aggressive goals for solar energy deployment, while spurring strong domestic job creation.
- In China, we are helping to improve the implementation of China's landmark renewable energy law and encouraging the adoption of more renewable energy as a key strategy to reduce local air pollution and slow coal consumption.
- In Latin America, we are demonstrating that Chile has real alternatives to dirty coal, large hydro and other unsustainable energy sources. We are helping to create a roadmap for deploying renewable energy by showing that these sources are the lowest cost form of energy for the country, and that they will create more jobs and economic development than alternative sources of energy.
- Globally, we are working on efforts to ensure that major international financial institutions like the World Bank and U.S. development banks prioritize renewable energy in their lending.

## REDUCING DIRTY ENERGY

Pollution from coal is a major source of carbon pollution, health damages, and other environmental damage. At the same time, we need to move beyond our dependence on oil, especially on newer, dirtier forms of unconventional oil such as tar sands. If we are to address climate change we are going to have to shift energy needs away from dirty energy and towards clean energy solutions like wind, solar, fuel efficiency, smart growth and energy efficiency. NRDC is also helping shift investments away from dirty energy:

- In Canada, NRDC has helped build an international coalition to stop expansion of the tar sands - bitumen that is strip-mined and drilled out from under the Boreal forest to turn into gasoline and diesel. This dirtiest of fuels is bad for our climate, air, land, water and health. NRDC makes the public aware of the high costs of tar sands expansion and tar sands pipeline and refinery projects, making it difficult for tar sands to reach the overseas markets necessary for expansion.
- Globally, we are working to ensure that major international financial institutions stop funding coal projects that don't meet the needs of the poor and that don't significantly reduce their carbon pollution. We are also working to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies. With the growth of renewable energy and energy efficiency we are showing that limited public resources should be focused on investments that promote renewables and energy efficiency and other actions that reduce emissions.
- NRDC is helping China and India reduce its reliance on coal and develop cleaner and safer energy sources to ensure energy access and the ability to have environmentally sustainable development. One of our major initiatives is to design and advocate binding national and local coal consumption caps in China that can alleviate its severe air pollution and other environmental challenges.

### NRDC IN COUNTRY CLIMATE PARTNERSHIPS



## CLIMATE POLICY

Spurring renewable energy and energy efficiency, combined with efforts to stop dirty energy deployment, reduce forest destruction, and reduce other climate pollution are at the heart of efforts globally to address climate change. We need strong domestic actions in places like the U.S., Europe, China, India, Latin America, and Canada if we are to avoid the worst damages of climate change. At the same, we need a global response to climate policy that uses all the tools in our toolbox. NRDC is helping:

- Spur strong domestic actions in key countries around the world by working with local partners to ensure that key countries implement the necessary domestic policy changes to effectively reduce their climate pollution. This kind of action is extremely important for international efforts to address global warming since an international agreement without action at home doesn't solve the problem.
- Pushing the climate negotiations to ensure that key countries make strong commitments to act, that resources are mobilized to help developing countries reduce emissions and reduce their vulnerability to climate change, and that provisions are implemented to ensure that countries are held accountable. Countries are focused on securing a new legal agreement in 2015 and NRDC is actively engaged in shaping that agreement.

- Secure a global agreement to phase-down the "super" greenhouse gas emissions—hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)—that are used in such places as our air conditioners and refrigerators. We have been at the forefront of efforts under the Montreal Protocol since the world first tackled the ozone hole and we are now focused on ensuring that replacement chemicals have less damage on the climate. We are working with partners in India, China, and the U.S. to make the case that now is the right time to make the transition towards alternatives.
- Helping curb the drivers of deforestation. For example, we are working to ensure that U.S. consumption isn't driving deforestation by advocating that the Lacey Act—a groundbreaking law that helps stop illegal logging—is effectively enforced and is a model for other countries to follow.
- NRDC works with a coalition of organizations around the world and key national governments to advance international action on climate change.



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Jake leads NRDC's policy development and advocacy on international climate change. He also works with NRDC teams in key regions of the world to deliver actions in their country to reduce emissions including in China, India, and Latin America.

## About NRDC

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 1.4 million members and online activists. Since 1970, our lawyers, scientists, and other specialists have worked to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. NRDC works with partners at the global level and in China, India, Latin America, Canada and Europe.

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