

# ETCP NEWSLETTER

Energy Transition and Carbon Pricing

Issue No.10 (Jul-Aug 2020)

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the tenth issue of our [Energy Transition and Carbon Pricing \(ETCP\) Project](#) Newsletter! As the COVID-19 is still sweeping the globe, we hope that you stay safe and healthy.

In April 2020, REEI's podcast called "[REEI Commentary on Energy and Climate Change Reports from Think Tanks](#)" ([In Chinese](#)) was launched on Ximalaya (China's largest audio platform), and till now, we have released nine episodes, which can help Chinese listeners understand the current status and latest development trends of energy and climate policies.

Similarly, we are preparing an English podcast to enable overseas audience to learn about China and other Asian countries' policy changes and development in energy and climate change. In the first episode of our podcast program that was launched in early September 2020, we invited Professor [Jusen Asuka](#) from the Center for Northeast Asian Studies of Tohoku University to discuss the development of coal power in Japan. If you're interested, welcome to listen to and subscribe to our REEI Energy and Climate Podcast! ([Apple Podcast](#); [Spotify](#))

Rock Environment and Energy Institute  
China Association for NGO Cooperation

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## GET IN TOUCH

Email: [etcp@reei.org.cn](mailto:etcp@reei.org.cn)

Online:  
[www.en.reei.org.cn/ETCP](http://www.en.reei.org.cn/ETCP)



磐之石环境与能源研究中心  
ROCK ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INSTITUTE

## Latest News

### Japan's climate change efforts hindered by biased business lobby - study

Japan's powerful business lobby Keidanren, which has close ties with the trade and industry ministry as well as other government bodies, is dominated by energy-

intensive sectors that represent less than 10% of the economy, resulting in national policies that favour coal and hindering attempts to combat climate change, a new study said.

**Reuters** | [Read more](#)



### **Virginia finalizes ETS regulations and officially joins RGGI**

On 8 July 2020, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) formally welcomed Virginia as the newest participating state in the mandatory cap-and-trade program covering the power sector starting 2021. Virginia's inclusion in the group of linked ETSs increases the regional emissions cap coverage by almost 30%. Virginia has worked closely alongside other RGGI states since 2017.

**ICAP** | [Read more](#)

### **Singapore's 5G and government support boost renewable use for data centres**

Data centre firms have tempered expectations for green energy sources, but opportunities still await. Though data centre operators in Singapore have been less optimistic for solar and wind as their primary energy source by 2025, support from the government and the introduction of 5G will offer opportunities for the renewable energy sector in the city-state.

**Asian Power** | [Read more](#)

### **U.S. Senate Democrats unveil \$40bn-a-year plan to tackle climate change**

Senate Democrats on Tuesday unveiled a plan to tackle climate change that calls for the U.S. government to spend more than \$400 billion a year to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. None are likely to proceed in the current Republican-controlled Senate but could get traction if the chamber flips to Democratic control after November's election.

**Reuters** | [Read more](#)

### **China's new coal projects account 90% of global total in first-half of 2020 - study**

China built more than half of the world's new coal-fired power plants this year and accounted for 90% of new planned capacity, a study showed on August 3, with Beijing still commissioning new projects even as capacity worldwide declines. Global coal-fired generation capacity saw a net decline of 2.9 gigawatts (GW) from January to June, the first drop on record for a six-month period, but China added 53.2 GW of capacity to its project

### **Extended ETS outperforms carbon border adjustment in the power sector**

Creating a carbon border adjustment mechanism would not work as well as extending the EU Emissions Trading Scheme to reduce global emissions and further integrate energy exporting countries into the European power market, argue András Mezősi, Zsuzsanna Pató and László Szabó. Carbon leakage occurs in any carbon pricing regime that is not global, which means all of them so far. That is inherently unfair to

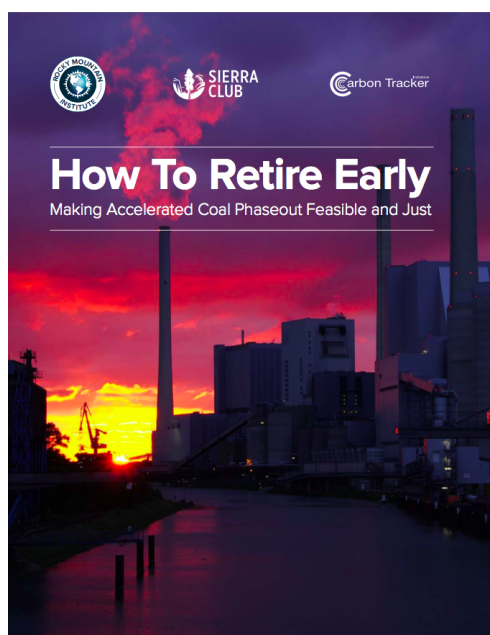
pipeline in the first half of this year - 90% of the global total.

**Reuters** | [Read more](#)

sectors that are subject to a carbon price but compete with those that are not.

**EurActiv** | [Read more](#)

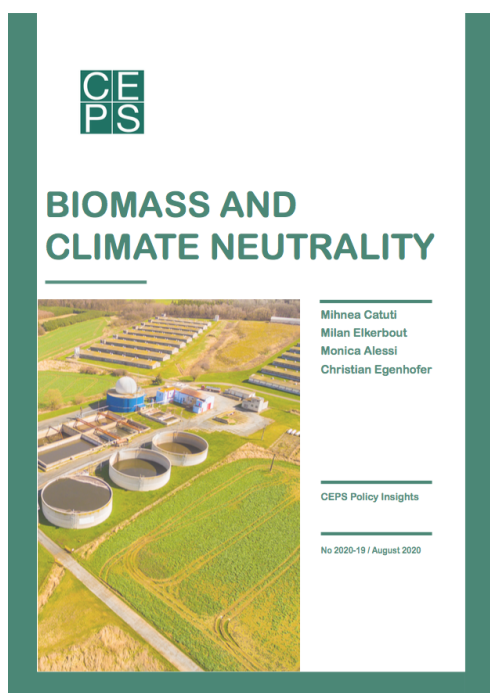
## Publications



**How To Retire Early: Making Accelerated Coal Phaseout Feasible and Just**, Rocky Mountain Institute, Carbon Tracker Initiative, the Sierra Club

This report presents an analysis of nearly 2,500 coal plants around the world and shows that the cost of clean energy has fallen so far that new renewables outcompete new coal virtually everywhere. In addition, it is cheaper today to build new renewable energy capacity than to continue operating 39 percent of the world's existing coal capacity.

[>> Download](#)



**Biomass and Climate Neutrality**, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

Sustainable biomass will play a major role in ambitions for a carbon-neutral Europe. But it has repercussions for the environment, land use and food security, among others. This Policy Insight holds that choices made today will affect the options available in future. The complexity of the issues calls for separately assessing each type of biomass and its end use.

[>> Download](#)

**Vietnam's Low Carbon Development Pathway**, The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

Over the past two decades, Vietnam's economic growth has been remarkable, and with that growth has come the need to balance an ever-growing demand for energy with the



mounting need for carbon mitigation. The goal of this project is to examine the extent to which economic growth and decarbonization could co-exist by examining policy success stories.

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## Upcoming Events

### Webinar: 10th International Conference on Environment and Climate Change

21-22 September

### Climate Week NYC 2020

21-27 September | Online

### Solar fuels research and invest

30 September - 1 October | Online

### Business Green: Net Zero Festival 2020

30 September - 2 October | Online

### ASEAN Wind Energy 2020

15-16 October | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

### The Energy Transition Summit (by Reuters)

23-24 November | Online

*\*\* Please note due to COVID-19 these events might be postponed. To find out more information please visit their official websites\*\**



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