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Make China greener

"Clean water and lush mountains are as valuable as gold and silver mines."

- President Xi Jinping

Over the past few years, China has made remarkable achievements in environmental protection and green development. Let's have a look at this progress.



New approaches



Tougher inspections

Since a national campaign to review the environmental protection work of local governments was started,



over 6,000 people have been held responsible for negligence or malpractice.

In 2016 alone,

124,000 punishments and about \$1 billion in fines

were handed down to businesses for environment-related offenses.



Green gauge for officials

An assessment mechanism was introduced in 2016 to evaluate the works of local officials on green development.



Under the "Green Development Index System", environmental protection carries more weight than economic growth in auditing officials' performance.

For example:
The level of PM2.5 is weighted 2.75% in the index, while the growth rate of per capita GDP is only 1.83%



Ecological red line

The country issued a guideline in 2017 on the demarcation of the "ecological red line" to put certain regions under mandatory and rigorous protection.



So far, more than 10 provinces have initially drawn up the protected areas, covering around 600,000 sq km.



Under China's spatial planning strategy, turning ecological spaces into urban or rural spaces are strictly controlled.

River chief



The "river chief" system, which requires every level of government to take full responsibility for protection of rivers and lakes under its jurisdiction, is being established nationwide.

Under the system, the river chief is in a position to better integrate resources to solve thorny issues in rivers' protection.



Force of the market



China is leveraging the force of the market to compensate the protectors of environment and make the polluters pay the price.



Among the market-oriented measures is the carbon trading program, for which a nationwide system is set to be established by this year.



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