



**PEOPLE OF ASIA FOR
CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

2026 Mid-year Report

Building Resilient Futures Through
Community-Driven Climate Actions

Coal-Free Future

From Black to Green: Witnessing Shanxi's Transition

For coal-dependent Shanxi Province, transition is not only about moving beyond coal — it is about discovering new possibilities for industries, communities, and people. Through field research and storytelling, PACS is documenting Shanxi's journey toward a more diversified economy, visiting the enterprises, villages, and individuals shaping the province's transition.

Conducting field research on Shanxi's transition pathways

Through field research in Changzhi in southern Shanxi and Xinzhou in northern Shanxi, we traveled across 10 counties and districts, visited 18 local companies, and spoke with more than 30 practitioners and community members to capture the people and industries shaping Shanxi's transition beyond coal. The research covered emerging sectors including cultural tourism, specialty agriculture, and grain production, collecting firsthand stories of local transformation.



From the Field to the Screen: 100,000+ Views of Shanxi's Transition

A new short-video channel “Jinxingzhe (Shanxi Transition Journey)” to document transformation stories from the field. Two videos — “Changzhi, It's Taihang-tastic!” and “Amazing Herbs Transforming Shanxi” — have reached nearly 100,000 views and approximately 2,000 likes across platforms, helping more people discover the diverse possibilities emerging in Shanxi.

Field Notes

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“I used to have stereotypes about Shanxi, but my visit completely changed my impression. With its beautiful landscapes, simple local culture, and rich resources, Shanxi deserves more visibility to showcase its beauty and drive local development.”

- Ms. Wu, a visitor from Shandong to Baquan Gorge

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“What impressed me most was not only Gaoke Huaye’s achievements in LED technology, but its journey of transformation. Growing from Shanxi’s coal-based economy, the company’s pursuit of innovation reflects the resilience of Shanxi enterprises in finding new paths beyond coal.”

- Yin Yuying, PACS Energy Transition Campaigner, on her visit to Gaoke Huaye in Changzhi



“Standing among wind turbines on the Loess Plateau, I witnessed how renewable energy is reshaping Shanxi. This is not only a change in the energy structure, but also a shift in development thinking. Shanxi’s energy transition is becoming a reality on this land.”

- Wang Cheng, Shanxi Energy University, on his visit to the Bayeliang Wind Farm in Xinzhou

Forging a "Green Steel" Ecosystem: Amplifying Diverse Voices

January 2026

To make industrial decarbonization more accessible beyond technical policy discussions on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and countries' third-generation Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) under the Paris Agreement, PACS convened the New Horizons: 2026 Green Steel Media Workshop at the Meishan Steel Industrial Park in Nanjing.



Facilitating Cross-Sector Collaboration and High-Impact Reporting

The workshop successfully convened 36 cross-sector stakeholders, including representatives from 10 mainstream financial and industry media outlets, 13 environmental CSOs and climate think tanks, alongside key academic experts. This multi-stakeholder collaboration catalyzed in-depth coverage across top-tier media, including Caixin, 21st Century Business Herald, and The Paper, as well as core industry publications like China Metallurgical News and China Energy News. The initiative expanded public engagement on green steel and industrial decarbonization, reaching diverse audiences across sectors.

|| Catalyzing an Action-Oriented Green Steel Ecosystem

Beyond organizing a field visit, PACS has proactively built an influential and action-oriented green steel ecosystem. Recognizing that the low-carbon transition of the steel sector extends far beyond technical challenges and stands as a macroeconomic and public interest priority, the initiative has successfully integrated the efforts of enterprises, think tanks, and the media. This platform bridges previously disconnected actors and translates frontline industrial practices into widespread public understanding and awareness.



"The transformation of the steel industry must be driven by a network of diverse stakeholders. Technical breakthroughs from academics, pioneering demonstrations by leading enterprises, and thematic outreach from environmental organizations and the media are all essential. May those passionate, committed early practitioners live to see the green steel industrial ecosystem blossom from its infancy into full maturity."

- Sun Yifan, Journalist, Energy Magazine



Integrating Green Steel Narratives: Supply and Demand

This initiative expanded the steel decarbonization agenda beyond industry silos by driving high-impact media coverage across both supply-side production and demand-side procurement.



2026年《引领冲刺：全球汽车可持续供应链排行榜》

Key Communication Outcomes:

■ Demand-Side Accountability

Spearheaded domestic coverage of the 2026 Lead the Charge Leaderboard. By placing investigative reports in top-tier financial outlets like Caixin and 21st Century Business Herald, the project successfully shifted the automotive discourse toward supply chain transparency and evaluated the global competitiveness of Chinese automakers.

■ Supply-Side Readiness

Coordinated the communication strategy for the SteelWatch Corporate Scorecard. By publishing targeted perspectives on international platforms such as Dialogue Earth, the initiative established a critical benchmark for corporate decarbonization and exposed the sector's persistent reliance on coal.



Navigating Sectoral Pressures: Proactive Transition for the Coking Industry



January 2026

To address the severe market and environmental pressures facing Shanxi's coking sector amid downstream steel decarbonization, PACS and Green Action from Hebei jointly published the Tightened Choke on Shanxi Coke as Local Steel Decarbonizes on January 27, 2026. Concurrently, PACS partnered with Taiyuan University of Technology releasing Unlocking the Choke: How an Early Metallurgical Coal Phase-out in Shanxi Could Pave the Way.

|| Deep Sectoral Dependency

With more than 95% of Shanxi's intra-provincial coke consumption tied to provincial steel production, downstream market shifts directly dictate the survival of the coking sector.



30-Million-Ton Demand Contraction

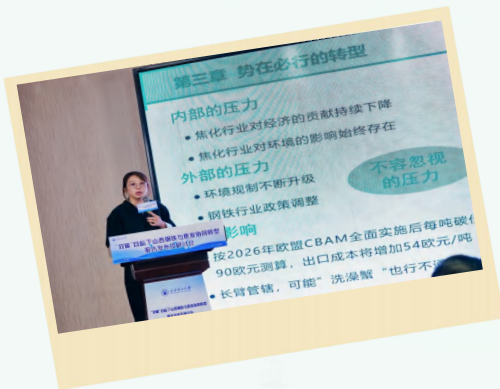
As national policies drive electric arc furnace (EAF) steelmaking toward a 20% share, the steel transition in Shanxi and Hebei is projected to eliminate nearly 30 million tons of coke demand by 2030, equivalent to around one-quarter of Shanxi's coke production capacity.

Modeling a Just Transition

Utilizing the TIMES model, the research quantified three proactive phase-out scenarios for 2040, 2050, and 2060. The initiative successfully elevated the policy discourse from basic capacity elimination to a comprehensive "Just Transition" framework, advocating for flexible contraction and phased management to safeguard regional economic resilience, employment, and supply chain security.



Testimonials



"Although proactive transition and phase-out may intensify short-term challenges, they can effectively prevent long-term risks associated with inefficient capacity lock-in. A proactively planned phase-out is a process of flexible contraction, improved supply quality, and carefully managed transition timelines."

- Kou Jingna, Associate Professor at Taiyuan University of Technology

"One in every four tonnes of coke produced in China comes from Shanxi; one in every twenty tonnes of crude steel is produced in the province. Shanxi carries significant responsibility for regional economic development. As the 'dual carbon' goals become a national strategy, the iron-steel and coking industries are facing a defining challenge of green transition and quality-driven development. Green transformation has become a question that must be answered for the survival and future development of these industries."

- Miao Maoqian, Deputy Director of the Expert Committee of Shanxi Coking Indus



Empowering Local Governments Through Rooftop Solar

Through its Empowering Local Energy initiative, PACS worked closely with Barangay Bicos in Rizal, Nueva Ecija, Philippines to transform rooftop solar from a promising idea into a practical investment for the community.

Combining technical assessments, financial modeling, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, the project developed a replicable model for using rooftop solar to reduce electricity costs, strengthen energy security, and free up local resources for essential public services.

■ Demonstrating financial viability

PACS assessed Barangay Bicos' rooftop solar potential and developed financial and return-on-investment models. By allocating 2% of its annual budget to a rooftop solar PV system, Barangay Bicos could significantly reduce its average monthly electricity bill of approximately 23,000, achieve a projected payback period of 2.6 years, and generate long-term savings that can be redirected to other community priorities.

■ Building local capacity

PACS supported Barangay Captain Victor Dela Cruz's participation in a photovoltaic (PV) solar training program in Baoding, China, equipping him with practical knowledge on distributed renewable energy technologies and their application in local communities.

■ Turning research into action

In July 2026, a rooftop solar PV system was installed at the Barangay Bicos Hall, translating the project's research into a concrete clean energy solution and providing a model that other local governments can replicate.

■ Inspiring wider adoption

The project brought together local officials, solar industry partners, and community representatives to share Barangay Bicos' experience and encourage wider adoption of distributed renewable energy.

Barangay Bicos has become a model for what is possible. The declaration of a national energy emergency in March 2026 following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz highlighted the Philippines' heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels and the urgent need to strengthen energy security. Against this backdrop, the project demonstrates that with the right technical support, investment, and local leadership, rooftop solar can help communities reduce costs, strengthen resilience, and build a cleaner, more secure, and more self-reliant energy future.



"The Philippines faces two major problems. First is the high electricity prices because of importing coal, oil, natural gas, and all these fossil fuels. And second is our climate crisis. Yet we are also blessed with one of the richest solar resources in Southeast Asia. Why not harness the abundant energy we already have to power our communities? Our partnership with Barangay Bicos demonstrates what is possible when local communities take proactive action. It is proof that investing in clean, homegrown energy can lower costs, strengthen energy security, and build more climate-resilient communities."

- Jasmine Sabado, Energy Transition Campaigner



"We are finally here at the realization of my dream of having our own solar power system. But this project of ours will not stop here. This is just the beginning. I still plan to solarize the whole gymnasium and solarize our street lights as well."

-Hon. Victor Dela Cruz, Barangay Chairman of Barangay. Bicos, Rizal, Nueva Ecija



"It's inspiring to see that for the first time, a barangay in Rizal has already installed their own solar system. We are inspired to install our own solar system because of the rising electricity costs in our barangay. We should utilize the abundant solar energy we get from the sun."

-Hon. Mike Anthony Dela Cruz, Barangay Chairman of Barangay Casilagan Rizal, Nueva Ecija



Bridging Opportunities: A Roadmap for China-Philippines Renewable Energy Cooperation

April 2026

PACS, in partnership with New Energy Nexus Philippines (NEX), launched Bridging Opportunities: A Roadmap for China–Philippines Renewable Energy Cooperation, bringing together government, industry, civil society, and renewable energy stakeholders from both countries to advance dialogue on clean energy collaboration.

The report identifies practical pathways for long-term cooperation that go beyond infrastructure investment to include technology transfer, innovation, entrepreneurship, financing, and knowledge exchange.

■ Mapping pathways for renewable energy cooperation

The report identifies six priority pathways for collaboration, including rooftop solar expansion, off-grid solutions for remote communities, emerging renewable energy technologies, EV–solar integration, technical capacity development, and circular economy initiatives. Key recommendations include expanding technology transfer and knowledge exchange, developing supplier-supported financing mechanisms, strengthening technical and after-sales support, streamlining regulatory processes, and fostering joint ventures between Philippine and Chinese partners. Together, these measures can accelerate renewable energy deployment while building stronger local industries and long-term regional partnerships.



|| Convening key stakeholders

PACS and NEX brought together representatives from government, industry, civil society, and the renewable energy sector to exchange perspectives on policy, investment, innovation, and community-based energy solutions.

|| Identifying high-impact opportunities for collaboration

The study highlights opportunities for rooftop solar, microgrids, solar home systems, EV-solar charging infrastructure, distributed renewable energy, and solar panel recycling to expand energy access and accelerate clean energy deployment.

|| Advancing long-term partnerships

Based on stakeholder engagement, the report recommends stronger joint ventures, technology partnerships, knowledge exchange, innovative financing, and technical support, backed by closer coordination among government, industry, and financial institutions.

Testimonials

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“The recent oil crisis is a reminder that the Philippines remains highly exposed to global fuel shocks. What this report shows is that the solution is already within reach. With the right partnerships, we can accelerate RE deployment while building domestic capability, jobs, and more affordable energy for households and businesses.”

- Brenda Valerio, New Energy Nexus Philippines Country Director

“The Philippine renewable energy transition is also about ensuring energy security, reducing exposure to global [fossil] fuel price volatility, and supporting economic growth in an environmentally and socially sustainable way. Realizing this will require strong collaboration. Equally critical is a cross-border participation. The roadmap by People of Asia for Climate Solutions and New Energy Nexus would help us attain this. Their role will be vital in accelerating project delivery and ensuring long-term sector resilience.”

- Assistant Director Ruby de Guzman, Department of Energy-Renewable Energy Management Bureau

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Asia's Energy Crossroads: Advancing Regional Energy Resilience

100 days since the start of war in Iran, PACS participated in an online media briefing organized by Global Energy Monitor examined how the ongoing fossil fuel crisis in the Middle East is reshaping Asia's energy landscape and highlighted the role of renewable energy in protecting economies from future price shocks.

Using the Philippines and Pakistan as cases, the discussion explored how dependence on imported fossil fuels can leave economies vulnerable to supply disruptions and volatile prices, and how faster renewable energy deployment can strengthen energy security and economic resilience.

Key Strategic Outcomes:

■| Positioning renewables as an energy security solution

The discussion emphasized that accelerating renewable energy deployment is not only critical for climate action but also for reducing exposure to fossil fuel price volatility and grid instability.

■| Spotlighting regional pathways to energy resilience

The briefing contrasted Pakistan's rapid solar growth, which has reduced reliance on imported fuels, with the Philippines' rising energy demand and continued exposure to fossil fuel price volatility. These contrasting experiences highlighted the need to accelerate renewable energy deployment, strengthen local clean energy supply chains, and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

■| Advancing regional dialogue on energy resilience

The briefing brought together energy experts and media to examine the policy and investment decisions needed to accelerate clean energy deployment and better prepare Asian economies for future energy shocks.

Climb Action

Riding to a Greener Shanxi

Climate action can begin with the way we move. Through cycling, PACS highlights how low-carbon living can become part of everyday life in Shanxi. From the perspective of British cycling cartoonist Dave Walker, Taiyuan's cycling landscape offered a new story of low-carbon living. PACS documented his journey in "Ride into Shanxi Spring" and brought together 300+ Cyclists through two community cycling events.



|| Cross-cultural storytelling

The documentary "Ride into Shanxi Spring," featuring British cycling cartoonist Dave Walker's cycling journey in Taiyuan, attracted attention from local media outlets, including Shanxi Daily and its new media platform "Shanhe+," bringing a fresh and engaging perspective to low-carbon living.

|| 300+ Cyclists Join the Low-carbon Journey

Together with the Taiyuan Cycling Association, we mobilized 300+ local Cyclists to participate in community cycling events and explore greener ways of mobility.



Through cycling and community action, PACS is making low-carbon living more visible, accessible, and part of everyday life — riding towards a greener Shanxi together.

Empowering the Northwest Climate Governance Network: Identifying Strategic Leverage



Macro climate policies require robust local execution. In June 2026, PACS participated in the "2026 Xi'an Workshop" to empower civil society organizations in Northwest China by sharing strategic frameworks and frontline experience, helping them identify concrete action points within complex climate agendas.

Exporting Actionable Frameworks

Using the "Yellow River Basin Youth Exchange" as a case study, PACS demonstrated how to operationalize macro climate policies in energy-intensive regions. By analyzing regional fossil fuel reliance, the initiative provided a replicable strategic framework, helping local non-profits translate overarching climate issues into concrete grassroots actions.

Overcoming Implementation Barriers

We designed the core agenda and convened cross-sector experts to deliver practical operational guidance. The sessions directly addressed regional ecological challenges, interpreting legal pathways for climate governance and showcasing rural renewable energy solutions to effectively align emission reduction targets with local livelihood needs.

Testimonial



"Focusing on the ecological health of the Yellow River necessitates focusing on the structural transition of resource-based regions. Simultaneously, legal frameworks serve as a crucial structural safeguard for our local climate actions."

- Bai Juan, PACS Policy Campaigner



Celebrating the First Graduates of the FREE Program

In June 2026, PACS celebrated a major milestone as 13 scholars from the Future Renewable Energy Engineer (FREE) Program graduated from Jiuquan Vocational Technical University. The graduation of the first batch of FREE represents not just an academic achievement, but an investment in the Philippines' clean energy future. As these young professionals begin their careers, they carry forward the knowledge and experience needed to help accelerate the Philippines' renewable energy transition.



Welcoming the Third Batch of FREE

PACS continues its investment in developing the next generation of renewable energy professionals by selecting more for the third batch of the FREE Program.

Meet the third batch of FREE, who will soon embark on their academic journey in China as they prepare to become the next generation of Filipino renewable energy professionals.



Ken Britenia
Wuwei Vocational and
Technical



Emmanuel Salcedo
Shenzhen University



Sophia Dorothy
Dacanay
Shenzhen University



Angelic May
Sansano
Shenzhen University

Expanding Global Support for the Next Generation of Renewable Energy Leaders

In 2026, PACS was accepted as a partner on GlobalGiving, a global crowdfunding platform that connects vetted nonprofit organizations with individual and institutional donors worldwide to raise funds for social impact projects. Through the platform, PACS launched a fundraising campaign for the Future Renewable Energy Engineer (FREE) Program, creating a new avenue for people to directly support the education and training of aspiring Filipino renewable energy professionals.

■| Joining a global fundraising platform

PACS' acceptance into GlobalGiving marked an important step in strengthening the organization's fundraising capacity and connecting its work with a wider network of individual donors and supporters around the world.

■| Mobilizing support for renewable energy education

PACS launched its first GlobalGiving fundraising campaign to support the FREE Program, which provides Filipino students with opportunities to pursue renewable energy education and training in China.

Scan the QR code to support a today

