Health co-benefits from China’s NDC implementation - Report launch

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Fossil fuels, air pollution and health in China

- 99.6% of Chinese population living in areas exceeding the WHO’s PM2.5 guideline of 10 µg/m3 in 2013 (HEI)
- 1.1 million deaths in 2016 in China due to ambient air pollution (WHO)
- Around 60% of China’s electricity sourced from coal in 2018
- Subsidies to fossil fuel consumption cost over USD 40 billion in 2017
- Air pollution externalities cost USD 1.1 trillion in 2017 (IMF)
Importance of environmental sensitive disease in China (2016)

The good news: China’s climate related commitments

- NDC commitments (2015)
  - “To achieve the peak of carbon dioxide emissions around 2030 and making best efforts to peak early;
  - to lower carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 60% to 65% from the 2005 level [by 2030];
  - to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 20% [by 2030]; and
  - to increase the forest stock volume by around 4.5 billion cubic meters on the 2005 level [by 2030]."

- “Make the skies blue again” pledge by Premier Li Keqiang (2017)

- China’s 13th Five-Year Plan (2016–2020) prioritized environmental and energy sustainability

- G20 and China’s Self and Peer Review of fossil fuel subsides (2016)
13th FYP policies seem aligned with NDC targets

Main 2020 targets
(related to 2030 NDC targets):
- Reduction of carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 40 to 45% by 2020
- Increase the share of non-fossil fuels in the total mix of primary energy consumption to 11.4% by 2015, 13% by 2017 and 15% by 2020
- Increase the proportion of forest stock volume by 1.3 billion m³ by 2020 and by 4.5 billion m³ by 2020

Source: Author’s analysis of Chinese policies
What studies say: achievement of China’s NDC would result in important health co-benefits

6 different models estimating health co-benefits of China NDC or of related policies:
- between 225,000 – 250,000 premature deaths avoided in 2050
- Co-benefits estimated in between USD 18 bn and USD 700 bn in value life savings
- the health co-benefits are higher than the cost of implementing climate policies to achieve the country’s NDC targets, with significant economic gains expected by mid-century
Fossil fuel subsidies in China vs other public expenditures

Source: Author’s elaboration based on data from IEA, IMF, and Chinese Ministry of Finance
Conclusions

Can health and fossil fuels subsidy reform targets increase NDC ambition?
Thank you

Download the report “Health co-benefits from NDC implementation in China” here:

https://www.iisd.org/library/health-ndc-implementation-china

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