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CHINA LIKELY TO SURPASS ITS NEW TARGET TO CUT EMISSIONS 7-10% BY 2035

Chinese President Xi Jinping today in an address to the UN General Assembly announced China's target to reduce carbon emissions by 7-10% from their peak by 2035, with the goal of achieving even higher levels.

China lead at independent public interest think tank Climate Energy Finance (CEF), Caroline Wang, said: "This sends a strong signal to the international community about China's sustained commitment to addressing climate change in line with the Paris Agreement. China has not only built the largest and fastest growing renewable energy system in the world, but through its clean technology exports and investments in zero emissions energy infrastructure is helping other nations especially in the Global South to cut emissions and bolster energy security.

"While the absolute figure seems modest, China has a record of under-promising and over-delivering, such as surpassing its wind and solar power generation capacity target 7 years ahead of schedule. In the first half of 2025, newly added wind and solar power generation installations accounted for nearly 90% of the total power additions, accelerating the transformation of China's energy system into one that is mainly composed of renewable and non-fossil energy sources, with coal transitioning from its role of main power supplier to flexible back-up. CEF expects to see more comprehensive sectoral targets and implementation directions provided in China's 15th Five-Year Plan soon to be released."

"Our [detailed tracking](#) of China's decarbonisation trajectory shows that it continues to exceed expectations, cementing its global leadership in clean energy deployment, manufacturing and electrification, and is likely to surpass this target."

CEF director Tim Buckley said:

"This target for 2035 is definitely on the conservative side, but we note a. With the US abrogating global leadership entirely in 2025, there is an elevated geopolitical pressure on China and b. China has a strong history of underpromising and overdelivering. On the second point, we note China likely peaked national emissions last year, six years ahead of its Paris Agreement commitment of 2030. CEF expects a plateauing of emissions and then progressive reduction, and would think China could well deliver on President Xi's new commitment five years ahead of this new formal target.

"China leads the world in almost all zero emissions industries of the future, from wind and solar, to batteries and electric vehicles, annually investing more than double that of the investment of the US or EU. China's solar installs in the first half of 2025 are almost double the rest of the world's combined installs. China leads by doing, rather than by talking about what it might do, something Western nations should emulate."

FOR BACKGROUND:

See CEF's [Monthly China Energy Updates](#).

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Tim Buckley and Caroline Wang are available for interview.

Tim Buckley direct +61 408 102 127 tim@climateenergyfinance.org

Caroline Wang direct +61 403 392 268 caroline@climateenergyfinance.org