

# Renewable Energy Governance in China

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# General Observations

- What is 'renewable', as in Renewable Energy Law (enacted in 2006)
  - Wind
  - Solar
  - Hydro
  - Biomass
  - Geothermal
  - Tidal
- Energy Saving Law
  - First issued in 1998, revised in 2008

# General observations

- Rural development
  - China Spark Program launched in 1985
    - Fuel wood estimated to be 29% of total rural energy consumption
      - A quarter of country's total fuel wood supply
  - Severe flooding of 1998 a boost to rural energy economy
    - “Grain for Green” program, for example
  - Greater levels of commercial energy

# A picture of rural energy in China

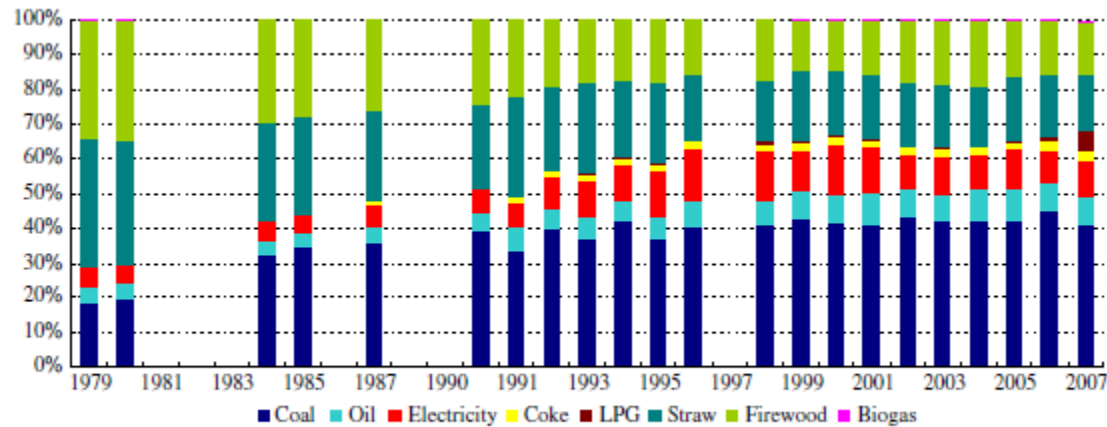


Fig. 3. Variance of energy consumption structure in rural China from 1979 to 2007.

# A picture of rural energy in China

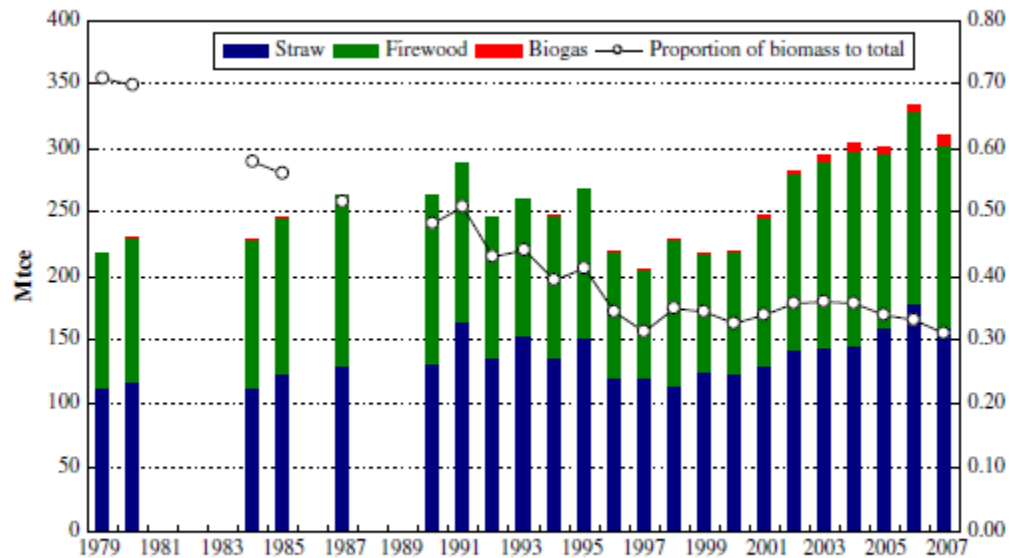
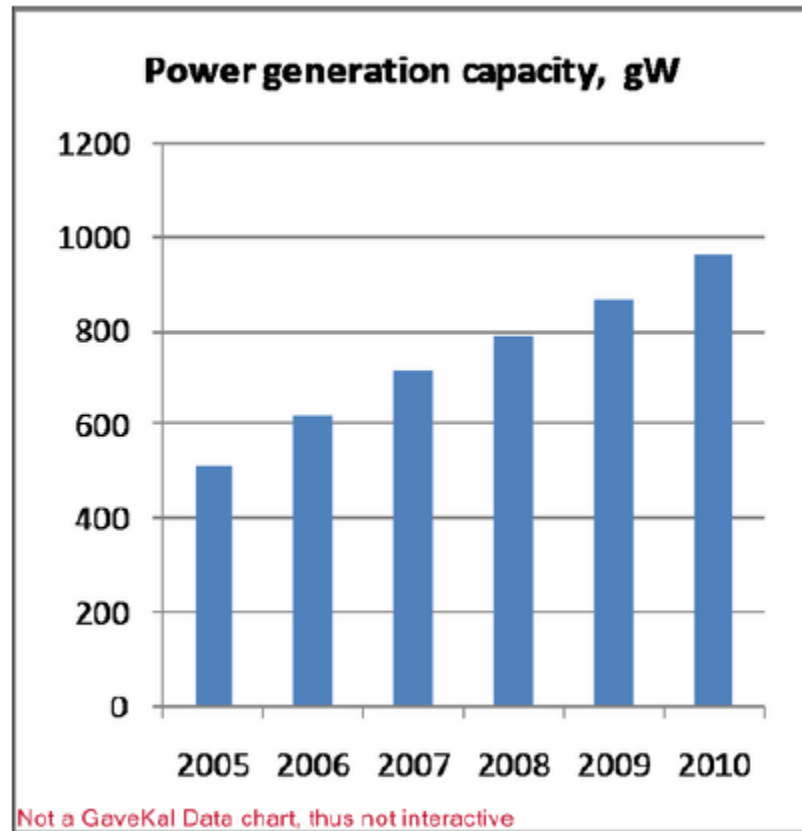


Fig. 4. Biomass consumption and its proportion in rural China from 1979 to 2007.

# Renewable Energy Governance

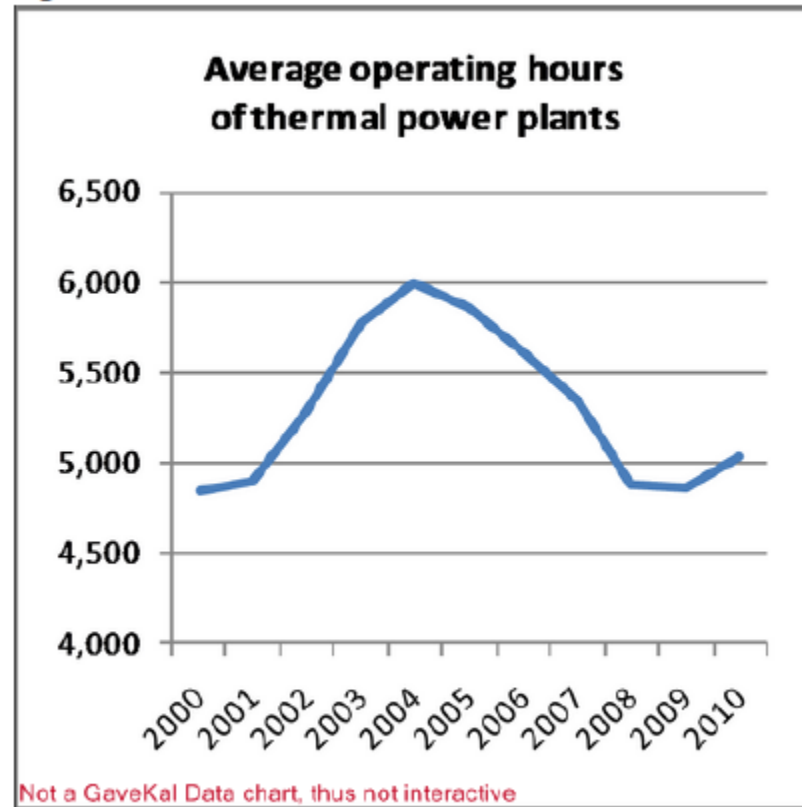
- Separate bureau in national energy administration
  - <http://www.nea.gov.cn/sjzz/xny/>
- Renewable energy an emphasis in white papers
  - Energy (2007) and climate change (2011)
- Reports on impressive improvements aside
  - Negative externalities in coal production not fully compensated for
  - Focus on power installation, rather than generation
  - Renewable energy growth targets not compulsory
  - Limits to competition in generation (grid monopoly)
  - Limits to innovation
    - Emphasis on public ownership, for example

# China's power generation capacity



# China's thermal power generation

Figure 3:





# International governance

- Renewable energy understood to be one of four pillars of international energy diplomacy
  - Access to fossil fuel (extraction and purchase)
  - Financial issues in international energy trade
  - Climate change as a global common
- Risk aversion a general pattern of behavior
  - Questions about geopolitical motives
  - Complaints about issue framing and agenda setting

# International Governance

- What constitutes ‘international cooperation’?
  - Receiving aid in funding, equipment, and know-how
    - Active on the bilateral front, since early 1980s
    - Council for international cooperation on environment and development, since 1992 <http://www.cciced.net/>
    - Active in implementing UN and WB’s Global Environmental Fund, 1999
  - Emphasizing developing country status and need for technology transfer
    - Preference for UN frameworks
    - Concerns about ‘hidden agendas’ in mini-lateral initiatives
  - Intra-agency coordination still a challenge
    - Diplomats vs scientists

# International governance

- Continued focus on concrete (and) industrial projects
- In equipment manufacturing, acceptance of international standards
- Continued interest in having Chinese technological innovations accepted as international standards
- Low prospect for initiating agendas meant to address beyond-the-border concerns