

MAJORITY OF CHINA'S PROPOSED COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS LOCATED IN WATER-STRESSED REGIONS

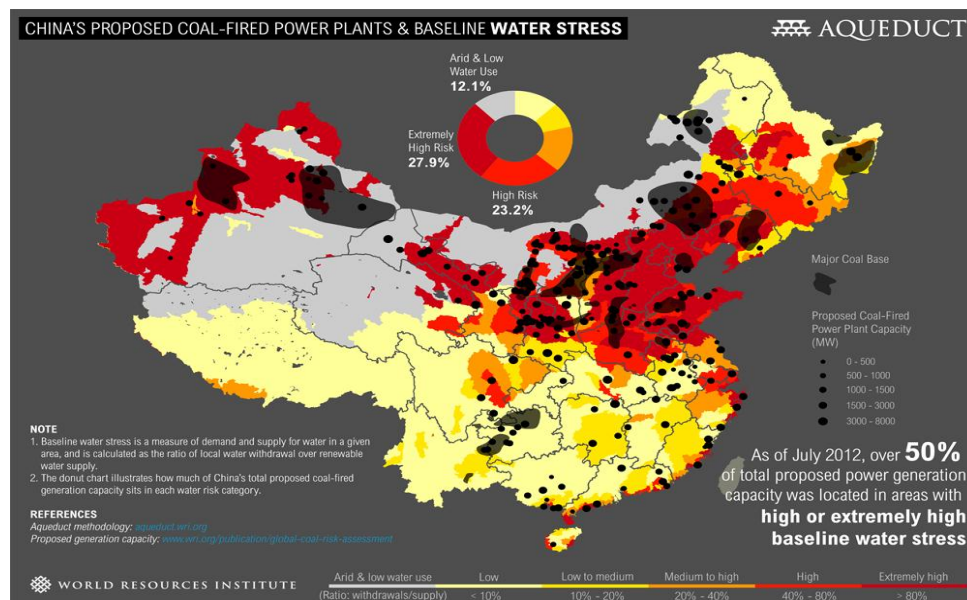


A ship transports coal in China. Photo credit: foxyyz, Flickr

To maintain its economic growth and provide for its massive population, China must reconcile two powerful, converging trends: energy demand and resource scarcity. One prime example of this tension is the country's coal use and water supply.

According to a new WRI analysis, more than half of China's proposed coal-fired power plants are slated to be built in areas of high or extremely high water stress. If these plants are built, they could further strain already-scarce resources, threatening water security for China's farms, other industries, and communities.

As of July 2012, China's government planned 363 coal-fired power plants for construction across China, with a combined generating capacity exceeding 557 gigawatts (for reference, installed capacity at the end of 2012 was 758 GW). This amounts to an almost 75 percent increase in coal-fired generating capacity. China already ranks as world's largest coal consumer, accounting for almost 50 percent of global coal use.



Using WRI's Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas, we overlaid the locations of these proposed coal plants on our water stress maps for China. We found that 51 percent of China's new coal-fired power plants would be built in areas of high or extremely high water stress.

Source: <http://endcoal.org/resources/majority-of-chinas-proposed-coal-fired-power-plants-located-in-water-stressed-regions/?ref=water>