

Environment and Housing ministries launch "black and smelly" river crowdsourcing campaign

Ministry of Ecology and Environment formed and National River Chief Program launched



Water Ten Plan enacted; third amendments to WPPCL



XI Jinping declares a war on pollution

Total annual urban wastewater discharge rose 65% since 2000

Second amendments to WPPCL



Wuxi river chief system created after massive toxic algae bloom on Lake Tai



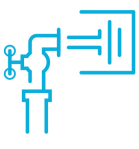
Beijing mandates water recycling for large buildings



The NGO IPE creates China's first online searchable water pollution database



Municipal wastewater treatment rate only 20% Announcement of Olympics sparks wastewater reform in Beijing



Cities construct centralized wastewater treatment plants



Agriculture shifts away from night soil to chemical fertilizers

First Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law (WPPCL)

1891

1900

90 96 01 03 06 07 08 12 14 16 17 18

- No national environmental watchdog agency exists
- Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law (WPPCL) is first legislative action by newly created NEPA
- First Chinese NGOs register under new Social Organization Law. Many early green groups focus on water protection
- First WPPCL amendments spark more holistic river basin planning and standardized total pollutant discharges
- South-North Water Transfer Project construction begins, aiming to move water from Yangtze to dry northern cities
- Ministry of Construction publishes Urban Wastewater Reuse Water Quality Standards
- SEPA reports nearly 60% of environmental emergency accidents are water pollution related
- SEPA releases WPPCL draft amendments for public comment
- amendments require standardized release of pollution data, tougher penalties, pollutant discharge permit system, and include an opening for public interest lawsuits
- Urban wastewater treatment reaches 77%
- Amendments to Environmental Protection Law pass with stricter penalties for local government violators
- State Council requires all stationary polluters (including WWTPs) to be covered by pollutant emissions permit system by 2020
- Municipal wastewater treatment rates hit 80%
- MEE requires environmental health risk monitoring and public health water quality standards (2020)