

Puppy Love, Top Dog or Underdog? As we move from the Year of the Fire Rooster to the Year of the Earth Dog, stay ahead and find out who's the top dog, pitbull or underdog in our 5 trends. It's also Valentine's Day, so let's talk about love! Firstly, we are in love with China's water regulations and laws. Not only did the new Water Law come into effect on 1 January 2018, but so did the new Environmental Protection Tax Law and more. Plus, the Water Resource Tax has expanded to 9 provinces. See our reviews. Also, the 2018 No. 1 Document is out and its focus is charting a roadmap for rural vitalisation. We are loving it all! The public too are getting more of a "bite" by having a greater say in the environment – Pacific Environment's Hanyuan, McDonald & Zhong expand. We can also show our love for water by re-examining our diet. Vanham from the European Commission looks at Hong Kong's diet's high water footprint. Furthermore, Ovink, Special Envoy for Water, points out that we still haven't grasped the complexity of water crises but there are ways to leapfrog. Whether it turns out to be a pitbull or poodle of a year, we need to recognise that Asia doesn't have enough water to develop. We need to plan, plan and plan to avoid a 'dry-out' like Cape Town. Reaching for low hanging fruit is not good enough, we need to reach high. Now go fetch us a bright future! Happy lunar new year!



EDITORIAL

Puppy Love, Top Dog or Underdog? As we move from the Year of the Fire Rooster (and as we called, it was indeed very fiery) to the Year of the Earth Dog, we can almost hear a sigh of relief. But will the Dog roll over or turn out to be barking mad? Stay ahead and find out who's the top dog, pitbull or underdog in our 5 trends for the Year of the Dog.

It's also Valentine's Day, so let's talk about love! Firstly, we are in love with China's water regulations and laws. Not only did the new Water Law come into effect on 1 January 2018, but so did the new Environmental Protection Tax Law and more. In case you have missed this, we have summarised it all in 5 Laws to Watch Out in 2018.

There is no doubt that environmental watchdogs now have more teeth so best watch out for their bite! The Water Resource Tax has expanded to 9 provinces including Beijing and Tianjin. Water is now not just the Ministry of Water Resources, but China's State Administration of Taxation and Ministry of Finance is also getting involved. Get on top of these water taxes in our review. Also, the 2018 No. 1 Document is out and its focus is charting a roadmap for rural vitalisation. We are loving it all!

We believe the Year of the Dog heralds a new beginning for water and the public too are getting more of a "bite" by having a greater say in the environment – we love! According to a study by Pacific Environment, positive correlations are seen between higher GDP growth and more active engagement of the public in environmental information disclosure. Their Guo Hanyuan, Kristen McDonald and Zhao Zhong expand.

Despite all these actions, there is much still to be done. We can also show our love for water by re-examining our diet. Davy Vanham from the European Commission looks at Hong Kong's diet's high water footprint. Here in Hong Kong, we don't just consume two litres of water, but 4,727 litres per person per day hidden in our food. This is double that of mainland China.

Furthermore, Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for Water, points out that we still haven't grasped the complexity of water crises but there are ways to leapfrog. Ovink is taking lessons learned from leading President Obama's Hurricane Sandy's Rebuilding Task Force and applying them to Asia. Given rising climate and water risks, clearly building resilience is in need of much love from all stakeholders.

Whether it turns out to be a pitbull or poodle of a year, we need to recognise that Asia doesn't have enough water to develop. To avoid a dog-eat-dog world, we need to work together to combat the common threat of climate change to protect our common resource water. We need to plan, plan and plan to avoid a 'dry-out' like Cape Town. Reaching for low hanging fruit is not good enough, we need to reach high. Now go fetch us a bright future!

Happy lunar new year!



5 Trends For 2018: The Year Of The Dog

We could be heading for dog days this year and China is getting ready with economic planning that considers water and climate. Check out our 5 trends and stay ahead of the pack

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Water As Leverage For Resilient Cities

Water represents man's most challenging risk and yet we are not grasping its complexities. But as Ovink, Special Envoy for Water, told us, this can be a leverage for catalytic change

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The Water Footprint Of Hong Kong's Diet

Urban populations are unaware of their indirect water footprint. Vanham from the European Commission looks at Hong Kong's diet's footprint; 2x that of China's

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Increasing Public Participation In China's Environment

Does the public have a say in environmental decision-making in China? Pacific Environment's Guo, McDonald & Zhao share results from their 4-city pilot study

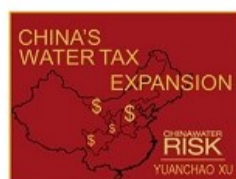
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5 Laws To Watch Out For In 2018

From compensation mechanisms to nuclear safety, China is continuing its regulatory push in the new year. CWR's Xu reviews 5 key laws to watch out for in 2018

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China's Water Resource Tax Expansion

The pilot has expanded to 9 provinces including Beijing & Tianjin. CWR's Xu looks at the successes of the initial pilot & why the additional provinces may benefit

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TAPPING IN

Government

- State Council: [2018 No. 1 Doc](#): charting a roadmap for rural vitalisation
- MEP: [Measures for the Administration of Pollutant Discharge Permits](#): listco's must apply for permit; national platform will disclose monitoring reports
- MEP: [Notice on Issuing National Environmental Protection Measures for Environment & Health \(Trial\)](#): conduct environ & health risk monitoring; publish water quality standards based on public health
- MEP: [Further Improving the Pollution Control of Sewage Pits & Ponds](#)
- MEP: [Enhancement of Interim and Post-Event Supervision of the Construction Projects' Environmental Impact Assessment](#)
- General Office of the State Council, General Office of the CPC: [Three-Year Action Plan on Rural Living Environment Improvement](#): upgrade rural domestic wastewater

Reports

- Vanham et al: [Cities as hotspots of indirect water consumption: The case study of Hong Kong](#)
- WEF: [The Global Risks Report 2018](#): "Water crises" ranked as 5th global risk by impact
- CDP: [Closing the Gap: Scaling up sustainable supply chains](#)
- WRI: [Parched Power: Water Demands, Risks, and Opportunities for India's Power Sector](#)

Interest

- USD2.8 bn has been invested in improving Sanjiangyuan - source of the Yellow, Yangtze & Mekong rivers
- Vision unveiled for Arctic 'Polar Silk Road'
- 90% of polluted land to be made safe for crops by end of 2020
- Cities to disclose drinking water safety conditions this year
- Beijing: to invest USD10.2bn in environ protection this year
- Fujian: near top of ranking for green development by MWR
- Hebei: to reduce annual coal consumption by 5mn tonnes this year
- Hubei: appoints police chiefs to combat water pollution
- Qinghai, Xinjiang & Yunnan: named by MEP as laggards in water pollution reduction
- BBC article lists Beijing as one of 11 cities likely to run out of drinking water
- China helps Kyrgyzstan with drinking water safety research
- US implements 'America First' tariffs on washing machines & solar panels; China & South Korea heavily impacted
- UNESCO launches pioneering tool to monitor global surface water quality

Hot on Weibo:

- Approval of Water Ten Plan for Taihu Lake

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